

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

**FRIDAY, THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF MARCH
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX**

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE K. SUJANA

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 2127 OF 2026

Between:

1. Mr. Amit Vipr S/o. Hemanth Kumar Jha, Age: 39, Occ: Service Head of M/s Keess Technologies, C/o. A-35 B, Gali No.2, Near Shanti Nursing Home, Vishwash Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi – 110059.
2. Mr. Karthik S/o. Rajendran, Age: 32, Occ: Senior Service Engineer of M/s Keess Technologies, R/o. M-74, Phase-3, Anna Nagar, Thiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu – 620026.
3. Mr. Jerald Starvin Joseph S/o. Jayaraj, Age: 45, Occ: General Manager of M/s Keess Technologies, R/o. 6/102, Kings Castle, Kondayapalyam, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu – 641110.
4. Mr. Servin Anthonysamy S/o. Anthonysamy, Age: 24, Occ: Junior Service Engineer of M/s Keess Technologies, R/o. D.No.83, 2nd street, 4th cross, Periyasamy layout, Coimbatore North, Tamil Nadu – 641027.

...Petitioners

AND

The Senior Intelligent Officer, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, H. No.10-2-289/57/1 & 2, Suryavanshi Residency, II X Road, Shantinagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad – 500028.

...Respondent

Petition under Section 482 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioners in File No. DRI/ZU/INT/156/2025-C on the file of the Senior Intelligent Officer, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Hyderabad in connection with the offence of non-payment of Anti-Dumping Duty on import of Laser welding Machines under Notification No. 015/2023-Customs (ADD) dated 22.12.2023 to the satisfaction of the respondent.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri S. Malleswara Rao, Advocate for the Petitioners and Sri T.V. Subba Rao, Senior Standing Counsel on behalf of the Respondent.

The Court made the following: ORDER

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IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA

AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SMT. JUSTICE K. SUJANA

CRIMINAL PETITION No.2127 OF 2026

DATE : 13.03.2026

Between :

Mr. Amit Vipr & three others

... Petitioners

And

The Senior Intelligent Officer,
Directorate of Revenue Intelligence,
H.No.10-2289/57/1 & 2, Suryavanshi Residency,
II X Road, Shantinagar, Masab Tank,
Hyderabad 500 028

... Respondent

: ORDER :

This criminal petition is filed under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 by the petitioners seeking anticipatory bail in the event of their arrest in connection with File No.DRI/ZU/INT/156/2025-C on the file of Senior Intelligent Officer, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Hyderabad.

2. The facts of the case are that the respondent issued summons under Section 108 of the Customs Act, 1962 directing the petitioners to appear on 17.02.2026 at 10:30 a.m. before the

office of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at Suryavanshi Residency, Shantinagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, in connection with an inquiry relating to alleged mis-declaration of Laser Welding Machines imported from China for the purpose of evading Anti-Dumping Duty and non-payment of such duty under Notification No.015/2023-Customs (ADD) dated 22.12.2023. In the said summons, the respondent required the petitioners to appear and give evidence and/or produce documents or things in their possession relating to the import of the said goods, and stated that the inquiry would be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of Sections 229 and 267 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and that non-compliance would attract penal consequences under Sections 208 and 210 of the said Act.

3. Heard Sri S. Malleswara Rao, learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri T.V.Subba Rao, learned Senior Standing counsel appearing for the respondent.

4. The contention of learned counsel for the petitioners is that petitioners are merely employees working with M/s. Keesstech India Pvt. Ltd., that they have no role in the import of the alleged goods or in the payment of Anti-Dumping Duty, and

that they neither oversee nor deal with the imported material. He further contended that provisions invoked in the summons are not applicable to them. Hence, prayed this Court to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioners.

