IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

FRIDAY, THE NINTH DAY OF OCTOBER TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 16786 OF 2026

Between:

1. Pittala Raj Kumar, S/o. Kistaiah, Age 41 years, Occ: Driver, R/o. H.No. 42-34, Maruthi Nagar, Mandamarri, Mancherial District.
2. Puvanapu Nagesh @ Pavanapu Nagesh, S/o. Sailu, Age 22 years, Occ Driver, R/o. H.No. 19-1059, NTR Nagar, Mancherial, Mancherial District.
3. Yellenki Viran Kumar @ Yellanki Veeran Kumar, S/o. Bhadraiah, Age 46 years, Occ Business, R/o. H.No. 8-4-600/1, Ganesh Nagar, Karimnagar, Karimnagar District.
4. Puranam Ravi, S/o. Sammaiah, Age 40 years, Occ Lorry Owner, R/o. H.No. 14-51/9, Vidya Nagar, Mandamarri, Mancherial District.
5. Puvanapu Mahesh @ Puranam Mahesh, S/o. Sailu, Age 32 years, Occ Lorry Owner, R/o. H.No. 9-77/6, Sundaraiah Nagar, Enumamula, Warangal.

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED Nos.1 to 5

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by Public Prosecutor, High Court at Hyderabad through S.H.O., P.S. Jaipur, Mancherial District.

.. Respondent

2. Alam Pochaiah, S/o. Gaddaiah, AgeMajor, Occ Deputy Tahsildar (Civil Supplies), Chennur, R/o. Mancherial, Mancherial District.

...Respondent/De-facto Complainant

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 call for the records relating to C.C. No.636 of 2024 on the file of the Junior Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate of First Class At Chennur against the Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 5 and quash the same.

I.A. NO: 1 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 grant stay of all further proceedings in C.C. No.636 of 2024 on the file of the Junior Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate of First Class At Chennur including appearance of the Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 5 till the disposal of the Criminal Petition in the interest of the justice.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri ANUGANTI PRANEETH, Advocate for the Petitioner and Sri Jithender Rao Veeramalla, Additional Public Prosecutor on behalf of Respondent No.1 and none appeared for 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.16786 of 2026
(CNR No. HBHC010695792026)

Date: 09.10.2026

Between:

Pittala Raj Kumar and four others.

...Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 5

AND

The State of Telangana and another

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition has been filed by the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 5 seeking to quash the proceedings in C.C. No.636 of 2024 on the file of the learned Junior Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate of First Class Magistrate at Chennur, for the offences punishable under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short, 'the BNS') and Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (for short 'the E.C. Act').

2. Heard Mr. Anuganti Praneeth, learned counsel for the petitioners, and Mr.Jithender Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondents.

3. The specific allegation against the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 5 is that they had procured PDS rice from the beneficiaries at cheaper rate to sell the same for profit and on 08.10.2024 at about 16-00 hours, the petitioners were found in possession of 65.80 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 offence said to have been committed by the petitioners is cheating and violation of Section 7 of the E.C. Act and requested to pass appropriate orders.

6. Section 7 of the E.C. Act contemplates 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.636 of 2024 on the file of the learned Junior Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate of First Class

Magistrate at Chennur, against the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 5, are hereby quashed.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- K. BHAVANI SWAMY
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

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SECTION OFFICER

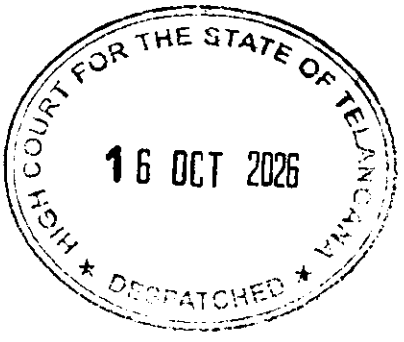
To,

1. The Junior Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate of First Class At Chennur
2. The Station House Officer, Jaipur Police Station, Mancherial District.
3. One CC to SRI. ANUGANTI PRANEETH, Advocate [OPUC]
4. Two CCs to PUBLIC PROSECUTOR High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
5. Two CD Copies

ADK/BA

HIGH COURT

DATED: 09/10/2026



ORDER

CRLP.No.16786 of 2026

ALLOWING THE CRLP

8 copies
Kg
16/10/26