

W.P(MD)No.15189 of 2018

WEB COPY BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 15.07.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.DHANDAPANI

W.P(MD)No.15189 of 2018
and
W.M.P.(MD).No.13744 of 2018

Pudukottai Bar Association,
Represented by its Secretary,
K.Mathiyazhagan, Advocate

... Petitioner

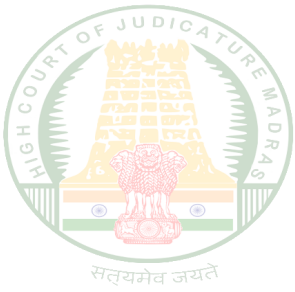
Vs

1.The Secretary to Government,
Energy Department,
Tamil Nadu Government,
Secretariat, Chennai.

2.TANGEDCO,
Rep by its Assistant Engineer,
Town/north Section,
Pudukottai.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records relating to the impugned order vide Ka.No.Vu.Mi.Po/E&Ka/Nagar/North/Pudhugai/Ko.2 A.No.122 dated 04.07.2018 passed by the second respondent and quash the same.



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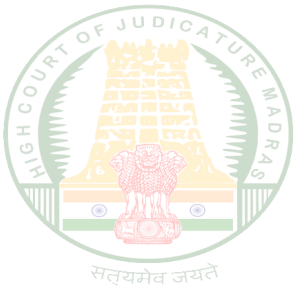
For Petitioner : Mr.K.C.Maniarasu
For R-1 : Mrs.K.R.Shivashankari, Counsel for the State
For R-2 : Mr.S.Deenadhayalan, Standing Counsel
for TNEB

ORDER

This Writ Petition has been filed challenging the impugned proceedings in Ka.No.Vu.Mi.Po/E&Ka/Nagar/North/Pudhugai/Ko.2 A.No.122 dated 04.07.2018 passed by the second respondent.

2. Heard the learned counsel on either side.

3. The petitioner is a registered Bar Association. According to the petitioner, the Association was earlier exempted from payment of electricity charges. Subsequently, the respondent Electricity Board raised demands towards electricity consumption charges. Aggrieved by the earlier demand relating to the period from 10/2007 to 10/2013, the petitioner filed W.P.(MD).No.17708 of 2013, which was disposed of by this Court on 08.01.2024. Challenging the said order, the respondents have preferred W.A.(MD).No.1368 of 2024, which is stated to be pending.



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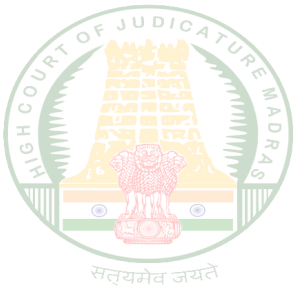
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4. In the present writ petition, the petitioner challenges the impugned demand dated 04.07.2018, whereby electricity consumption charges for the period from 11/2013 to 05/2018 to the tune of Rs.5,38,924/- have been demanded.

5. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that, as on date, the total electricity demand has risen to Rs.22,40,665/-. He further submitted that the electricity service connection is not exclusively enjoyed by the petitioner Bar Association. The same service connection is also being utilised by the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Government Pleader's Office, the Additional Public Prosecutor's Office and other Government offices functioning in the same premises. Therefore, fastening the entire liability upon the petitioner Association alone is arbitrary and unsustainable. Accordingly, he prayed for appropriate orders.

6. This Court vide order dated 02.07.2026 directed the respondent Electricity Board to conduct an inspection in the above said premises. The said order is extracted hereunder:

“The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner



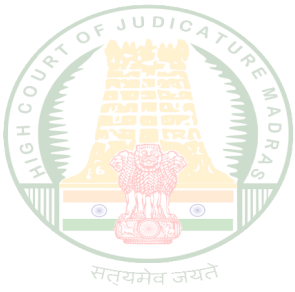
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submitted that the petitioner Bar Association had obtained an electricity service connection bearing Service Connection No.113-001-20. It is submitted that, on account of non-payment of electricity charges for the period from October 2007 to October 2013, the second respondent passed the impugned order demanding a sum of Rs.5,38,924/-.

2.However, the grievance of the petitioner is that the said service connection is not being enjoyed exclusively by the Pudukottai Bar Association, but is also being used by the Office of the Government Pleader, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and the Office of the Assistant Public Prosecutor. It is the petitioner's contention that, although the aforesaid Government Offices are also enjoying the benefit of the said service connection, the respondents are seeking to recover the entire electricity dues from the petitioner alone, which is unsustainable in law. On the said ground, the present Writ Petition has been filed.

