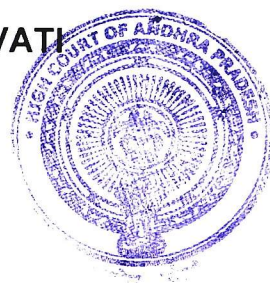


IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI
(SPECIAL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

MONDAY, THE NINTH DAY OF FEBRUARY,
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX



:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE K SREENIVASA REDDY

WRIT PETITION NO: 2669 OF 2026

Between:

M/s.KRONAX ENGINEERING AND PRESSURE VESSELS LLP, A Limited Liability Partnership registered under the LLP Act, 2008, Represented by its Partner, Mr. V. Shivashankar Reddy, Having its Registered Office at No. 823/1A AND IB, Near Kodikonda Checkpost, Koduru Village, Chillamathur Mandal, Ananthapur District - 515341.

...Petitioner

AND

1. Union of India, Rep. by Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food AND Public Distribution, Government of India, New Delhi. 110001
2. The Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Manak Bhavan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002.
3. The Deputy Director General (South), Bureau of Indian Standards, Southern Regional Office, Chennai. 600113
4. The Head, Vijayawada Branch Office, Bureau of Indian Standards Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. 522001
5. The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Rep. by the Chief Controller of Explosives, Government of India, Nagpur, Maharashtra State.
6. The Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 522241
7. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, (HPCL), Rep. by its Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Having Registered Office at 9th

Floor, Marathon Futurex Building, A-Wing, Mafatlal Mills Compound,
Lower Parel, N.M Joshi Marg, Mumbai, Maharashtra State.

8. India Oil Corporation Limited, (IOCL) Rep. by its Chairman-cum-
Managing Director, Regional Contract Cell Southern Region Office,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu State.

...Respondents

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to issue an appropriate Writ, Order or Direction more particularly one in the nature of a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus or any other appropriate Writ, Order or Direction, calling for the records of the appellate order dated 01/12/2025 passed by the 2nd respondent, which confirmed the cancellation of license of the petitioner issued vide BIS Certification Marks License No. CM/L-6300062394 through proceedings issued by the 3rd respondent vide Ref No. VJBO/L-6300062394 dated 11/09/2025 and also in proposing to destroy, scrap, reject or render unusable of the 12,500 gas cylinders and quash the same, as the same is illegal, arbitrary, unconstitutional, contrary to the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884, the Gas Cylinder Rules and the guidelines issued by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), violative of Articles 14, 19(1)(g) and 21 of the Constitution of India and consequently revoke the cancellation of petitioner's license vide BIS Certification Marks License No. CM/L-6300062394 and permit the petitioners herein to dispatch the 12500 cylinders to the 7th and 8th respondent after conducting statutory inspection, testing and certification by the competent technical authority in accordance with the provisions of act;

IA NO: 3 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to put the cancellation of the petitioner's license vide

BIS Certification Marks License No. CM/L-6300062394 under abeyance, Pending disposal of WP 2669 of 2026, on the file of the High Court.

IA NO: 2 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct and 7th and 8th respondents not to take any coercive steps, including invocation or encashment of the Bank Guarantees vide B.G. Nos. 13752IGL0001923, 13752IGL0002023, 13752IGL0002123, 13752GI3D2405462, 13752IGL0002223, 13752IGL0001224, 13752GI3D0915225, 13752IGL0001124, 13752GI3D0926325, 13752IGL0002323 and 13752IGL0002423, Pending disposal of WP 2669 of 2026, on the file of the High Court.

IA NO: 1 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to direct the 3rd to 6th respondents herein not to take any coercive steps such the scraping/destroying 12500 gas cylinders and pass, Pending disposal of WP 2669 of 2026, on the file of the High Court.

The petition, coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the affidavit filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of Sri.KILARU NITHIN KRISHNA Advocate for the Petitioner, Additional Solicitor General of India for R1 to R4, Sri.S.V.S.S.Siva Ram, Standing counsel for R5 to R7 and the Court made the following.

ORDER:

Heard Sri O.Manohar Reddy, learned senior counsel appearing for learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned counsel appearing on behalf of respondents.

Case of the petitioner is that, in the month of March, 2025, the petitioner reconditioned a batch of 12,500 LPG cylinders belonging to respondents Nos. 7 and 8 strictly in accordance with the prescribed technical standards and internal quality control protocols. In pursuance

thereof, the petitioner duly offered the said batch for mandatory BIS pre-dispatch lot inspection by submitting a lot inspection request dated 25.03.2025, and the inspection was scheduled for 31.03.2025 as per the established regulatory procedure. The cylinders were kept at the petitioner's premises for inspection, testing, and verification by the BIS authorities. While so, the Central Bureau of Investigation, Anti-Corruption Branch, Visakhapatnam, registered a case in RC No.03(A)/2025, dated 30.03.2025, for the offences punishable under Sections 7 and 8 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and Section 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, against the BIS Official and the employees of the petitioner company. The allegation is that, without any inspection of the cylinders to ascertain whether they were in conformity with the prescribed standards, a certificate was issued on 31.03.2025 stating that the cylinders conformed to the prescribed standards.

Learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner submits that, despite multiple representations made to the respondents herein requesting them to conduct lot inspection of the cylinders for individual usage, the respondents have failed to do so. It is further contended that, although a case has been registered against an official of the BIS with regard to the issuance of the certificate, it is pertinent to mention that no such inspection is stated to have taken place. The truth or otherwise of the said allegation would be revealed only when an inspection is conducted in respect of the reconditioned batch of 12,500 LPG cylinders.

In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is of the opinion that in order to ascertain the truth an inspection is to be conducted by the respondents herein, to know whether the cylinders were in conformity with prescribed standards or not. Accordingly, the respondents are directed to conduct an inspection of the reconditioned lot of 12,500 cylinders belonging to respondents 7 and 8 within a period

of four (4) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order and to submit a report to that effect.

List the matter after four (4) weeks.

Sd/-M.S.V.Naveen Chandra,

JOINT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Secretary, Union of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, New Delhi. 110001.
2. The Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Manak Bhavan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002.
3. The Deputy Director General (South), Bureau of Indian Standards, Southern Regional Office, Chennai. 600113.
4. The Head, Vijayawada Branch Office, Bureau of Indian Standards Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. 522001.
5. The Chief Controller of Explosives, Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Government of India, Nagpur, Maharashtra State.
6. The Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 522241
7. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, (HPCL), Having Registered Office at 9th Floor, Marathon Futurex Building, A-Wing, Mafatlal Mills Compound, Lower Parel, N.M Joshi Marg, Mumbai, Maharashtra State.
8. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, India Oil Corporation Limited, (IOCL) Regional Contract Cell Southern Region Office, Chennai, Tamil Nadu State. (addressee 1 to 8 by RPAD)
9. One CC to SRI. KILARU NITHIN KRISHNA Advocate [OPUC]
10. One CC to Additional Solicitor General of India, [OPUC]
11. One CC to Sri. S.V.S.S.SIVA RAM, Standing counsel [OPUC]
12. One spare copy

HIGH COURT

SRK,J

DATED:09/02/2026

LIST THE MATTER AFTER FOUR (4) WEEKS

ORDER

WP.No.2669 of 2026

DIRECTION

