



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI
(Special Original Jurisdiction)**

[3332]

THURSDAY, THE THIRTIETH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE RAVI CHEEMALAPATI

WRIT PETITION NO: 12076/2026

Between:

1. MENDA VARADA RAJULU, , S/O SIMMAIAH, AGED. 30 YEARS,
OCC. FAIR PRICE SHOP DEALER, R/O NAIRA VILLAGE,
SRIKAKULAM MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. STATE OF ANDHRA BYPRADESH, REP. B ITS PRINCIPAL
SECRETARY (FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS (CS-I) DEPARTMENT), SECRETARIAT,
VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI, GUNTUR DISTRICT. 522 238

2. JOINT COLLECTOR, COLLECTORATE SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT
-532001.

3. REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, SRIKAKULAM
DIVISION, COLLECTORATE, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT - 532001.

4. TAHSILDAR, SRIKAKULAM MANDAL SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT -
532001.

5. DEPUTY TAHSILDAR CIVIL SUPPLIES, O/O TAHSILDAR,
SRIKAKULAM MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT - 532001.

...RESPONDENT(S):

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 a writ, order or direction more particularly one in the nature of WRIT OF MANDAMUS declaring the proceedings in Rc.No.106/2026/CS, dt. 05-03-2026 passed by the 3rd respondent thereby suspended the authorization of the petitioners Fair Price Shop No.0119013, situated in Naira Village, Srikakulam Mandal, Srikakulam District, without conducting enquiry, without considering petitioners explanation dt. 11-02-2026 and without recording reasons for suspension of authorization, as illegal, arbitrary, violative of principles of natural justice and provisions of Andhra Pradesh State Targeted (Public Distribution System) Control Order, 2018 and offends Articles 14 and 21 of Constitution of India and consequently set aside the proceedings dt. 05.03.2026 and direct the respondents particularly respondents to continue me as Fair Price Shop Dealer for the said Fair price shop by supplying essential commodities every month for distribution to card holders and to pass

IA NO: 1 OF 2026

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 proceedings in Rc.No.106/2026/CS, dt. 05-03-2026 passed by the 3rd respondent and consequently direct the respondents 2 to 5 to continue the petitioner as Fair Price Shop Dealer for Shop No. 0119013 situated in Naira Village, Srikakulam Mandal, Srikakulam 'T District, by supplying essential commodities every month for distribution to cardholders, pending disposal of main Writ Petition and pass

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. SRINIVAS AMBATI

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP FOR CIVIL SUPPLIES

The Court made the following:

ORDER:

Questioning the proceedings dated 05.03.2026 issued by the 3rd respondent *vide* Rc.No.106/2026/CS suspending the petitioner's authorization in respect of Fair Price Shop No.0119013, Naira Village, Srikakulam Mandal, Srikakulam District, the present writ petition is filed.

2. Heard Sri Srinivas Ambati, learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri Appasani Vineeth, learned Assistant Government Pleader for Civil Supplies.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner while reiterating the contents of the writ affidavit would contend that the authorities, alleging variations in the ground balance of commodities found during inspection of the Fair Price shop, issued show cause notice, for which the petitioner submitted explanation, however, the authorities, without considering the explanation, in a mechanical way, suspended the authorization of the petitioner without giving reasons in violation of the orders passed by this Court in ***K.Prabhavathi vs. State of A.P.***¹, therefore, the impugned suspension order is liable to be set aside. Accordingly, prayed to allow the writ petition.

4. Sri Appasani Vineeth, learned Assistant Government Pleader, justified the impugned order of suspension contending that as the authorities found variation in ground balance of commodities, suspended the Fair Price shop authorization of the petitioner, pending final enquiry,

¹ 2020(6) ALD 209

after following the procedure contemplated under law. He would further contend that the writ petition being meritless deserves dismissal. Accordingly, prayed to dismiss the writ petition.

5. Perused the material available on record and considered the submissions made by learned counsel for the parties.

6. The petitioner's Fair Price shop dealership authorization was suspended pending enquiry. It is fairly conceded by the learned Assistant Government Pleader that enquiry had not been completed so far.

7. Clause 8(4)(2) of the Andhra Pradesh Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2018, mandates that the appointing authority shall dispose the disciplinary case filed against the fair price shop dealers as early as possible, preferably within a period of three (03) months from the date of filing, keeping in view of the convenience of the cardholders and for smooth functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System.

8. In view of the above, without going into the merits of the matter, this Court is inclined to dispose of the writ petition by passing the following order:

“The authorities are directed to conclude the enquiry within a period of three (03) months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order else the order of suspension shall be revoked.”

9. Accordingly, the Writ Petition is ***disposed of***. There shall be no order as to costs.

As a sequel, miscellaneous applications, pending if any, shall stand closed.

JUSTICE RAVI CHEEMALAPATI

Date: 30th April, 2026

RKS