



2026:TSHC:348
[3257]

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD**

**THURSDAY, THE TWENTY SECOND DAY OF JANUARY
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY SIX**

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE JUVVADI SRIDEVI

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 12842 & 12843 OF 2024

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 12842 of 2024

Between:

1. Kandukuri Anjali Devi, W/o.Prabhakara Chary, Aged 62 years, Occ: Housewife
R/o.Flat No.401, Hall Mark Glenridge, Alkapuri Township, Puppalguda Village,
Gandipet Mandal, R.R.District.
2. Kandukuri Prabhakara Chary, S/o.Venkata Chary, Aged 60 years, Occ: Retired
Employee, R/o.Flat No.401, Hall Mark Glenridge, Alkapuri Township,
Puppalguda Village, Gandipet Mandal, R.R.District.

...Petitioner/Accused No.2 and 3

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by its Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State
of Telangana, High Court Buildings, Hyderabad, through PS, Narsingi,
Cyberabad.

...Respondent No.1

2. Smt.Kandukuri Shravani, W/o.Kandukuri Srikanth, Aged 35 Years, Occupation:
Private Employee, R/o.Flat No.401, Hall Mark Glenridge, Alkapuri Township,
Puppalguda Village, Gandipet Mandal, R.R.District.

...Respondent No.2/De-facto Complainant

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to quash the proceedings against Petitioners/ Accused No.2 and 3 in CC No. 1195 of 2024 on the file of II Additional Junior Civil Judge cum XIII Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Rangareddy District at Rajendranagar, registered U/Sec. 498-A of IPC, Sec 3 and 4 of D.P. Act.

I.A. No. 2 of 2024

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to stay all further proceedings against the Petitioners/ Accused No.2 and 3 in CC No. 1195 of 2024 on the file of II Additional Junior Civil Judge cum XIII Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Rangareddy District at Rajendranagar, registered U/Sec. 498-A of IPC, Sec 3 & 4 of D.P. Act.



This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri J Prabhakar, learned counsel appearing for Sri D. Shashi Preetam , Advocate for the Petitioners and Sri M Ramachandra Reddy, the Additional Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Respondent No. 1 and of Sri R S Sravan Kumar, Advocate for the Respondent No.2.

CRIMINAL PETITION NO: 12843 of 2024

Between:

Kandukuri Lakshmi, S/o.Prabhakara Chary, Aged 33 years, Occ: Private Employee, R/o.Flat No.401, Hall Mark Glenridge, Alkapuri Township, Puppalguda Village, Gandipet Mandal, R.R.District.

...Petitioner/Accused No. 4

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Rep. by its Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, High Court Buildings, Hyderabad, through PS, Narsingi, Cyberabad.

...Respondent No. 1

2. Smt.Kandukuri Shravani, W/o.Kandukuri Srikanth, Aged 35 Years, Occupation: Private Employee, R/o.Flat No.401, Hall Mark Glenridge, Alkapuri Township, Puppalguda Village, Gandipet Mandal, R.R.District.

...Respondent No.2/Defacto-Complainant

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to quash the proceedings against Petitioner/ Accused No.4 in Crime No. 340 of 2022 on the file of the Police Station, Narsingi, Cyberabad for the offences U/Sec. 498-A of IPC, Sec 3 & 4 of D.P. Act.

I.A. No. 2 of 2024

Petition under Section 528 of BNSS praying that in the circumstances stated in the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition, the High Court may be pleased to stay all further proceedings against the Petitioner/ Accused No.4 in 340 of 2022 on the file of the Police Station, Narsingi, Cyberabad for the offences U/Sec. 498-A of IPC, Sec 3 and 4 of D.P. Act.

This Petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Memorandum of Grounds of Criminal Petition and upon hearing the arguments of Sri J Prabhakar, learned Senior Counsel appearing for Sri D. Shashi Preetam , Advocate for the Petitioners and Sri M Ramachandra Reddy, the Additional Public Prosecutor on behalf of the Respondent No. 1 and of Sri R S Sravan Kumar, Advocate for the Respondent No.2.

The Court made the following: COMMON ORDER



2026:TSHC:348

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

THE HONOURABLE SMT. JUSTICE JUVVADI SRIDEVI

CRIMINAL PETITION Nos.12842 & 12843 of 2024

DATED: 22nd JANUARY, 2026

Between:

Kandukuri Anjali Devi and Another

...Petitioners

AND

The State of Telangana, Rep. by its Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana, High Court Buildings, Hyderabad, through P.S. Narsingi, Cyberabad and Another

...Respondents

COMMON ORDER :

Since both the Criminal Petitions are arising out of Crime No.340 of 2024, both the criminal petitions are heard together and disposed of by this common order.

