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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Reserved on : 03.09.2026	Pronounced on : 17.11.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE MUMMINENI SUDHEER KUMAR

W.P.No.10516 of 2026
and
W.M.P.Nos.11380 and 11381 of 2026

Durai Murugan S ... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Chairman,
   Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,
   VOC Nagar, Park Town,
   Chennai – 600 003.

2. Controller of Examination,
   Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,
   VOC Nagar, Park Town,
   Chennai – 600 003.

3. The Secretary,
   Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,
   VOC Nagar, Park Town,
   Chennai – 600 003. ... Respondent

Prayer: Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of certiorarified mandamus, calling for the records relating to the results dated 23.01.2026 and the rejection letters dated 09.02.2026 and

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27.02.2026 both Letter No.1793/QD-B3/2025, quash the same, and appoint an independent expert committee to assess/ re-evaluate the disputed questions in Subject Code 398 in accordance with correct technical standards, and direct the respondents to award appropriate marks to the petitioner as per the expert committee re-evaluation, and consequently revise the results.

For Petitioner : Mr.U.Karunakaran

For Respondent : Mr.I.Abrar Md.Abdullah,
Standing Counsel

O R D E R

The petitioner herein participated in the recruitment process in response to a notification issued by the respondent TNPSC vide Notification No.09/2025 dated 21.05.2025, inviting applications for the post of Assistant Engineer (Civil), with Subject Code 398, under the Combined Technical Services Examination (Non-Interview Posts). The petitioner was assigned Application No.2509048611. Accordingly, the petitioner appeared for Paper-I and Paper-II of the Civil Engineering Subject, Code 398, and Computer Based Test on 10.08.2025 (Forenoon Session) and thereafter appeared for Paper-I (Tamil Eligibility Test)/General Studies (Subject Code - 503 - OMR Based Examination) on 17.08.2025 (Forenoon Session). A tentative answer key for Paper-II was published on 02.09.2025 calling for objections within a period of

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seven days through online mode. According to the petitioner, he has not submitted any objections to the tentative answer key published on the website of the respondent TNPSC. However, petitioner claims that an institution, namely, Pyramid IAS Academy, where the petitioner claims to have studied, had raised certain objections within time, supported by authoritative technical references in a book format. The petitioner claims to have been at his hometown and was unable to obtain the study material and data to file objections against the tentative answer key and, therefore, he could not raise any objection. According to the petitioner, Pyramid IAS Academy has raised objections against the answers in respect of 14 questions and, out of them, answers in respect of six questions were rectified, but in respect of eight questions, the objections were not considered and the final answer key was published on 22.01.2026 and, on the very next date, i.e., 23.01.2026, the results were published by the respondent TNPSC. It was thereafter that the petitioner claims to have submitted petitions on 29.01.2026 and 09.02.2026 before the respondent TNPSC, raising objections in respect of eight questions, i.e., Question Nos.11, 50, 89, 95, 97, 112, 120 and 125, in respect of Subject Code 398. The said petitions were considered by the respondent TNPSC and the objections raised by the petitioner were rejected vide letter bearing No.1793/DD-B3/2025, dated 27.02.2026, on the ground that the respondent

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TNPSC had afforded an opportunity to all the candidates who had appeared for the written examination to raise their objections within a period of one week by submitting their objections online, together with supporting material, but the petitioner had not raised any such objections in the 'Answer Key Challenging Window', which was kept open for seven days. It is also further stated that only the candidates who have applied for the examination can raise their objections, but no coaching institutions are permitted to raise any such objections and all the objections raised in the 'Answer Key Challenging Window' alone would be considered and the objections received or challenges made to the answer key through other modes would not be considered in terms of the notification. It is also further stated that all the questions that were challenged by the candidates within the stipulated period were placed before the Expert Committee and, accordingly, the final answer key was arrived at by virtue of the opinion rendered by the Expert Committee. Thus, the petitions submitted by the petitioner were rejected by the respondent TNPSC vide letter dated 27.02.2026. Aggrieved by the said letter dated 27.02.2026, the petitioner is before this Court.

2. In response to the notice issued by this Court, the respondent filed a

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counter-affidavit reiterating its stand as in the impugned letter dated 27.02.2026.

3. This Court, taking note of the controversy, has directed the respondent TNPSC to place before this Court the report of the Expert Committee and, accordingly, the same is placed before this Court in a sealed cover.

4. Heard Mr.U.Karunakaran, learned counsel for the petitioner and Mr.I.Abrar Md.Abdullah, learned Standing Counsel for the respondent and also perused the entire material on record.

5. In the light of the rival contentions, the only question that would arise for consideration before this Court is whether the objections raised by the petitioner in respect of the eight questions referred to above are required to be considered by the respondent TNPSC in the context of the fact that the petitioner has admittedly not raised any objections in terms of the notification. It is not in dispute that, in terms of Paragraph No.2 of the notification, the

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tentative answer key is hosted on the Commission's website and all the candidates are permitted to challenge the same only through the 'Answer Key Challenging Window' online within seven days from the date of publication of the tentative answer key. It is also specifically mentioned in Paragraph No.2.2 of the notification that the representations made after closure of the window, whether online or through offline mode, shall not be entertained. Further, in Paragraph No.17(D) of the notification, i.e., in the 'Instructions to the Applicants', it was reiterated that "*the tentative answer keys will be hosted on the Commission's Website and challenges thereto shall be submitted only through online mode and within seven days and the representations that are received, either online or offline, after the stipulated time shall not be entertained*". There is no dispute about the contents of the notification issued by the respondent TNPSC. Admittedly, the petitioner has not raised any objections against the tentative answer key in respect of any of the questions within the time stipulated. It is an admitted case that the tentative answer key was published on 02.09.2025 and, within seven days thereafter, objections were required to be submitted online. The final answer key was published on 22.01.2026 and the results were published on 23.01.2026, whereas the petitioner, for the first time, submitted his petition only on 29.01.2026, i.e., a week after the publication of the results. Thus, from 02.09.2025 onwards till

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29.01.2026, the petitioner has not bothered to raise any objections against the tentative answer key.

6. Though the petitioner contended that Pyramid IAS Academy had raised objections on behalf of the petitioner, the respondents, in their counter-affidavit, categorically denied of any objections being raised by the said Academy. On the other hand, the respondent TNPSC also contended that it is only the candidates who can raise objections against the tentative answer key, but not any other institution. As against the specific averment, there is no specific denial and, therefore, the claim made by the petitioner that the institution in which the petitioner has studied has raised objections against 14 questions cannot be taken as true.

7. In the light of the above, considering the fact that the petitioner has not raised any objections against the tentative answer key published on 02.09.2025, this Court is of the considered view that the petitioner cannot be permitted to raise any objections contrary to the terms and conditions

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contained in the notification and this Court also cannot issue any directions to the respondent TNPSC to act in contravention of the terms of the notification.

8. Be that as it may, this Court has also gone through the report of the Expert Committee, the reasoning assigned by it and the supporting material thereon. This Court is thoroughly convinced that the Expert Committee has duly applied its mind and, accordingly, rejected the objections in respect of the eight questions which the petitioner herein is trying to agitate.

9. In the light of the above, this Court does not find any merit in the writ petition and, accordingly, the same is dismissed.

17.11.2026

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Index : Yes / No
Speaking order / Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation : Yes / No

To

1. The Chairman,
   Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,
   VOC Nagar, Park Town,

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Chennai – 600 003.

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MUMMINENI SUDHEER KUMAR, J.

skr

Pre-Delivery Order made in
W.P.No.10516 of 2026

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