APHC010603402026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI [3311]
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

Friday, the 13th day of November, 2026

Present

Honourable Ms. Justice B. S. Bhanumathi

Writ Petition No: 32995 of 2026

Between:

Baddi Hari Babu **... Petitioner**

and

The State of Andhra Pradesh and others **... Respondents**

Counsel for the petitioner:

1. Yarkareddy Sushma

Counsel for the respondents:

1. G.P. for Panchayat Raj Rural Dev.
2. G.P. for Revenue

The Court made the following:

ORDER:

This writ petition is filed to declare the action of the respondents in reserving the office of Sarpanch of Koppugundapalem (Koppigondapalem) Gram Panchayat, Rambilli Mandal, Anakapalli District, for SC (women), Ward No. 1 for SC (Women) and Ward No.2 for SC for the ensuing Gram Panchayat elections, though there is not a single scheduled caste voter in the electoral roll of the said Gram Panchayat, as illegal and consequently, direct respondents Nos.2 and 4 to 6 to re-determine the reservation of the office of Sarpanch and the seats of ward members of the said Gram Panchayat strictly in proportion to the population of the scheduled castes in the gram panchayat area, before the issuance of the election notification for the ensuing Gram Panchayat elections

02. The case of the petitioner is, stated briefly, as follows:

a. The petitioner is the resident and registered voter of Koppugundapalem (Koppigondapalem) Gram Panchayat Rambilli Mandal, Anakapalli District.

b. Previously, he was the sarpanch of the said gram panchayat between 2021 and 2026. He intends to contest the ensuing elections. The respondent No. 7 issued gram panchayat wise voters information for Rambilli Mandal. As per the same, the total number of voters' of the gram panchayat is 696 out of whom there is not even a single voter from the schedule caste community. However, the subject gram panchayat is reserved for S.C. women and ward No.1 is reserved for SC women and ward No. 2 is reserved for SC general.

c. Therefore, this petitioner submitted a representation dated 17.10.2026 to the respondents Nos.4, 5 and 7 with copy to the respondent No. 2, seeking proper changes to be made in this regard. Since no action has been taken, this writ petition was filed.

03. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the elections should not be redundant by allotting the reserved post to communities which are not available and keep those posts vacant for entire period of five years. He further submitted that it is the duty of the government to see that the elections are held to every gram panchayat as per the constitutional mandate under Article 243 - D(1).

04. The learned Assistant Government Pleader for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development submitted that he has not received written instructions, however, he submitted that the elections in respect of subject gram panchayat may be held in second phase or third but not in first one and therefore, there is no urgency. He further submitted that the reservations were fixed as per the national census 2011.

05. In reply, the learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that since no corrective action had been taken by the concerned authority, if notification is issued by the next working day, it becomes more complex to change the entire schedule of every gram panchayat and therefore, it is necessary to pass appropriate order.

06. In the light of the above facts and circumstances, this writ petition is disposed of directing the respondents Nos.4 and 6 to forthwith examine the subject issue and take appropriate decision to see that the policy of reservation does not get frustrated against the constitutional mandate of conducting elections for every post of the local body.

There shall be no order as to costs.

Consequently, miscellaneous petitions, if any, pending in this writ petition shall stand closed.

JUSTICE B.S. BHANUMATHI

Date: 13.11.2026

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