

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI

MONDAY, THE TWENTY SEVENTH DAY OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX

:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE D RAMESH

WRIT PETITION NO: 11376 OF 2026

&

WRIT PETITION NO: 11183 OF 2026



WRIT PETITION NO: 11376 OF 2026

Between:

1. Smt. Allu Venkata Durga Bhavani, W/o Sadanala Achyutaramarao, Aged about 46 years, Occ. Assistant Commissioner and Executive Officer, Sri Bhimeswara Swamy Temple, Draksharama, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District, R/o 1-14/2, Main Road, Kunavaram, Razole, Sivakodu, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh - 533 244.
2. Smt. Kunadhi Raju Sirisha, W/o Uggam Harikrishna, Aged about 44 years, Occ. Assistant Commissioner, Endowments Department, Vizianagaram, R/o Flat No.7 LD, J.K. Apartment, Nowroji Road, Near Green Park Hotel, Maharanipetp, Visakhapatnam - 530 002.
3. Sri Suneel Kumar Koganti, S/o Tata Rao, Aged about 52 years, Occ. Executive Officer, Sri MahakaliAmmavariTemple, Kantamraju Konduru Village, Duggirala Mandal, Guntur District, R/o. 2-38-6/, 401, Vishnu Towers, Adusumilli Van Street, Gandhi Nagar, Tenali-522 201

Petitioners

AND

1. The State of Andhra Pradesh, Rep. by its Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue (Endowments-I) Department, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Guntur District - 522 503.
2. The Commissioner of Endowments, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Endowments Department, Gollapudi, Vijayawada, NTR District-521 225.

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 a Writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction, declaring Memo in REV01-ENDW/968/2025-ENDT-I, dated 08-04-2026 issued by the 1st respondent; whereby Government Memo No.18216/Endts.1/2015, dated 04-08-2015 was directed to be implemented with prospective effect on the basis of the proposals sent by the 2nd respondent in Lr.Rc.No.E2/COE-15021/470/2022, dated 03-02-2026 and 26-03-2026, notwithstanding the earlier Government clarification in Memo No.ENDWOMISC/132/2018/Endts.I (2), dated 07-03-2019 issued after the order of this Honble Court in W.P.No.42923 of 2018 dated 26-10-2018. as illegal, arbitrary, ultra vires the governing statutory service rules issued in G.O.Ms.No.1478 dated 17-11-1986 and G.O.Ms.No.888 dated 08-12-2000, unsustainable in law, and violative of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India, and consequently to set aside the same and direct the respondents to undertake and complete the review of all such illegal appointments/promotions strictly in accordance with the statutory rules and the Government Memo dated 04-08-2015, without granting prospective operation thereto, and without protecting appointments/promotions made in violation of the parent institution rule, qualifying service rule, and other applicable service conditions.

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 suspend the operation and implementation of Memo in REV 01-ENDW/968/2025-ENDT-I, dated 08-04-2026, issued by the 1st respondent, whereby Government Memo No.18216/Endts.1/2015, dated 04-08-2015 has been directed to be implemented with prospective effect, and Pending disposal of WP 11376 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 the respondents to consider and regulate all matters relating to appointments, promotions, appointments by transfer and consequential service benefits in the cadre of Executive Officers and above, strictly in accordance with the statutory service rules governing the field, including G.O.Ms.No.1478 dated 17-11-1986 and G.O.Ms.No.888, dated 08-12-2000 and the framework set out in Government Memo

No.18216/Endts.I/2015 dated 04-08-2015 and Pending disposal of WP 11376 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 JAWVAJI SARATH CHANDRA Advocate for the Petitioner(s), GP FOR ENDOWMENTS for the Respondent Nos.1 & 2.

WRIT PETITION NO: 11376 OF 2026

Between:

1. Satyavani Siriki, W/o N.N.V.K.Rao age 43 years working as Executive Officer, Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Jagannaickpur, Kakinada city, Kakinada District.
2. R.Srinivas, S/o R.AppaRao, Age 45 years, E.O.Gr-I, Group Temple Amadapuramu.
3. G.Siva Babu, S/o Venkatarao, aged 42 yrs. Executive Officer, Gr.I Sri Turangeswara swamy temple, Turangi village, Kakinada Rural.
4. M Rambabu Reddy, s/o Ramarao age 47 caste Kondareddy Executive officer and Assistant Commissioner Sri Bala Balaji Swamy temple, Appanapalli.
5. U.Swarnamukhi, W/o Ramakrishna Aged 47 years, Occ Executive Officer, Group Temple, Nandyal, Nandyal District
6. Nalabothu Madhavi Devi, W/o k.venugopalarao Aged 49 years, Occ Executive Officerz, Sri Mahankali Ammavari Temple, Issapalem Village, Narasaraopet Mandal, Palnadu district.

Petitioners

AND

1. The State of Andhra Pradesh, Rep. by its Principal Secretary, Revenue (Endowments) Department, Secretariat, Amaravati, Guntur District.Pin- 522239.
2. The Commissioner of Endowments, Government of Andhra Pradesh, opp. S. Grand Restaurant, One Centre, Gollapudi, Vijayawada - 521 225

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 writ, order or direction more particularly one in nature of Writ of Mandamus

declaring the Memo No. Rev01-Endw/968/2025-Endt-1, dt.08.04.2026 as illegal, arbitrary, violative of Articles 14, 16, and the rules issued in G.O.Ms. No.1478,Dt:17.11.1986 and G.O.Ms.No. 888, Dt.08.12.200 and without jurisdiction and set aside the same and further direct the Respondents to act strictly in accordance with the statutory rules and earlier Government memo No.18216/Endts.I/2015 dt.04.08.2015 and such other order or orders as may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

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 suspend the impugned Memo No. Rev01-Endw/968/2025-Endt-1, dt.08.04.2026, Pending disposal of WP 11183 of 2026, on the file of the High Court.

