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W.P.Nos.3804, 3808 & 3813 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 20.02.2024

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE SENTHILKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY

Writ Petition Nos.3804, 3808 & 3813 of 2024 and W.M.P.Nos.4105, 4107, 4110, 4111, 4116 & 4119 of 2024

In all WPs.

M/s.Sri Shanmuga Hardwares Electricals,
Represented by its Proprietor,
Mr.R.Shanmugam,
S/o.Ramasami Gounder,
No.196, Udayarpalayam,
Thammampatty (P.O.),
Salem-636 113. Petitioner

-vs-

The State Tax Officer,
Attur Rural Assessment Circle,
Attur, Salem..... Respondent

Prayer in W.P.No.3804 of 2024: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Certiorari calling for the records in order passed by the respondent vide order dated 30.09.2023 in Reference No.ZD3309232485539 and quash the same.



W.P.Nos.3804, 3808 & 3813 of 2024

Prayer in W.P.No.3808 of 2024: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Certiorari calling for the records in order passed by the respondent vide order dated 30.09.2023 in Reference No.ZD3309232527282 and quash the same.

Prayer in W.P.No.3813 of 2024: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Certiorari calling for the records in order passed by the respondent vide order dated 30.09.2023 in Reference No.ZD330923249066B and quash the same.

In all WPs.

For Petitioner : Ms.P.Jayalakshmi
for Mr.S.Muthu Venkataraman

For Respondent : Mr.T.N.C.Kaushik,
Additional Government Pleader (T)

COMMON ORDER

The petitioner assails separate assessment orders, each dated 30.09.2023, in respect of assessment years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, respectively, in these three writ petitions.

2. The petitioner carries on trade in electrical products and hardware.



W.P.Nos.3804, 3808 & 3813 of 2024

By asserting that nil returns were erroneously and inadvertently filed in the GSTR-3B returns, the petitioner states that he is eligible for Input Tax Credit (ITC) in each of the above mentioned assessment periods and that this is duly reflected in the GSTR-2A returns. Consequently, the petitioner states that GSTR-9 (annual) returns were filed duly reflecting the ITC claims of the petitioner. By rejecting such claim, it is stated that the orders impugned herein were issued.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner invited my attention to the orders impugned herein and pointed out that the petitioner had replied to the show cause notice and stated that the eligible ITC in each assessment period exceeds the tax liability. By further referring to the operative portion of the orders impugned herein, learned counsel contended that the ITC claim was rejected solely on the ground that the petitioner had not claimed ITC in the GSTR-3B returns.

4. Mr.T.N.C.Kaushik, learned Additional Government Pleader,



W.P.Nos.3804, 3808 & 3813 of 2024

accepts notice on behalf of the respondent. At the outset, he submits that the petitioner should have availed of the statutory remedy and not approached this Court. He further submits that the burden of proof is on the registered person to establish ITC eligibility. Since such burden was not discharged by the petitioner, he submits that no interference is called for with the orders impugned herein.

5. In each impugned order, there is reference to the petitioner's ITC claim and the petitioner's assertion that such ITC claim exceeds the tax liability. In the operative portion of each order, such claim was rejected solely on the ground that the petitioner had not claimed ITC in the GSTR-3B returns. By way of illustration, the operative portion of the order in relation to assessment year 2017-2018 is set out below:

“The reply filed by the registered person were verified and not accepted. Hence, tax is payable along with interest and penalty under Section 74 of the CGST Act 2017.

The above tax due to Rs.7,77,262/- along with



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W.P.Nos.3804, 3808 & 3813 of 2024

interest due of Rs.7,51,262/- (approximately calculated up to 31.05.2023) has to be paid as the tax payer has not claimed any eligible ITC in GSTR 3B returns filed.”

6. When the registered person asserts that he is eligible for ITC by referring to GSTR-2A and GSTR-9 returns, the assessing officer should examine whether the ITC claim is valid by examining all relevant documents, including by calling upon the registered person to provide such documents. In this case, it appears that the claim was rejected entirely on the ground that the GSTR-3B returns did not reflect the ITC claim. Therefore, interference is warranted with the orders impugned herein.

7. For reasons set out above, the orders impugned herein are quashed and these matters are remanded for reconsideration. The petitioner is permitted to place all documents pertaining to its ITC claims before the assessing officer within a maximum period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. Upon receipt thereof, the respondent is directed to provide a reasonable opportunity to the petitioner, including a personal hearing, and thereafter issue fresh assessment orders within a



W.P.Nos.3804, 3808 & 3813 of 2024

maximum period of two months from the date of receipt of documents from
the petitioner.

8. These writ petitions are disposed of on the above terms. There will be no order as to costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

20.02.2024

Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes / No

Neutral Citation: Yes / No

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To

The State Tax Officer,
Attur Rural Assessment Circle,
Attur, Salem.

SENTHILKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY,J

6/7



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W.P.Nos.3804, 3808 & 3813 of 2024

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7/7