



W.P.(MD) No.7123 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED : 23.03.2026

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE MUMMINENI SUDHEER KUMAR

W.P.(MD) No.7123 of 2026
and
W.M.P.(MD) No.5838 of 2026

Dr.A.Renganathan

... Petitioner

-vs-

- 1.The Registrar
Gandhigram Rural Institute
(Deemed to be University)
Gandhigram-624 302
- 2.Gandhigram Rural Institute
(Deemed to be University)
rep.by its Registrar
Gandhigram-624 302
- 3.The Vice-Chancellor
Gandhigram Rural Institute
(Deemed to be University)
Gandhigram-624 302
- 4.The University Grants Commission
rep.by its Secretary
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi-110 002

... Respondents



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PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a writ of certiorari to call for the records pertaining to the show cause notice vide in Ref.No.GRI-DTBU/Estt.3/DRH&S/2025-2026/4547, dated 09.02.2026, issued by the first respondent and quash the same.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.Renganathan
Party-in-Person

For Respondents : Mr.N.S.Karthikeyan
Standing Counsel for R1 & R2
Dismissed as not pressed against R3
Mr.B.Babu for R4

ORDER

The petitioner appearing in person submits that he is not pressing this writ petition as against the third respondent for the present.

2. In view of the above submission, this writ petition is dismissed as not pressed as against the third respondent, while granting liberty to the petitioner to implead the third respondent in future litigation, if circumstance warrants.

3. This writ petition has been filed challenging the show cause notice vide Ref.No.GRI-DTBU/Estt.3/DRH&S/2025-2026/4547, dated 09.02.2026, issued by the first respondent, whereby the petitioner is required



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to show cause as to why a major penalty under Rule 11 r/w Rule 19 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 (in short, "CCS (CCA) Rules" should not be imposed upon him basing upon the inquiry report dated 06.01.2026.

4. The main ground of attack of the impugned show cause notice is on the ground that the inquiry proceedings were stayed on 09.12.2025 in the light of allegations of bias made by the petitioner against some of the members of the Inquiry Committee. But, without resuming the inquiry proceedings, the Inquiry Committee has submitted it's report on 06.01.2026 and it is based on the said report, the impugned show cause notice dated 09.02.2026 came to be issued. Thus, the petitioner, who appeared as a party-in-person, made out a grievance on the ground of violation of the principles of natural justice as the inquiry proceedings that were initiated against him were not taken to the logical end so as to enable the Inquiry Committee to submit it's report to the Disciplinary Authority.

5. Taking note of the same, this Court, by an order dated 17.03.2026, directed the respondents to produce the original records of the inquiry proceedings before this Court.



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6. Accordingly, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondents 1 & 2 placed before this Court the original records of the inquiry proceedings.

7. A perusal of the same, in specific the inquiry proceedings dated 09.12.2025, discloses that the Inquiry Committee has chosen to stay the inquiry proceedings awaiting appropriate decision by the Disciplinary Authority. Admittedly, no inquiry proceedings have taken place after 09.12.2025. But, the Inquiry Committee appears to have submitted it's report on 06.01.2026, without properly concluding the inquiry proceedings, resulting in issuance of the impugned show cause notice.

8. In the light of the above, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondents 1 & 2 fairly submitted that because of the non-cooperative attitude of the petitioner, the Inquiry Committee is forced to conclude the disciplinary proceedings resulting in issuance of the impugned show cause notice.

9. This Court, after having perused the entire materials on record, also found that there are certain irrelevant questions that were put by the petitioner to some of the witnesses and it was when such irrelevant questions



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were objected to by the Inquiry Committee, the petitioner appears to have raised objections on various grounds alleging that the Inquiry Committee is not affording him reasonable opportunity. As some of the questions put by the petitioner are relating to the family particulars of some of the witnesses, this Court is also of the considered view that they are all nothing to do with the charges levelled against the petitioner and the petitioner ought not to have put such questions, which are all personal to the witnesses and their family particulars. It is always open for the Inquiry Committee to restrict the scope of cross-examination, when the questions put to the witnesses are beyond the scope of the inquiry and beyond the scope of the charges and the chief-examination. That power of the Inquiry Committee cannot be curtailed. The petitioner, who is appearing in person, also fairly submitted that he will regulate himself and restrict the cross-examination only to the charges that are levelled against him and to the chief-examination and other documents that are sought to be put against him during the course of inquiry and he will not put irrelevant questions to the witnesses and he will not go beyond the scope of the inquiry while cross-examining the witnesses.

10. Learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondents 1 & 2 also made a request to this Court to direct the petitioner to co-operate for smooth conducting of inquiry proceedings.



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11. In the light of the above, this Court is of the considered view that the impugned show cause cannot be sustained as the same is based upon an incomplete inquiry and in violation of the principles of natural justice.

12. Accordingly, the impugned show cause notice dated 09.02.2026, issued by the first respondent and the inquiry report of the Inquiry Committee dated 06.01.2026 are hereby quashed leaving it open to the respondents to continue the inquiry proceedings from the stage where they were stayed on 09.12.2025 by duly affording opportunity to the petitioner to cross-examine all the witnesses, who were examined in support of the charges levelled against the petitioner. The petitioner is also directed to co-operate for smooth conducting of the inquiry and to avoid putting irrelevant questions to the witnesses. The respondents are directed to conduct the inquiry proceedings strictly in accordance with CCS (CCA) Rules and conclude the same, within a period of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. The petitioner is also directed to co-operate for conclusion of the inquiry proceedings within the time stipulated by this Court.



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13. With the above directions, this writ petition is disposed of. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

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NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
Internet : Yes / No

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MUMMINENI SUDHEER KUMAR, J.

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