The petition/Appeal coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the affidavit filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of SRI M SRIKANTH Advocate for the Petitioner(s), GP FOR ENDOWMENTS Advocate for the Respondent Nos.1 & 2 and the Court made the following.

ORDER:

“The present writ petitions are filed assailing the memo dated 08.04.2026 issued by the 1st respondent, wherein general directions were issued to the Commissioner of Endowments (FAC), A.P., to implement the Government Memo dated 04.08.2015 with prospective effect.

Learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioners has brought to the notice of this Court that the Government has considered and issued a memo on 04.08.2015 with a specific direction to the Commissioner requesting to examine all cases where persons have been made Executive Officers in a wrong manner and take necessary steps to rectify these deficiencies so that there is fairness and transparency in the process of effecting promotions to persons working in temples. When the said memo was not implemented by the competent authority, some of the persons have approached the Andhra Pradesh Administrative Tribunal by

filing O.A.No.2312 of 2018 and the same was dismissed vide order dated 26.10.2018. Aggrieved by the said order, the petitioners therein have filed W.P.No.42923 of 2018 and a Division Bench of the Composite High Court at Hyderabad has considered the entire issue and has passed the following orders:

“This being the situation, when the Government itself required the Commissioner of Endowments, Andhra Pradesh, to undertake a review of all appointments/promotions made to the posts of Executive Officers in the context of the observations made in the Memo and the O.A. was filed for a direction to the Commissioner to abide by the said Memo, this Court is at a loss to understand as to how the Tribunal can reject such a request. The Commissioner of Endowments, Andhra Pradesh, was, in any event, bound to abide by the directive of the Government in the Memo dated 04.08.2015 irrespective of whether or not the Tribunal issued any direction in that regard. All that the applicants in the O.A. sought was an impetus to the Commissioner to undertake the review as directed by the Government.

We therefore set aside the order dated 26.10.2018 passed by the Tribunal In O.A.No.2312 of 2018 and direct the Commissioner of Endowments, Andhra Pradesh, to undertake the review in terms of the Memo dated 04.08.2015. The Commissioner of Endowments, Andhra Pradesh, shall conclude this exercise expeditiously and in any event, not later than six months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.”

When that being the situation, for the reasons best known to the respondents, now the present impugned memo has been issued without implementing the orders passed by the Government in earlier memo dated 04.08.2015 in toto. By virtue of the impugned memo, the respondents want to effect further illegality by promoting irregular Executive Officers.

Reply to the said contentions, learned Government Pleader appearing on behalf of the respondents has placed the instructions furnished by the Commissioner of Endowments dated 26.04.2026,

wherein it is stated that implementation of the Government Memo dated 04.08.2015 with retrospective effect would disturb the settled positions and settled seniority of all those Executive Officers. Hence, the Government has considered and issued the present impugned memo for implementation prospectively.

Considering the said submissions, it is very surprising to see the instructions furnished by the Commissioner. The issue involved in the present litigation is that Government has identified certain illegal appointments and issued a specific Government Memo dated 04.08.2015 directing the Commissioner to review such illegal appointments and remove the disparity to effect further promotions. But surprisingly, the Commissioner, in his instructions, has stated that the impugned memo dated 08.04.2026 was issued only to avoid litigation. This Court is not inclined to concur with the expression made by the Commissioner in his instructions, as there is a specific direction issued by the Division Bench to implement the Government Memo dated 04.08.2015 in toto. The respondents ought not to have taken a contrary stand to effect the said memo prospectively.

Accordingly, the memo dated 08.04.2026 issued by the 1st respondent is suspended.

List the matter after eight (8) weeks for filing counter."

//TRUE COPY//

SD/- U.SRIDEVI
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue (Endowments-I)
Department, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Guntur District - 522
503. (By Special Messenger - along with a copy of petition and
memorandum of grounds)
2. The Commissioner of Endowments, Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Endowments Department, Gollapudi, Vijayawada, NTR District- 521 225.

3. The Principal Secretary, Revenue (Endowments) Department, Secretariat, Amaravati, Guntur District. Pin- 522239. (By Special Messenger - along with a copy of petition and memorandum of grounds)
4. The Commissioner of Endowments, Government of Andhra Pradesh, opp. S. Grand Restaurant, One Centre, Gollapudi, Vijayawada - 521 225
5. One CC to SRI. JAWVAJI SARATH CHANDRA Advocate [OPUC]
6. One CC to SRI. M.SRIKANTH Advocate [OPUC]
7. Two CCs to GP FOR ENDOWMENTS ,High Court Of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
8. **One spare copy**
TVSR

HIGH COURT

DR,J

DATED: 27/04/2026

LIST THE MATTER AFTER EIGHT (8) WEEKS FOR FILING COUNTER

ORDER

WP.No.11376 of 2026

DIRECTION

