Order QR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

WEB COPY

Reserved on : 14.08.2026	**Pronounced on :** 17.11.2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE MUMMINENI SUDHEER KUMAR

WP No. 8242 of 2026
and
WMP No.8935, 35042 & 13004 of 2026

1. T.Vanitha

2. K.Vinothkumar

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The State Of Tamil Nadu
   Rep. by its Additional chief Secretary to Government,
   Revenue Administration and Disaster Management
   department, Secretariat, Fort St.George, Chennai 09

2. The Additional Chief Secretary/
   Commissioner of Revenue Administration,
   Chepauk Chennai 05

3. The District Collector
   Tiruppur district, Tiruppur

4. The District Revenue officer
   Tiruppur district, Tiruppur

5. P.Ramalakshmi,
   W/o. Muthukumar, No.98, Kuppannan Street,
   Palladam Road, Tiruppur - 641 604.

6. V.Porchselvi,
   W/o. Gnanakumar, No.4/1102, South Street,
   M.Podayur Post, Cuddalore - 606 108.

7. M.Sathivelu,

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)

WEB COPY

S/o. Madhan, No.244, Earithottam,
Pullakkavundampatti, Salem - 637 104.

8. S.Ramesh,
C/o. Sellamuthu, No.7/51-1, Kuttikkapalayam,
Unjanai, Namakkal - 637 205.

(*R5 To R8 impleaded vide Order dated 09.07.2026
made in WMP.No.13569/2026 in WP.No.8242/2026)

..Respondent(s)

Writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus to call for the records relating to impugned order issued by the 3rd respondent in Na.Ka.No. 3015/ 2025/ A7 dated 09.01.2026 and the subsequent impugned order issued by the 3rd respondent ROC 20524/ 2025/ A7 dated 12.01.2026 and to quash the same in so far as the petitioners are concerned and consequently directing the respondents to allow the petitioners to continue in the post of Deputy Tahsildar based on 2024 panel, followed by the order of appointment by recruitment by transfer issued by the 3rd respondent in Na.Ka.No. 19753/ 2024/ A7 dated 07.05.2025 with all consequential and other attendant benefits within a time frame to be fixed by this Hon'ble Court.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.G.Sankaran, Senior Counsel
for Mr.S.Nedunchezhiyan

For Respondent(s): Mr.T.Gauthaman
Additional Advocate General assisted by
Mr.K.Sathish,
Additional Government Pleader for R1 to R4
Mr.M.Elumalai for R5 to R8

ORDER

The petitioners 1 and 2 herein were initially appointed as Senior Revenue Inspectors on 01.07.2013 and 28.06.2016 respectively, and were subsequently promoted to the post of Deputy Tahsildar vide proceedings bearing ROC

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)

Order QR
WEB COPY

No.19753/2024/A7 dated 07.03.2025. Accordingly, both the petitioners joined in the said post and their services were also regularized in the said post through proceedings No.105/2025/A7, dated 21.09.2025, with effect from the respective dates of joining in the said post. While so, the third respondent issued the impugned proceedings bearing Na.Ka.No.3015/2025/A7 dated 09.01.2026, reverting the petitioners from the post of Deputy Tahsildar to the post of Senior Revenue Inspector. Immediately thereafter, the first respondent issued yet another proceedings in ROC.No.20524/2025/A7 dated 12.01.2026, revising the panel for promotion to the post of Deputy Tahsildar for the year 2025. It is aggrieved by the said proceedings dated 09.01.2026 and 12.01.2026, the petitioners have approached this Court by filing the present writ petition.

2. A Co-ordinate Bench of this Court, while entertaining this writ petition, passed the following interim order on 27.02.2026:

> *"The learned counsel for the petitioners would submit that the petitioners were appointed as Senior Revenue Inspectors in the Revenue Department through TNPSC Group-II Examination in the year 2013 and they were given promotion to the post of Deputy Tahsildar on inclusion in 2024 panel with effect from 07.03.2025 following merit-based seniority as per the orders of the Hon'ble Apex Court. Their services were subsequently regularised from the date of appointment by competent proceedings. Subsequently, the 3rd respondent issued proceedings revising the Deputy Tahsildar panel from 2018 to 2024, wherein the names of the petitioners were once again included in the 2024 panel.*

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)

WEB COPY

Whileso, the 3rd respondent abruptly issued impugned orders dated 09.01.2026 and 12.01.2026 reverting the petitioners from the post of Deputy Tahsildar to the post of Senior Revenue Inspector. The said reversion was purportedly on the ground of revision of panel and filling up of backlog vacancies earmarked for Scheduled Castes. The petitioners were not issued any show cause notice prior to passing of the impugned orders. The reversion orders were passed without affording them any opportunity of hearing. Challenging the said impugned orders, the present writ petition has been filed.

2.Considering the prima facie case made out by the learned counsel for the petitioners, there shall be an order of interim stay.

3.Mr.M.Rajendiran, learned Additional Government Pleader takes notice on behalf of the respondents.

4.Notice."

3. The Respondent No.3 filed counter affidavit on behalf of the respondents 1 to 4. The persons whose names were included in the revised panel drawn through the impugned proceedings dated 12.01.2026 and who were placed above the petitioners herein have approached this Court by filing an implead application. Accordingly, they were allowed to come on record as respondents 5 to 8. They have also filed a petition seeking vacation of the interim stay granted on 27.02.2026.

