IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

WEDNESDAY, THE TWENTY EIGHTH DAY OF OCTOBER TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 17856 OF 2026

Between:

1. Devineni Narsimha, S/o Sammaiah, Age 32 years, 0cc Business, R/o H.No.2-37/1/1, Seetharampur Village, Kothapalli Mandal, Karimnagar District.
2. Kota Sammaiah, S/o Saraiah, Age 34 years, Occ Business, R/o H.No,2-37/4/11, Seetharampur Village, Kothapalli Mandal, Karimnagar District.
3. Kota Sammaiah, S/o Bhumaiah, Age 36 years, Occ Business, R/o H.No.6-23/3/31/138/5, Rekurthy Village, Kothapalli Mandal, Karimnagar District.
4. Devineni Siddartha, S/o Late Badraiah, Age 21 years, Occ Driver, R/o H.No.1-45/6, Arepalli Village, Kothapalli Mandal, Karimnagar District.

...PETITIONER/ACCUSED No. 1 to 4

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by the Public Prosecutor, High Court, at Hyderabad for the State of Telangana.
2. Through State Police, (K Raju), Sub Inspector of Police, Karimnagar Rural, R/o Karimnagar, Karimnagar 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 against petitioners/accused Nos. 1 to 4 in CC No. 3235 of 2025 on the file of the Hon'ble II Additional Judicial Magistrate First Class at Karimnagar, Karimnagar District in so far as petitioners

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 grant stay of all further proceedings against the Petitioners / Accused Nos.1 to 4 in CC No. 3235 of 2025 on the file of the Hon'ble II Additional Judicial Magistrate First Class at Karimnagar Karimnagar District for 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 G BASAPPA, Advocate for the Petitioner and Sri 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.17856 of 2026
CNR No.HBHC010746672026
Date: 28.10.2026

Between:

Devineni Narsimha and 3 others

...Petitioners

AND

The State of Telangana, 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.3235 of 2025, on the file of the II Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class at Karimnagar, Karimnagar District.

2. Heard Mr.G.Basappa, 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 28.02.2024, the petitioners were found in possession of 9 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.3235 of 2025, on the file of the II Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class at Karimnagar, Karimnagar District, against the petitioners/accused Nos.1 to 4, are hereby quashed.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- B. REKHA RANI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The II Additional Judicial Magistrate First Class at Karimnagar, Karimnagar District
2. The Additional Judicial Magistrate First Class at Karimnagar
3. The Station House Officer, Karimnagar-Rural Police Station, Karimnagar District
4. One CC to SRI. G BASAPPA Advocate [OPUC]
5. Two CCs to PUBLIC PROSECUTOR High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad [OUT]
6. Two CD Copies

GV/GNK

HIGH COURT

DATED: 28/10/2026

ORDER

CRLP.No.17856 of 2026



ALLOWING THE CRIMINAL PETITION

3/11/26