

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD**

THE HONOURABLE SMT. JUSTICE K. SUJANA

CRIMINAL PETITION Nos.804 AND 912 of 2026

DATE: 04.02.2026

BETWEEN:

Neela Nagaraju (CrI.P.No.804/2026)
Mohd Mukram Ahmed and 2 others
in CrI.P.No.912/2026) ... Petitioners-A.2 to A.5

And

The State of Telangana,
Through Public Prosecutor
High Court of Telangana. ... Respondent

COMMON ORDER

Since facts of the case and the crime registered is one and same, they are being heard together and disposed of by way of this common order.

2. These two Criminal Petitions are filed under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') for grant of pre-arrest bail to the petitioners, who were arrayed as accused Nos.2 to 5 in Crime No.8 of 2026 before the Damaragidda Police Station, Narayanpet District, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 318 (4) and 316(5) of BNS, 2023 and Section 7-A of the Essential Commodities Act.

3. Heard Sri K.Mohan Goud, learned counsel for the petitioners and Sri D.Arun Kumar, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent-State.

4. The case of the prosecution is that on 19.01.2026, the *de facto* complainant lodged a complaint before the police stating that he along with Deputy Tahsildar, Damaragidda Mandal along with the Vigilance & Enforcement Team, inspected M/s. Annapurna Rice Industrial Mill, Ashanpally Village of Damaragidda Mandal and conducted physical verification of paddy stocks pertaining Rabi 2022-2023 and Kharif 2023-2024 and for both seasons, the available rice paddy quantity is 5903-842 MTs, shortage of paddy is 5332-698 MTs in RABI 2022-23 Season and paddy is 203.899 MTs in Kharif 2023-24 season. The total two seasons, the paddy to be available in the rice mill is 6280.541 and shortage of paddy is 5536.597. Since both stocks are pertaining to civil supplies Corporation and the act of the Rice miller in indulging clandestine business by diverting the Government paddy stocks for pecuniary advantage in violation of the provisions and misappropriated the paddy stock for amount of Rs.19,53,26,701/-. Therefore, he requested this Court to take necessary action against the petitioners. Basing

on the said complaint, the police registered a case for aforesaid offences.

5. The contention of learned counsel for the petitioners is that the petitioners are shown as A2 to A.5. He further submits that they are partners of the said rice mill and accused No.1 is Proprietor of the said Company. Accused No.1 was also served with notice under Section 35 (3) of BNSS. Though the offences alleged against the petitioners are under Sections 318 and 316 BNS, they are not applicable to the present case as the petitioners are not Government employees or they are not Government Agents and as such requested this Court to grant Anticipatory Bail to the petitioners.

6. On the other hand, learned Additional Public Prosecutor opposed the same and submits that the allegations made against the petitioners are serious in nature; that the petitioners misused the public money, as such they are not entitled for grant of bail and hence, he prays to dismiss the Criminal Petitions.

7. Considering the allegations made against the petitioners, this Court already directed the Investigating Authority to serve notice under Section 35 (3) of BNSS. Hence,

this Court is inclined to allow these two criminal petitions subject to following conditions:

(i) The petitioners-A.2 to A.5 shall surrender before the Station House Officer, Damaragidda Police Station, Narayanpet District, within two (2) weeks from today, and on such surrender, the petitioners shall be released on bail on executing a personal bond for a sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) each with two sureties for a like sum each.

(iii) The petitioners shall appear before the concerned Investigating Officer on every Monday 09:00 a.m, and 05:00 p.m., or till the filing of the charge sheet, whichever is earlier, and thereafter, as and when required.

(ii) The petitioners shall abide by the other conditions stipulated in Section 482(2) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and co-operate with the Investigating Officer in investigating the case.

8. Accordingly, these two Criminal Petitions are allowed.

Miscellaneous applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

K. SUJANA, J

Date: 04.02.2026

YVL