02. The Criminal Petition No.12842 of 2024 is filed by the petitioners-accused Nos.2 and 3 seeking to quash the proceedings against them in C.C.No.1195 of 2024 on the file of the learned II Additional Junior Civil Judge-cum-XIII Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District at Rajendrangar, whereas the petitioner-accused No.4 has filed Criminal Petition No.12843 of 2024 seeking to quash the proceedings against her in Crime No.340 of 2024 of Narsingi Police Station. The offences

alleged against the petitioners are under Sections 498-A of the Indian Penal Code (for short 'IPC') and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act (for short 'the Act').

03. Heard Sri J.Prabhakar, learned Senior Counsel appearing for Sri D.Shashi Preetham, learned counsel for the petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4, Sri R.S.Sravan Kumar, learned counsel appearing for respondent No.2 and Sri M.Ramachandra Reddy, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondent No.1-State. Perused the record.

04. Brief facts of the case are that the marriage of accused No.1 with respondent No.2 was solemnized on 12.04.2015. After the marriage, accused No.1 and respondent No.2 started their marital life at Hyderabad. For a few days, accused No.1 looked after respondent No.2 in a proper manner; thereafter, under the influence of accused Nos.2 to 4, he started harassing respondent No.2 to bring additional dowry from her parents. When respondent No.2 was five months pregnant, accused No.1 sent her to her parents' house at Warangal and did not take care of her. Respondent No.2 was blessed with a baby girl, and accused No.1 did not take care of either respondent No.2 or their daughter. Accused Nos.1 to 4 did not allow respondent No.2 to speak with her parents during her pregnancy, did not



provide proper food, restricted her movement outside the house, and subjected her to mental and physical harassment. Hence, respondent No.2 filed the present complaint for the offences punishable under Section 498-A of the IPC and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

05. Learned Senior Counsel appearing for petitioners submitted that the petitioners are nothing to do with the alleged offences and that they never harassed the respondent No.2. The petitioner-accused No.2 is the mother-in-law, the petitioner-accused No.3 is the father-in-law, the petitioner-accused No.4 is the sister-in-law of respondent No.2. The petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4 never interfered in the matrimonial issues of respondent No.2 and the accused No.1. The petitioners never demanded any dowry from respondent No.2 or from her parents. There are no specific allegations against the petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4. The contents of the complaint or charge sheet do not disclose the required ingredients to attract the offences under Sections 498-A of IPC and Sections 3 and 4 of the Act.

06. The learned Senior Counsel for petitioners further submits that respondent No.2 has filed F.C.O.P.No.670 of 2024 before the Family Court at Ranga Reddy District, wherein, she has stated that in September, 2019, she left the matrimonial



home along with her daughter, itself clearly shows that the respondent No.2 has filed the present complaint with a delay of more than four years. While seeking to quash the criminal proceedings against the petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4, learned Senior Counsel for the petitioners relied upon a decision in ***Dara Lakshmi Narayana and others v. State of Telangana and another***¹ wherein the Honourable Supreme Court of India at Paragraph Nos.18, 25 & 31 held that:

"18. A bare perusal of the FIR shows that the allegations made by respondent No.2 are vague and omnibus. Other than claiming that appellant No.1 harassed her and that appellant Nos.2 to 6 instigated him to do so, respondent No.2 has not provided any specific details or described any particular instance of harassment. She has also not mentioned the time, date, place, or manner in which the alleged harassment occurred. Therefore, the FIR lacks concrete and precise allegations.

25. A mere reference to the names of family members in a criminal case arising out of a matrimonial dispute, without specific allegations indicating their active involvement should be nipped in the bud. It is a well-recognised fact, borne out of judicial experience, that there is often a tendency to implicate all the members of the husband's family when domestic disputes arise out of a matrimonial discord. Such generalised and sweeping accusations unsupported by concrete evidence or particularised allegations cannot form the basis for criminal prosecution. Courts must exercise caution in such cases to

¹ AIR 2025 SUPREME COURT 173



prevent misuse of legal provisions and the legal process and avoid unnecessary harassment of innocent family members. In the present case, appellant Nos.2 to 6, who are the members of the family of appellant No.1 have been living in different cities and have not resided in the matrimonial house of appellant No.1 and respondent No.2 herein. Hence, they cannot be dragged into criminal prosecution and the same would be an abuse of the process of the law in the absence of specific allegations made against each of them.

