IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

THURSDAY, THE TWELFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE K. SARATH

WRIT PETITION Nos.40520, 40521 and 40522 of 2025

WRIT PETITION NO: 40520 OF 2025

Between:

T.Parashuramulu, S/o Chandraiah, Aged about 38 years, Artisan Grade-II Operation, Keesara Section, TGSPDCL, R/o. Keesaragutta

...PETITIONER

AND

1. Southern Power Distribution, Company of Telangana Limited. Represented by its Chairman and Managing Director, Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
2. The Chairman and Managing Director, Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd. Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
3. The Director, HRD TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
4. The Chief General Manager (HRD), TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
5. The Chief General Manager, (O & M) Rural Zone, TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad.
6. The Chief General Manager, Operation TGSPDCL, Medchal Zonal, Hyderabad.
7. The Superintending Engineer, Operation, TGSPDCL, Habsiguda, Hyderabad.
8. The Divisional Engineer Elecl, Operation, Keesara, TGSPDCL, Keesara, Habsiguda Circle.
9. State of Telangana, Represented by its Principal Secretary, Energy Department, Secretariat, Hyderabad, T.G.

...RESPONDENTS

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be

pleased to issue writ or direction preferably Writ of Mandamus by declaring the action of the Respondents in imposing the penalty of stoppage of two (2) annual grade increments with cumulative effect vide impugned Memo. No. CGM/OP/Medchal Zone/DE(T)/ AAO/JAO/Adm./D.No.3168/23 dated 24-02-2024 of the 6th Respondent without furnishing a copy of the enquiry report and on the dictates of the higher authority and further ordering recovery of an amount of Rupees 3,82,672/- vide Memo. No. DEE/OP/KEESARA/JAO(PAS)/D.No. dated nil-12-2025 of the 8th Respondent by placing reliance on subsequent material, which did not form part of enquiry proceedings, as being arbitrary, illegal, opposed to principles of natural justice, erroneous, contrary to the material on record and in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India and to set-aside the same accordingly in interest of justice.

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to suspend the operation of impugned Memo. No. CGM/OP/Medchal Zone/DE(T)/AAO/JAO/Adm./D. No. 3168/23 dated 24-02-2024 and the related recovery proceedings issued vide Memo. No. DEE/OP/KEESARA/JAO(PAS)/D. No. dated nil-12-2025 by the 6th and 8th Respondents respectively.

WRIT PETITION NO: 40521 OF 2025

Between:

G.Nagarjun S/o G.Bala Swamy, Aged about 34 years, Artisan Grade-II Operation, Keesara Section, TGSPDCL, R/o. Keesaragutta

...PETITIONER

AND

1. Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited, Represented by its Chairman and Managing Director, Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
2. The Chairman and Managing Director, Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd. Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
3. The Director, HRD TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
4. The Chief General Manager (HRD), TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.

5. The Chief General Manager, (O and M) Rural Zone, TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad.
6. The Chief General Manager, Operation TGSPDCL, Medchal Zone, Hyderabad.
7. The Superintending Engineer, Operation, TGSPDCL, Habsiguda, Hyderabad.
8. The Divisional Engineer Elecl., Operation. Keesara, TGSPDCL, Keesara, Habsiguda Circle.
9. State of Telangana, Represented by its Principal Secretary, Energy Department, Secretariat, Hyderabad, T.G.

...RESPONDENTS

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to issue writ or direction preferably Writ of Mandamus by declaring the action of the Respondents in imposing the penalty of stoppage of two (2) annual grade increments with cumulative effect vide impugned Memo. No. CGM/OP/Medchal Zone/DE(T)/AAO/JAO/Adm./D. No. 3170/23 dated 24/02/2024 of the 6th Respondent without furnishing a copy of the enquiry report and on the dictates of the higher authority and further ordering recovery of an amount of Rupees 3,82,672/- vide Memo. No. DEE/OP/KEESARA/JAO(PAS)/D. No. dated nil/12/2025 of the 8th Respondent by placing reliance on subsequent material, which did not form part of enquiry proceedings, as being arbitrary, illegal, opposed to principles of natural justice, erroneous, contrary to the material on record and in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India and to set-aside the same accordingly in interest of justice.