5. On the other hand, learned Senior Standing Counsel appearing for the respondent opposed bail contending that M/s. Keess Technologies, a partnership firm dealing in industrial machinery, was importing laser cutting machines of Chinese origin by mis-declaring them as plasma cutting machines, CNC router machine beds, or similar equipment to evade Anti-Dumping Duty. Based on this information, a search was conducted on 12.12.2025 at the firm's premises in Coimbatore, during which several documents such as supplier catalogues, invoices, purchase orders, and electronic communications with overseas suppliers were seized. Examination of the records revealed discrepancies between the number of machines imported and those supplied domestically, and technical documents for the alleged plasma machines were not produced. Investigation also revealed that certain Chinese-origin laser machines were routed through Malaysia to avoid Anti-Dumping Duty. The importer admitted that about 36 laser machines

worth approximately Rs.28.53 crores were imported under the guise of plasma machines or router machine beds, resulting in an estimated duty evasion of Rs.12.56 crores. Summons was issued to the partners of the firm, and their statements were recorded in January 2026. Forensic analysis of mobile phones belonging to the partners revealed WhatsApp communications with the Chinese supplier directing them to change the description of goods, conceal key components, modify nameplates, and alter documents to support the false declaration. The investigation indicated deliberate mis-declaration and manipulation of records to evade Anti-Dumping Duty. Based on the material collected, the partners were arrested on 13.01.2026 and later granted bail by the Special Judge for Economic Offences with conditions. During the investigation, summons was also issued to the petitioners as the partners stated that they were involved in converting the imported plasma machines or router machine beds into laser machines. However, the petitioners sought time to appear and subsequently failed to appear before the Investigating Officer despite fresh summons issued directing them to appear on 17.02.2026. He further contended that the role of the petitioners in the alleged conversion of imported machines and

related activities is under investigation. The petitioners are the material witnesses connected with the transactions under inquiry, their examination is necessary for investigation. The petitioners are not cooperating with the ongoing investigation as they have failed to appear before the investigating officer despite issuance of summons. Hence, petitioners are not entitled for anticipatory bail and prayed to dismiss this petition.

6. Considering the submissions made by both sides and upon perusal of the material available on record, it is observed that the petitioners have been issued summons under Section 108 of the Customs Act by the respondent authorities requiring their appearance in connection with the ongoing investigation. Instead of appearing before the authorities and cooperating with the inquiry, the petitioners have approached this Court by filing the present application seeking anticipatory bail apprehending arrest. The contention of the petitioners is that they are in no way connected with the alleged offences, that they are merely employees of the company, that the main accused persons have already been arrested, and that the petitioners have not been arrayed as accused as on date. On the other hand, the learned Senior Standing Counsel for the respondent contended that the

present application is premature, as the summons were issued only for the purpose of recording statements during the course of investigation and that appropriate steps would be taken only if the authorities are not satisfied with their explanation. It is further contended that there are allegations against the petitioners that they were involved in manipulation of documents.

7. In view of the above facts and circumstances, and considering that the petitioners have not been arrayed as accused as on date and that they have an opportunity to appear before the respondent authorities either in person or through an authorized agent and cooperate with the investigation, this Court is not inclined to grant the relief of anticipatory bail at this stage as such, the same is liable to be dismissed.

8. Accordingly, this Criminal Petition is dismissed.

Miscellaneous petitions, if any, pending shall stand closed.

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SD/- M OSMAN ALI BAIG,
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Senior Intelligent Officer, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Hyderabad
2. One CC to Sri Sannidhiraja Malleswara Rao, Advocate [OPUC]
3. One CC to Sri T V Subba Rao, SC [OPUC]
4. Two CD Copies

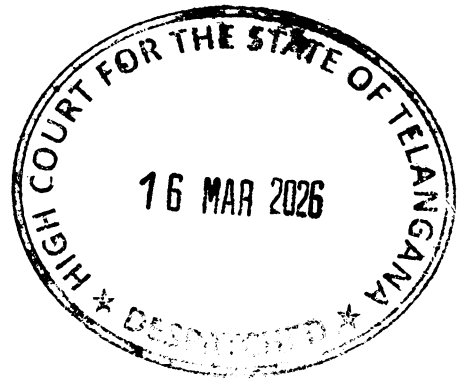
 GNK

HIGH COURT

DATED: 13/03/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.2127 of 2026



DISMISSING THE CRIMINAL PETITION

⑥
16/03/26
KRS