

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

**THURSDAY, THE TWELTH DAY OF MARCH
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX**

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 3573 OF 2026

Between:

1. Ellandula Sajeeva Kumar, S/o Jagadheeswar, Aged about 36 years, Occ: Rice Mill Manager, Divya Agro Food Products, R/o H.No.12-99, Srinivasa Nagar, Kodada Mandal, Nalgonda District.
2. Cheedella Srinivasa Rao, S/o Ramaiah, Aged about 49 years, Occ: Proprietor, Divya Agro Food Products, R/o H.No.11-136/1-B/1, Ambedkar Colony, Opp. Agriculture Market Committee, Kodada Mandal, Nalgonda District.
3. Kothuru Prasanth @ Jagan, S/o Satyanarayana, Aged about 32 years, Occ: Rice Mill Gumastha, R/o H.No.1-12/4/17/A, Nagubandi Ramurthy Nagar, Suryapet Road, Kodada, Nalgonda District.
4. Moodu Ramesh, S/o Bichalu Aged about: 52 years, Occ: Lorry Driver, R/o Kotha Kothuru Village, Nelakondapally Mandal, Khammam District.

...PETITIONERS/ACCUSED NOS.1 TO 4

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by its Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. Sub-Inspector of Police, Nelakondapally Police Station, Khammam District

...RESPONDENTS

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS, praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to quash the proceedings in C.C. No. 200093 of 2018, arising out of Crime No. 13 of 2016 of Nelakondapally Police Station, pending on the file of the Court of the Special Judicial Magistrate of First Class (Mobile) for trial of cases under PCR Act - cum - IV Additional Junior Civil Judge at Khammam.

I.A. NO: 2 OF 2026

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS, praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to stay all further proceedings in C.C. No. 200093 of 2018, arising out of Crime No. 13 of 2016 of Nelakondapally Police Station, pending on the file of the Court of the Special Judicial Magistrate of First Class (Mobile) for trial of cases under PCR Act - cum - IV Additional Junior Civil Judge at Khammam, during the pendency of the above Criminal Petition.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri Kavali Vishnu Kanth, Advocate for the Petitioners and the Sri.Jithender Rao Veeramalla Additional Public Prosecutor for the State of Telangana on behalf of the Respondent No.1 and 2.

The Court made the following: ORDER

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J.SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION No.3573 of 2026

Date:12.03.2026

Between:

Ellandula Sajeeva Kumar and
three others

...Petitioners

AND

The State of Telangana,
Rep. by its Public Prosecutor,
High Court for the State
of Telangana, Hyderabad and another

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition has been filed by the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 4 seeking to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.200093 of 2018, on the file of the Special Judicial Magistrate of First Class (Mobile) for trial of cases under PCR Act-cum-IV Additional Junior Civil Judge at Khammam.

2. Heard Mr.K.Vishnu Kanth, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mr.Jithender Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for respondents.

3. The specific allegation against the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 4 is that they have procured PDS rice from the beneficiaries at cheaper rate to sell the same for profit and on 25.01.2016, the petitioners were found in possession of 218.90 quintals of PDS rice.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioners would submit that without there being any complaint from any beneficiary, alleging that the rice was procured deceptively or with a criminal intent and charging the petitioners for prosecution is untenable and improper. The allegations, even taken at their face value cannot be sustained against the petitioners. Further, this Court, in Crl.P.No.5709 of 2019, while considering the same situation, categorically observed that the offences alleged against the petitioners therein could not be continued and accordingly quashed the proceedings. The petitioners are also entitled to the same relief and hence prayed to quash the proceedings against the petitioners.

5. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor submits that as per prosecution, the offences said to have been committed by the petitioners is cheating and violation of Section 7 of the Essential

Commodities Act, 1955 (for short 'EC Act') and requested to pass appropriate orders.

6. Section 7 of the EC Act contemplate that any person contravenes with the production, supply, distribution and trade of essential commodities, is punishable. As per the prosecution, the petitioners have procured PDS rice from the beneficiaries after supply from the dealer.

7. A Coordinate Bench of this Court in Crl.P.No.7227 of 2025 has considered the identical facts and observed that:

"There is no averment indicating that the petitioner in any way deceptively induced the beneficiaries to part with the supplied PDS rice or the beneficiary entrusted the PDS rice purchased by them with the petitioner and they dishonestly misappropriated or converted to their own use or used it in violation of a lawful direction or contract. In the absence of essential factors, on the face of prosecution, this Court finds it to be a fit case to exercise the jurisdiction under Section 528 of BNSS, 2023. Thus, continuance of proceedings against the petitioner is abuse of process of law".

8. The facts and circumstances of the present case also similar to those in the above case and hence, this Court finds it to be a fit case to exercise jurisdiction under Section 528 of BNSS by applying the same analogy and to quash the proceedings against the petitioners herein.

9. Accordingly, the Criminal Petition is allowed and the proceedings in C.C.No.200093 of 2018, on the file of the Special Judicial Magistrate of First Class (Mobile) for trial of cases under PCR Act-cum-IV Additional Junior Civil Judge at Khammam, against the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 4, are hereby quashed.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- A.SREENIVASA REDDY
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Judicial First Class Magistrate (Special Mobile) at Khammam.
2. The Station House Officer, Nelakondapally Police Station, Khammam District
3. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
4. One CC to Sri. Kavali Vishnu Kanth, Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CD Copies

Pr/PSL

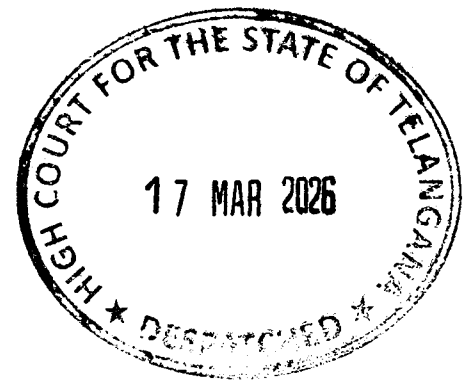


HIGH COURT

DATED: 12/03/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.3573 of 2026



ALLOWING THE CRL.PETITION

(8) NT
17/3/26.