

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE CHALLA KODANDA RAM

WRIT PETITION No. 8347 of 2019

ORDER:

This writ petition is filed for the following relief:

“...to issue a writ, order or direction more particularly one in the nature of writ of mandamus declaring the action of Respondent No.2 in issuing impugned proceedings No. 817/TSEC-L(NLG)/2015-MPTC(102), dated 19.08.2017 declaring the petitioner ineligible for a period of three years from the date of the order to contest any election to be held for any office under the provisions of Telangana Panchayat Raj Act , 1994, for non-submission of the election expenditure returns under Section 230-A of Telangna Panchayat Raj Act , 1994 without compliance under Rule 103(1) to (7) and under Section 19-B(b) as illegal, arbitrary and violation of principles of natural justice and consequently set aside the impugned proceedings, and pass such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit in the circumstances of the case.”

When the Writ Petition is taken up, learned Standing Counsel Sri P. Sudheer Rao appearing for the State Election Commission fairly concedes that the issue raised in this Writ Petition is squarely covered by the common order dated 20.03.2019 passed by this Court in Writ Petition No.2630 of 2018 and batch.

In the aforesaid order, this Court had categorically held as under:

“ Once the statute required the authorities to take steps ‘immediately’ or ‘as soon as may be’, they cannot sleep over such matters for years together and thereafter seek to justify the delay on their part. It may also be noted that in so far as the elections held in 2013 were concerned, the stipulated period of forty-five days expired in September, 2013 itself, long before formation of the new State of Telangana and the issues that cropped up thereafter.

Be it viewed from any angle, this Court finds that the balance would tilt in favour of the petitioners, given the lapses on

the part of the election authorities in giving effect to their statutory obligations. The orders of disqualification visited upon the petitioners by the Commission are accordingly set aside.

The writ petitions are allowed.”

In the present case, admittedly, the elections were held in April 2014 and the time for submission of election expenditure is 45 days from the date of declaration of the results and respondent No.2 ought to have taken action, if any, immediately thereafter or within a reasonable time. However, the ratio laid down by this Court in the aforesaid order applies to the present case also.

Therefore, this Writ Petition is allowed, in terms of the order dated 20.03.2019 passed by this Court in Writ Petition No.2630 of 2018 and batch. No costs.

Consequently, the miscellaneous Applications, if any shall stand closed.

CHALLA KODANDA RAM, J

18th April, 2019

Issue CC by 22.04.2019.
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