IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

THURSDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 16167 OF 2026

Between:

1. Shri Uma Maheswara Traders, Represented by its proprietor Pasumarti Sri Lakshmi, W/o. Pasumarti Venkata Siva Naga Prasad Having its office at. Ground floor, shop no 18, Vishnupriya commercial complex, ponnur road, guntur andhra pradesh, 522001
2. C Devasena rice mill, Represented by its proprietor P. Naga Venkata Mani Sai Kumar, S/o Naga Mohan Rao, Having its office at. Building No./Flat No.. 9-54, Perecherla, Medikonduru, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, 522438

...PETITIONERS/ACCUSED NO.4 and 5

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep by its Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana Hyderabad, 500035.
2. Mohd. Qualied, S/o Fakruddin, Aged about 48 years, Occ. Deputy Tahsildar, Civil Supplies, Narayankhed Village, Pedda Kodpagal Mandal, Kamareddy District

...RESPONDENTS/COMPLAINANTS

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 F.I.R. No.42 of 2026 on the file of Pedda Kodpagal Police Station, Kamareddy District in so far as petitioners/ A-4 and A-5 are concerned.

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 connection with F.I.R. No.42 of 2026 on the file of Pedda Kodpagal Police Station, Kamareddy District in so far as petitioners/ A-4 and A-5 are concerned pending disposal of the main criminal petition.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri CH RAVINDER, Advocate for the Petitioner and Sri Jithender Rao Veeramalla, the Addl. Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Respondent No.1 and none appeared on behalf of the Respondent No.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.16167 of 2026
CNR.No. HBHC010679702026
Date: 01.10.2026

Between:

Shri Uma Maheswara Traders and another

...Petitioners

AND

The State of Telangana, and another

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition has been filed seeking to quash the proceedings in FIR No.42 of 2026 of Pedda Kodapgal Police Station, Kamareddy District, wherein the petitioners were arrayed as accused Nos.4 and 5, for the offences punishable under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhitha, 2023 (for short 'BNS') and Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (for short 'EC Act').

2. Heard Mr.Ch.Ravinder, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mr.Jithender Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for respondent No.1.

3. The specific allegation against the petitioners is that they have procured PDS rice from the beneficiaries at cheaper rate to sell the same for profit and on 15.04.2026, the petitioners were found in possession of 361.70 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 FIR No.42 of 2026 of Pedda Kodapgal Police

Station, Kamareddy District, against the petitioners/accused Nos.4 and 5, are hereby quashed.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- B. REKHA RANI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Bichkunda.
2. The Station House Officer, Pedda Kodpagal Police Station, Kamareddy District
3. Two CCs to PUBLIC PROSECUTOR High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
4. One CC to SRI. CH RAVINDER Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CD Copies

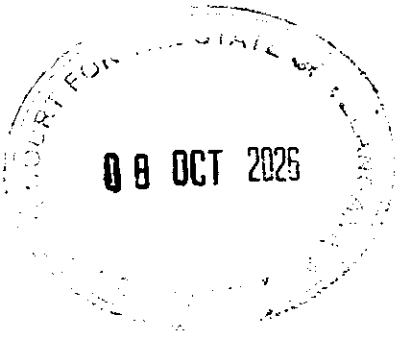
TPK/GNK

HIGH COURT

DATED: 01/10/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.16167 of 2026



CRIMINAL PETITION IS ALLOWED

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