IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD

MONDAY, THE TWENTY SIXTH DAY OF OCTOBER
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J.SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 17607 OF 2026

Between:

1. Mohd. Nawaz @ Qureshi, S/o Mohd. Abdul Razzaq, Aged about 34 years, Occ. Business, R/o H.No.8-2-740/107G, Road No. 12, Bhola Nagar, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.
2. Mohd. Ikram Zaman, S/o Md. Bodiuz Zaman, Aged about 47 years, Occ. Business, R/o H.No.18-13-8/5/13/1/B, Opposite White Palace Function Hall, Tulsi Nagar, Jahangirabad, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad.
3. Mohammed Haji, S/o Mohd. Noor, Aged about 31 years, Occ. Business, R/o H.No.18-7-423/A/130, Aman Nagar, Talabkatta, Charminar, Hyderabad.
4. Mohd. Mahamood Ali, S/o Mohd. Shamshar Ali, Aged about 61 years, Occ. Business, R/o H.No.3-3-50, Beech Mohalla, Bhongir, Nalgonda District.
5. Mohd. Moin Qureshi, S/o Mohd. Abdul Razzaq, Aged about 23 years (17 years at the relevant time), Occ. working, R/o near Pillar No. 218, Diary Farm, Rajendranagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District.

...Petitioners/Accused Nos.1 to 4 and JCL

AND

1. The State of Telangana, represented by its Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. G. Rajesh, Sub-Inspector of Police, P.S Mailardevpally, Rajendranagar, Cyberabad

...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 C.C.No.776 of 2019 on the file of the Hon'ble XII Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District, at Rajendranagar for the alleged offences under Section 420 of IPC and Section 7 (1) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to the extent of the petitioners/Accused Nos.1 and 4 and JCL.

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.776 of 2019 on the file of the Hon'ble XII Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District, at Rajendranagar pending disposal 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 Ms. M. Raja Laxmi, Advocate for the Petitioners and Mr. Jithender Rao Veeramalla, Additional Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Respondents.

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.17607 of 2026

CNR.No. HBHC010735132026

Date: 26.10.2026

Between:

Mohd.Nawaz and others

...Petitioners/accused Nos. 1 to 4 and JCL

AND

The State of Telangana, and another

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition has been filed by the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 4 and JCL seeking to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.776 of 2019 on the file of learned XII Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District at Rajendranagar.

2. Heard Ms.M.Raja Laxmi, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mr.Jithender Rao Veeramalla, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for respondents.

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 05.12.2018, the petitioners were found in possession of 20 tonnes 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 in 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.776 of 2019 on the file of learned XII Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District

at Rajendranagar, against the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 4 and JCL, are hereby quashed.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- C. DEEPIKA
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

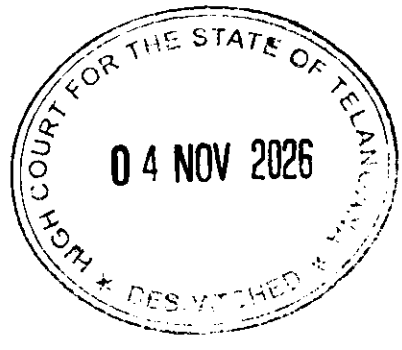
To,

1. The XII Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District, at Rajendranagar
2. The Station House Officer, Mailardevpally Police Station, Cyberabad District.
3. One CC to Ms. M. Raja Laxmi, Advocate [OPUC]
4. Two CCs to Public Prosecutor High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
5. Two CD Copies

KAM/GNK

HIGH COURT

DATED: 26/10/2026



ORDER

CRLP.No.17607 of 2026

ALLOWING THE CRLP.

8 copies
RA
2/11/26