IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF NOVEMBER TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE J SREENIVAS RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 18264 OF 2026

Between:

1. Sirigiri Raj Kumar @ Raju, S/o S. Mallesham, Age. 24 years, Occ. Business, R/o H. No.6-23/3/1/138, Budugajangam Colony, Rekurthy Village, Kothapally Mandal, Karimnagar District, Telangana-505451.
2. Pastham Karunakar, S/o P. Anjaiah, Age. 26 years, Occ. Driver, R/o H. No.6-23/3/1/29, Ambedkar Colony, Rekurthy Village, Kothapally Mandal, Karimnagar District, Telangana - 505451.

...Petitioners/Accused No. 1 & 2

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by the Public Prosecutor, High Court, at Hyderabad for the State of Telangana.
2. Through State Police (Ch. Venkatrajam), Sub Inspector of Police, Karimnagar Rural P.S., R/o. Karimnagar Town and District.

...Respondents

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS, 2023 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 CC No. 1979 of 2024 on the file of the Principal Judicial Magistrate First Class at Karimnagar, Karimnagar District in so far as petitioners/Accused 1 and 2.

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 No. 1 and 2 in CC No. 1979 of 2024 on the file of the Principal 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 the 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.18264 of 2026

CNR.No. HBHC010763002026

Date: 03.11.2026

Between:

Sirigiri Raj Kumar @ Raju and another

...Petitioners

AND

The State of Telangana, and another

...Respondents

ORDER

This Criminal Petition has been filed by the petitioners/accused Nos.1 and 2 seeking to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.1979 of 2024 on the file of the Principal Judicial Magistrate 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 is that they have procured PDS rice from the beneficiaries at cheaper rate to sell the same for profit and on 19.05.2024, the petitioners were found in possession of 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 are 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 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.1979 of 2024 on the file of the Principal Judicial Magistrate First Class at Karimnagar, Karimnagar District, against the petitioners/accused Nos.1 and 2, are hereby quashed.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/- MOHD. ISMAIL
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

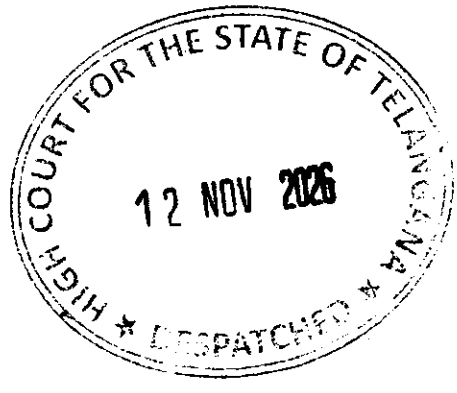
To,

1. The Principal Judicial Magistrate First Class at Karimnagar, Karimnagar District.
2. The II Additional Judical Magistrate of FC at Karimnagar.
3. The Sub Inspector of Police, Karimnagar Rural P.S., R/o. Karimnagar Town and District.
4. Two CCs to the Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, at Hyderabad (OUT)
5. One CC to Sri G Basappa, Advocate [OPUC]
6. Two CD Copies

DL/GNK

HIGH COURT

DATED: 03/11/2026



ORDER

CRLP.No.18264 of 2026

ALLOWING THE CRIMINAL PETITION

(8)
06/11/26
K.K