***31.** Further, this Court in Preeti Gupta vs. State of Jharkhand (2010) 7 SCC 667 held that the courts have to be extremely careful and cautious in dealing with these complaints and must take pragmatic realities into consideration while dealing with matrimonial cases. The allegations of harassment by the husband's close relatives who had been living in different cities and never visited or rarely visited the place where the complainant resided would have an entirely different complexion. The allegations of the complainant are required to be scrutinized with great care and circumspection."*

07. Learned counsel for respondent No.2 as well as learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the State submitted that there are specific allegations against the petitioners and the truth or otherwise would come out only after conducting trial by the concerned Court and prayed to dismiss this Criminal Petition.

08. A bare perusal of the contents of the charge sheet reveals that the petitioners-accused Nos.2 and 3 are



the aged parents-in-law of respondent No.2, while petitioner-accused No.4 is her sister-in-law. Although a general allegation is made regarding the demand for additional dowry from the parents of respondent No.2, the charge sheet being the outcome of the investigation does not specify the amount allegedly demanded. Except for a vague assertion that the petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4 supported accused No.1 in harassing respondent No.2 for additional dowry, the charge sheet is silent with regard to any specific acts, instances, or descriptive particulars of harassment attributable to them.

09. It is an admitted fact that respondent No.2 has instituted FCOP against accused No.1, which is presently pending adjudication, wherein she has categorically stated that she, along with her daughter, left the matrimonial home in September, 2019. In this backdrop, the absence of any mention of specific dates, time, or manner of the alleged harassment by the petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4 strikes at the very root of the prosecution case and casts serious doubt on the veracity of the allegations made in the charge sheet.



10. Further, a perusal of the list of witnesses examined by the police discloses that, apart from respondent No.2 and her parents, the remaining witnesses are panch witnesses and police officials. Significantly, there is no independent witness to corroborate or substantiate the allegations levelled against petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4.

11. As observed supra, the respondent No.2 has made generalized and sweeping accusations unsupported by concrete evidence or particularized allegations against the petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4. Making such vague and generalised allegations during matrimonial conflicts, if not scrutinized, will lead to the misuse of legal processes and an encouragement for use of arm twisting tactics by a wife and/or her family. Sometimes, recourse is taken to invoke Section 498A of the IPC against the husband and his family in order to seek compliance with the unreasonable demands of a wife. Therefore, the Courts are bound to ensure whether there is any *prima facie* case against the husband and his family members before prosecuting the husband and his family members. Hence, the petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4 cannot be dragged into criminal prosecution and the



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same would be an abuse of process of the law in the absence of specific allegations made against each of them.

12. In view of the facts and circumstances of the case including the settled principle of law laid down by the Honourable Supreme Court of India in the above decision, this Court is of the considered opinion that the continuation of the proceedings against the petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4 amounts to abuse of process of law, therefore, the proceedings against the petitioners-accused Nos.2 to 4 are liable to be quashed.

13. Accordingly, these Criminal Petitions are allowed and the proceedings against the petitioners-accused Nos.2 and 3 in C.C.No.1195 of 2024 on the file of the learned II Additional Junior Civil Judge-cum-XIII Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Ranga Reddy District at Rajendranagar as well as the criminal proceedings against the petitioner-accused No.4 in Crime No.340 of 2024 of Narsingi Police Station, Cyberabad, are hereby quashed.

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

SD/- N. SRIHARI
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The II Additional Junior Civil Judge cum XIII Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Rangareddy District at Rajendranagar.



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2. The XIII Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Cyberabad at Rajendranagar.
3. The Station House Officer, Narsingi Police Station, Cyberabad.
4. Two CCs to the Public Prosecutor, High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad.(OUT)
5. One CC to Sri D Shashi Preetam, Advocate [OPUC]
6. One CC to Sri R S Sravan Kumar, Advocate [OPUC]
7. Two CD Copies

Sa/PSL



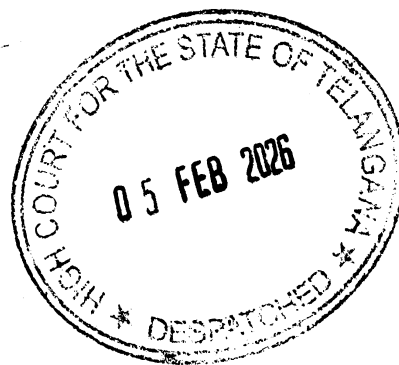
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HIGH COURT

DATED: 22/01/2026

COMMON ORDER

CRLP.No.12842 & 12843 of 2024



ALLOWING THE CRIMINAL PETITION

(10)
Kpr
5/2/26