

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

CONTEMPT CASE No.5445of 2023

PROCEEDING SHEET

Sl. No.	Date	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
	02.01.2026	<u>RC, J</u> Dr.Rajat Bhargava appeared through virtual mode and submitted that he never worked as Principal Secretary for Revenue Department in his entire service and he had been wrongly impleaded in the present contempt case. It not only caused a lot of agony but also compelled him to engage a counsel and pursue the issue by incurring certain expenditure. The party should invariably verify and cross check as to who is the concerned officer responsible for the alleged violation, as unnecessarily making persons/parties as contemnors would adversely affect them and cause mental agony besides expenditure. As such, he prayed to discharge him from the contempt proceedings. A similar contention was also made on behalf of respondent No.8. Taking their submission into consideration, since the respondents never worked and never violated the orders passed by this Court, this Court finds force in their contention. Accordingly, respondent Nos.1 and 8 are discharged, and the	

		contempt case is dismissed as against them. The petitioners shall pay Rs.10,000/- to each of the respondent Nos.1 and 8 within a period of two (02) weeks from the date of the order. At this juncture, the respective respondents submitted that instead of paying the costs to them, the same may be paid to the Legal Services Committee. Taking their submission into consideration, the petitioners shall pay cost of Rs.10,000/- to each of the respondent Nos.1 and 8, to the High Court A.P Legal Services Committee, within a period of three (03) weeks from today. Accordingly, respondent Nos.1 and 8 are discharged, and the contempt case is dismissed against them. It is brought to the notice of this Court that one G.Jayalakshmi is the Special Chief Secretary for Land and Disaster Management till four weeks back. It is further brought to the notice of this Court that the District Collector, Visakhapatnam, addressed a letter to the Special Chief Secretary for Land and Disaster Management to issue suitable instructions with regard to payment made to non recorded/forcy encroachers by treating it as a special case.	
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		The said proceedings are placed on record. In the said proceedings, it was also clearly mentioned about the pendency of the subject contempt case. Though the orders passed in W.P.No.20841 of 2019, disobedience of which is complained of in the present contempt case, this Court directed to pass orders on the petitioners' case within a period of four (04) weeks. Despite being mentioned about the said orders in the proceedings dated 31.05.2025, the Special Chief Secretary for Land and Disaster Management has not taken any decision so far. In view of the same, this Court <i>prima facie</i> finds that the then Special Chief Secretary for Land and Disaster Management is a necessary party for violation of this court orders. Accordingly, this Court is inclined to <i>suo moto</i> implead her as a contemnor. Registry is directed to carry out necessary amendments accordingly. Issue notice to the newly added contemnor. It is brought to the notice of this Court that Sri G.Sai Prasad, respondent No.2, is the present Special Chief Secretary for Land and Disaster Management. Sri G. Sai Prasad, respondent No.2, is	
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		directed to file an additional counter explaining as to why they have not taken a decision on the petitioners' case, despite a specific direction given by this Court in W.P.No.20841 of 2019 by fixing four (04) weeks. Respondent Nos.3, 4 and 5 physically appeared before this Court. Post the matter on 29.01.2026. RAVI CHEEMALAPATI, J JLV	
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