3.Having regard to the above submissions, the respondent Electricity Board is directed to conduct an inspection to ascertain whether Service Connection



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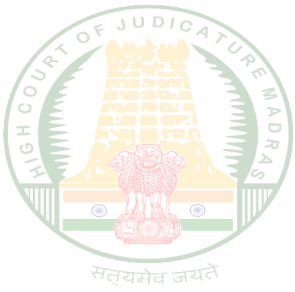
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No.113-001-20 is being enjoyed exclusively by the petitioner or is also being used by the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Office of the Government Pleader, and the Office of the Assistant Public Prosecutor. The respondents shall identify all persons and offices enjoying the benefit of the said service connection and file a report before this Court regarding the same within a period of one week.

*4.Post the matter on **09.07.2026.**”*

7. The learned Standing Counsel appearing for the second respondent submitted that, pursuant to the direction issued by this Court on 02.07.2026, the officials of the Electricity Board conducted a detailed inspection of the premises and filed a status report before this Court.

8. The report filed by the Assistant Executive Engineer reveals that the electricity service connection standing in the name of the petitioner Association is, in fact, being used not only by the petitioner but also by the Public Prosecutor's Office, the District Government Pleader's Office, the Additional Public Prosecutor's Office, and certain other Government offices situated within the



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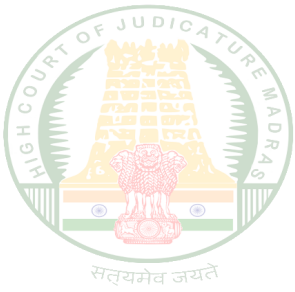
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Court campus. Thus, the electricity consumed under the said service connection is shared by multiple occupants. The relevant portions in the said report are extracted hereunder:

“3. It is respectfully submitted that in pursuant to the order issued by this Court on 10.07.2026 inspection was conducted. Further, on inspection it was found that the above said service connection is being used by the office of the Public Prosecutor, Government Pleader and Office of the Assistant Public Prosecutor.

4. It is respectfully submitted that as on date total outstanding amount to be payable by the Pudukkottai Bar Association is Rs.22,40,665/-.”

9. The above factual position is not seriously disputed by either side. Though the service connection continues to stand in the name of the petitioner Association, the inspection report clearly establishes that several Government offices are also availing electricity through the very same service connection. In such circumstances, fastening the entire electricity liability upon the petitioner Association alone cannot be sustained.



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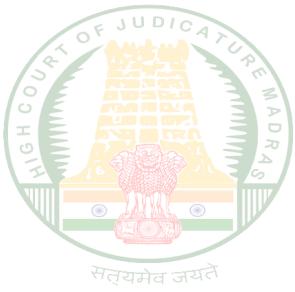
10. Taking into consideration the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case and in exercise of the powers under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, this Court is inclined to issue the following directions:

(i) The petitioner Bar Association shall pay a sum of Rs.7,50,000/- (Rupees Seven Thousand Five Hundred only) to the second respondent within a period of eight (8) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

(ii) On receipt of the said amount, the respondents shall not insist upon payment of the entire demand exclusively from the petitioner in respect of the common electricity service connection.

(iii) The respondent Electricity Board is directed to take immediate steps to provide separate electricity service connections/meters to the petitioner Bar Association, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the District Government Pleader's Office, the Additional Public Prosecutor's Office and such other Government offices as are found to be sharing the existing service connection, in accordance with law and the applicable regulations.

(iv) Upon installation of separate service connections, the respondents shall raise separate electricity consumption bills against the respective occupants/offices and recover the charges from the individual consumers



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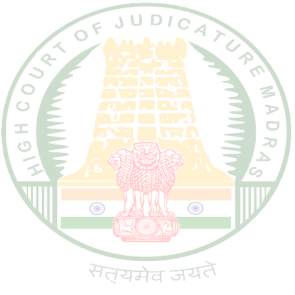
10. With the above directions, this Writ Petition stands disposed of. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

15.07.2026

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
TSG
To

1.The Secretary to Government,
Energy Department,
Tamil Nadu Government,
Secretariat, Chennai.

2.Assistant Engineer,
TANGEDCO,
Town/north Section,
Pudukottai.



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M.DHANDAPANI, J.

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