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to suspend the operation of impugned Memo. No. CGM/OP/Medchal Zone/DE(T)/AAO/JAO/Adm./D. No. 3170/23 dated 24/02/2024 and the related recovery proceedings issued vide Memo. No. DEE/OP/KEESARA/JAO(PAS)/D. No. dated nil/12/2025 by the 6th and 8th Respondents respectively

WRIT PETITION NO: 40522 OF 2025

Between:

Ch.Masoom, S/o Chinna Iddaiah, Aged about 39 years, Junior Lineman Operation, Keesara Section, TGSPDCL, R/o. Keesaragutta

...PETITIONER

AND

1. Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited., Represented by its Chairman & Managing Director, Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
2. The Chairman and Managing Director, Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd. Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
3. The Director, HRD TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
4. The Chief General Manager (HRD), TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad, T.G.
5. The Chief General Manager, (O&M) Rural Zone, TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad.
6. The Chief General Manager, Operation TGSPDCL, Medchal Zone, Hyderabad.
7. The Superintending Engineer, Operation, TGSPDCL, Habsiguda, Hyderabad.
8. The Divisional Engineer, Elecl. Operation Keesara, TGSPDCL, Keesara, Habsiguda Circle.
9. State of Telangana, Represented by its Principal Secretary, Energy Department, Secretariat, Hyderabad, T.G.

...RESPONDENTS

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to issue writ or direction preferably Writ of Mandamus by declaring the action of the Respondents in imposing the penalty of stoppage of two (2) annual grade increments with cumulative effect vide impugned Memo. No. CGM/OP/Medchal Zone/DE(T)/AAO/JAO/Adm./D. No. 3169/23 dated 24-02-2024 of the 6th Respondent without furnishing a copy of the enquiry report and on the dictates of the higher authority and further ordering recovery of an amount of Rupees 3,82,672/- vide Memo. No. DEE/OP/KEESARA/JAO(PAS)/D. No. dated nil-12-2025 of the 8th Respondent by placing reliance on subsequent material, which did not form part of enquiry proceedings, as being arbitrary, illegal, opposed to principles of natural justice, erroneous, contrary to the material on record and in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India and to set-aside the same accordingly in interest of justice.

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to suspend the operation of impugned Memo. No. CGM/OP/Medchal Zone/DE(T)/AAO/JAO/Adm./D. No. 3169/23 dated 24-02-2024 and the related recovery proceedings issued vide Memo. No. DEE/OP/KEESARA/JAO(PAS)/D. No. dated nil-12-2025 by the 6th and 8th Respondents respectively.

Counsel for the Petitioner in all the Writ Petitions:
Ms. CHEKURI JYOTSNA DEVI

Counsel for the Respondents No.1 to 8 in all the Writ Petitions:
SRI N. SREEDHAR REDDY, S.C. FOR TGSPDCL

Counsel for the Respondent No.9 in all the Writ Petitions: GP FOR ENERGY

The Court made the following: ORDER

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE K.SARATH

WRIT PETITION Nos.40520, 40521 and 40522 of 2025

DATE:12.02.2026

Between:

1. T.Parshuramulu
   Petitioner in WP No.40520 of 2025

2. G.Nagarjuna
   Petitioner in WP No.40521 of 2025

3. Ch.Masoom
   Petitioner in WP No.40522 of 2025

...Petitioners

AND

1. Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd., represented by its Chairman and Managing Director, Hyderabad and others

...Respondents

COMMON ORDER:

1. All these Writ Petitions are filed questioning the action of the respondents in imposing the penalty of stoppage of two (2) annual grade increments with cumulative effect vide Impugned Memo No.CGM/OP/ Medchal Zone/DE (T)/AAO/JAO/Adm./ D.No.3168, 3170, and 3169/2023 dated 24.02.2024 respectively, issued by the respondent No.6 without furnishing a copy of the

enquiry report and further ordering recovery of amount of Rs.3,82,672/- from each petitioner vide Memo No.DEE/ OP/KEESARA/JAO(PAS)/D.No. dated Nil-12-2025 issued by the respondent No.8 as arbitrary and illegal.

