



W.P.(MD) No.2881 of 2026

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 04.02.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.SURENDER

W.P.(MD) No.2881 of 2026

and

W.M.P.(MD) Nos.2378 & 2379 of 2026

R.Meenalochani

... Petitioner

Vs.

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
Highways Department, Secretariat,
Chennai.
- 2.The Commissioner of Land Administration,
Chepauk, Chennai.
- 3.The District Collector,
Madurai District, Madurai.
- 4.The Land Acquisition Officer /
Special District Revenue Officer,
Land Acquisition, State Highways,
District Collector Office Complex,
Madurai.

... Respondents

Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Certiorari to call for the records relating to the impugned Notification in Notification No.VI(1)/623(b-5)/2025 dated 11.11.2025 issued by the second respondent and quash the same as illegal.



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For Petitioner : Mr.R.Murali

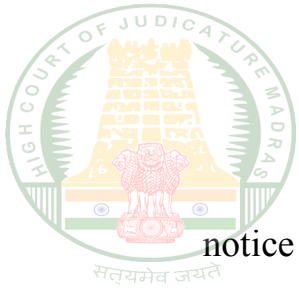
For Respondents : Mr.N.Ramesh Arumugam
Government Advocate

ORDER

The petitioner is questioning the Notification issued by the second respondent dated 11.11.2025.

2. The ground raised by the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner is that the power to acquire lands is vested with the Government. However, before publishing a notification for acquiring lands under Section 15(1) of the Tamil Nadu Highways Act, 2001 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”), the procedure contemplated under Section 15(2) of the Act has to be followed. Further, under Section 15(3) of the Act, the Government has to consider the cause, if any, shown by the owner or any other person having interest in such land and pass appropriate orders under Section 15(1) of the Act, as they deem fit.

3. It is submitted that under Rule 5(2) of the Tamil Nadu Highways Rules, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “the Rules”), before publishing a



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notice under Section 15(1) of the Act, the Government or the District Collector, as the case may be, shall, in addition to calling upon the owner and any other person having interest in the land to show cause as to why the land should not be acquired, also cause a public notice to that effect to be published in one English and one Tamil newspaper having circulation in the locality. However, in the present case, the said procedures have not been followed.

4. In support of his submissions, the learned counsel for the petitioner relied upon the judgment of the Division Bench of this Court in ***M/s.Titanium Equipment and Anode Manufacturing Company Ltd. and another vs. State of Tamil Nadu, represented by the Principal Secretary to Government, Highways and Minor Ports (HF2) Department and others*** [W.A.No.2520 of 2018, dated 01.11.2023].

5. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that this Court, by order dated 09.01.2026 in connected W.P.(MD) Nos.533 to 543 of 2026, which were filed challenging the very same impugned order, granted an order of *status quo* for a period of two weeks; that the said order was subsequently extended until 24.02.2026 by order dated 20.01.2026; and



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that following the same, an order of *status quo* for a period of three weeks was also granted in W.P.(MD) No.2462 of 2026, by order dated 02.02.2026.

6. Mr.N.Ramesh Arumugam, learned Government Advocate, takes notice for the respondents and seeks time to get instructions.

7. Since in the present case also, apparently, no such exercise, which is mandatory under the Act and the Rules, has been followed, this Court deems it fit and appropriate to direct the respondents to maintain *status quo* as on today for a period of three weeks.

8. List the case on 24.02.2026 along with W.P.(MD)Nos.533 to 543 of 2026 and W.P.(MD) No.2462 of 2026.

[K.SURENDER, J.]
04.02.2026

JEN

To

1.The Secretary to Government,
Highways Department, Secretariat,
Chennai.



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2.The Commissioner of Land Administration,
Chepauk, Chennai.

3.The District Collector,
Madurai District, Madurai.

4.The Land Acquisition Officer /
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