4. Heard Mr. G. Sankaran, learned Senior Counsel for Mr.M.Nedunchezhiyan, learned counsel for the petitioner and Mr.

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)

WEB COPY

T.Gauthaman, learned Additional Government Pleader assisted by Mr.K.Sathish, learned Additional Government Pleader for the respondents 1 to 4 and Mr.M.Elumalai, learned counsel for the respondents 5 to 8.

5. The main ground of attack to the impugned proceedings is on the ground that they were issued in violation of the principles of natural justice, thereby reverting the petitioners from the post of Deputy Tahsildar to the post of Senior Revenue Inspector and revising the panel that was already drawn for the year 2025 for promotion to the post of Deputy Tahsildar, prejudicially affecting the interest of the petitioners.

6. Though the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioners made elaborate submissions, and the third respondent also filed a counter-affidavit dealing with the issues on merits, and Mr.T.Gauthaman, learned Additional Advocate General, also advanced arguments on merits at length, in the facts and circumstances of the case, this Court does not see any reason to deal with the matter in detail, as the respondents have failed to justify their action in issuing the impugned proceedings in violation of the principles of natural justice. The reasons for arriving at such a conclusion are as under:

7. The petitioners were temporarily promoted to the post of Deputy

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)

WEB COPY

Tahsildar through proceedings dated 07.03.2025, and their services were regularized in the said post through proceedings dated 21.09.2025, with effect from the respective dates of their promotion to the said post. Though their promotion was initially termed as temporary, their services were regularized in the said post. However, the impugned proceedings dated 09.01.2026 as such does not disclose any reason for reverting the petitioners from the post of Deputy Tahsildar to the post of Senior Revenue Inspector.

8. So also, the impugned proceedings dated 12.01.2026 do not disclose that there was any opportunity afforded to the petitioners before revising the panel for promotion to the post of Deputy Tahsildar.

9. In the counter affidavit filed by the third respondent, the third respondent has taken a conflicting stand while explaining the reasons for issuing the impugned reversion order dated 09.01.2026. In paragraph 6 of the counter affidavit, it is stated that the petitioners herein were promoted to the post of Deputy Tahsildar for the panel year 2024 in training vacancies, and that the same was categorically mentioned in the promotion order dated 07.03.2025, and the said promotion was subject to reversion at any point of time for want of an actual vacancy in the Deputy Tahsildar cadre. In paragraph 10 of the counter

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)

WEB COPY

affidavit, it is stated that, with a view to accommodate SC and ST candidates in backlog vacancy for the panel year 2025, the temporary promotions given to the petitioners were cancelled and they were reverted to the cadre of Senior Revenue Inspector through impuned proceedings dated 09.01.2026. Thus, the actual reason for the reversion of the petitioners is not clear.

10. No doubt, as seen from the proceedings dated 07.03.2025, it appears that the petitioners were promoted in a vacancy that arose due to the deputation of the incumbents of the said posts for training. But, as observed above, from paragraph 10 of the counter affidavit the reason assigned is something else. In view of the same, this Court is not in a position to acknowledge the action of the third respondent in issuing the impugned proceedings dated 09.01.2026, reverting the petitioners from the post of Deputy Tahsildar to the post of Senior Revenue Inspector, without affording any opportunity to them. If at all there is any such situation arose, by which the petitioners cannot be continued in the post of Deputy Tahsildar, either due to rejoining of the candidates who were sent for training while holding the post of Deputy Tahsildar or to give effect to the reservation in favour of the SC and ST candidates, the respondents ought to have resorted to such action only after putting the petitioners on notice, especially in the context of the fact that the services of the petitioners in the post of Deputy Tahsildar were already regularized. Therefore, this Court is of the considered view that it is not open for this Court at this stage to examine as to

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)

WEB COPY

whether the action of the respondents in reverting the petitioners through impugned proceedings dated 09.01.2026 is justified on merits and facts of the case or not.

11. So also, the impugned proceedings dated 12.01.2026 revised the panel for promotion to the post of Deputy Tahsildar for the year 2025, in which the petitioners were placed below the respondents 5 to 8. As already observed above, this revision of panel also took place without affording any opportunity to the petitioners.

12. In the light of the above, this Court is of the considered view that both the impugned proceedings cannot be sustained for want of compliance with the principles of natural justice. Accordingly, both the impugned proceedings are hereby quashed and the matter is remitted back to the third respondent for passing appropriate orders in accordance with law, by duly affording an opportunity to the petitioners and other affected parties including the respondents 5 to 8. As the interests of the respondents 5 to 8 are also involved in the matter, the third respondent is directed to complete the entire exercise on remand as expeditiously as possible, at any rate, within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)

WEB COPY

13. Accordingly, the writ petition is disposed of. No costs. Connected miscellaneous petitions, if any, shall stand closed.

17.11.2026

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

To

1. The Additional chief Secretary to Government,
   State Of Tamil Nadu
   Revenue Administration and Disaster Management department,
   Secretariat, Fort St.George, Chennai 09

2. The Additional Chief Secretary/
   Commissioner of Revenue Administration,
   Chepauk Chennai 05

3. The District Collector
   Tiruppur district,
   Tiruppur

4. The District Revenue officer
   Tiruppur district,
   Tiruppur

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)

WEB COPY

MUMMINENI SUDHEER KUMAR, J.

dpa

Pre-Delivery Order made in
W.P.No.8242 of 2026

17.11.2026

https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis (Uploaded on: 18/11/2026 12:50:03 pm)