2. Heard Ms.Chekuri Jyotsna Devi, learned Counsel for the petitioners and Sri N.Sreedhar Reddy, learned Standing Counsel for Respondents.

3. Since all the writ petitions arise out of one and the same issue, they are being taken up together and disposed of by this common order.

4. The learned Counsel for the petitioners submits that while the petitioners were working as Artisan Grade-II, they were placed under suspension vide Proceedings dated 30.01.2023 on the allegation that due to their negligence, theft of certain material had taken place. Later they were reinstated into service vide proceedings dated 02.06.2023. Departmental proceedings were initiated against the petitioners on 12.05.2023 on the ground that theft had taken place due to negligence and dereliction on their part. The contents of the charge Memo

would disclose that a theft took place on 30.01.2023, but it is not the case of the respondents that the petitioners are responsible for the alleged theft. Similar charges were also framed against the Assistant Engineer.

5. The learned Counsel for the petitioners further submits that the petitioners have submitted explanation denying the allegations made in the charge Memo and stated that the petitioners have been performing various duties and there is no security guard and requested to drop the proceedings. Apart from Charge Memo dated 12.05.2023, another charge Memo dated 05.12.2023 was issued by the respondent No.5 with the similar allegations. Later enquiry was restricted only to the Charge Memo dated 12.05.2023. After conducting enquiry, punishment of stoppage of two (2) annual grade increments with cumulative effect was imposed on each petitioner vide Proceedings dated 24.02.2024 issued by the respondent No.6. Being aggrieved by the same, the petitioners have filed appeals on 20.05.2024 before the respondent No.3 and the same are still pending. However, the respondents

are taking steps to recover the amounts from the petitioners with effect from 01.01.2026.

6. The learned Counsel for the petitioners further submits that the respondents straight away, without furnishing the copy of enquiry report, imposed punishment, which is gross violation of principles of justice. During pendency of appeals, the respondent No.8 issued a Memo dated Nil-12-2025 for recovery of amount of Rs.3,82,672/-from each petitioner. A common proceedings of recovery was issued by the respondent No.8, where the names of petitioners are figured in the table contained therein. Being aggrieved by the same, these writ petitions are filed and requested to allow the writ petitions by setting aside the impunged orders.

7. The learned Standing Counsel for the respondents basing on the counter submits that while the petitioners were working as Artisans Grade-II Operators in Yadgarpally Sub-Station, they were placed under suspension on 30.01.2023 due to negligence and dereliction of their

duties resulting in theft of certain material from the said Sub-station. Thereafter, a Charge Memo was issued to the petitioners on 12.05.2023 and an Enquiry Officer was appointed to conduct enquiry. Pending the said enquiry, the petitioners were reinstated into service on 02.06.2023. During the course of enquiry, the charges leveled against the petitioners were proved and in view of the same the competent authority i.e., the respondent No.6-Chief General Manager has imposed punishment of stoppage of two annual grade increments with cumulative effect on the petitioners vide Memo No.CGM/OP/Medchal Zone/DE(T)/AAO/JAO/Adm./D.No.3168, 3170 and 3169/2023 dated 24.02.2024 respectively due to negligence on the part of the petitioners.

8. The learned Standing Counsel for the respondents further submits that petitioners preferred appeals to the Director (HRD), TGSPDCL and the said appeals have not yet been taken up for hearing. For the purpose of recovery of loss caused to the respondent-company in view of theft of material from the Sub-station due to dereliction, the

Chief Engineer (O & M) has appointed a Committee of Four Senior Members vide Memo dated 22.10.2024 to ascertain the amount to be recovered due to theft from the Sub-station and the said committee has submitted a report to take stringent action against the petitioners for the lapses in discharging their duties and also for recovery of cost of the stolen material of Rs.19,13,359/- from the concerned i.e. 40% from the Assistant Engineer and 20% each of the petitioners herein. As the enquiry was already conducted and decided to recover the loss from the concerned, no further notice is required to be issued to the petitioners, in as much as the petitioners are also responsible for the loss caused to the respondent-company. Moreover, having filed appeals before the appellate authority, the petitioners cannot initiate parallel proceedings by way of filing the instant writ petitions questioning the very same proceedings and there are no merits and requested to dismiss all the writ petitions.

9. After hearing both sides and on perusing the record, this Court is of the considered view that the petitioners are questioning the impugned order for stopping of two

increments with cumulative effect dated 24.02.2024 passed by the respondent N o.6 and also the proceedings for recovery of amounts dated nil.12.2025 issued by the respondent No.8. Once the petitioners have filed appeals aggrieved by the said orders before the appellate authority, the petitioners cannot challenge the said proceedings in the instant writ petitions. The respondents without waiting for disposal of those appeals, now constituted a Committee for fixing the responsibility, there was no mention about the recovery of amounts in the punishment orders dated 24.02.2024, in spite of that issued impugned proceedings dated Nil.12.2025 for recovery of amounts from the petitioners to a tune of Rs.3,82,672/- each, which is arbitrary and illegal. After disposal of the appeals, if the petitioners are found to be responsible, the respondent authorities are at liberty to take steps for recovery of the amounts by following due procedure of law.

10. In view of the same, recovery orders passed by the respondent authorities pending disposal of the appeals filed by the petitioners before the appellate authority are liable to be set aside.

11. In view of the above findings, these Writ Petitions are disposed of by setting aside the impugned Memo No.DEE/OP/KEESARA/JAO(PAS)/D.No. dated nil.12.2025 issued by the respondent No.8 and the respondent No.3 is further directed to dispose of the appeals filed by the petitioners dated 20.05.2024, as expeditiously as possible. If the respondents wants to take any action against the petitioners, they are at liberty to do so by following due procedure as per law, after disposal of the appeals filed by the petitioners dated 20.05.2024. No order as to costs.

Miscellaneous petitions, if any pending in these writ petitions, shall stand closed.

SD/- C. DEEPIKA
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To

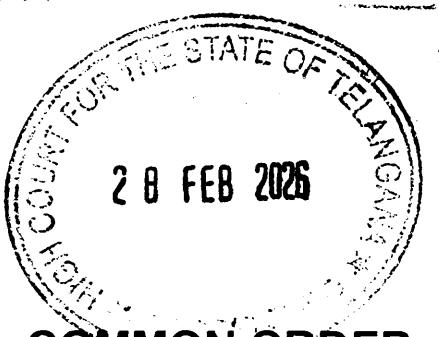
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8. The Divisional Engineer Elecl, Operation, Keesara, TGSPDCL, Keesara, Habsiguda Circle.
9. State of Telangana, Represented by its Principal Secretary, Energy Department, Secretariat, Hyderabad, T.G.
10. One CC to Ms. CHEKURI JYOTSNA DEVI Advocate [OPUC]
11. One CC to SRI N. SREEDHAR REDDY, S.C. for TGSPDCL [OPUC]
12. Two CCs to GP for Energy, High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad [OUT]
13. Two CD Copies

MP

HIGH COURT

DATED:12/02/2026



COMMON ORDER

W.P.Nos.40520, 40521 and 40522 of 2025

DISPOSING OF THE WRIT PETITIONS

WITHOUT COSTS

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28/2/26