

**(SHOW CAUSE NOTICE BEFORE ADMISSION)
IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA,
AT HYDERABAD**

WEDNESDAY, THE THIRTY FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER

TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE

**:PRESENT:
THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE E.V. VENUGOPAL**

WRIT PETITION NO: 40545 OF 2025

Between:

ICAR Indian Institute of Oil Seeds Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.
Represented by its Director. Dr. Ravi Kumar Murthy, Aged about 58 years.

Petitioner

AND

1. Union of India, Represented by its Secretary, Ministry of labour & Employment, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, Bikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066.
2. Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, 3-4-763, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027.
3. The Assistant PF Commissioner, 3-4-763, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027.

Respondents

WHEREAS the Petitioner above named through its Advocate Ms C VANI REDDY (SC FOR ICAR) presented this 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 Certiorari under the Ar.226 of Constitution of India by calling the records on the file of 2nd Respondent vide TS/RO/HYD/APHYD/0022057000/50101/7Q/2025-26/416 in e-proceedings diary No 587/2024 and 24/2025 dated 22/10/2025 and set aside the same.

AND WHEREAS the High Court upon perusing the petition and affidavit filed herein and upon hearing the arguments of Ms C VANI REDDY (SC FOR ICAR) Advocate for the Petitioner, Ms. NVR Rajyalakshmi, learned counsel, representing Sri N. Bhujanga Rao, learned Deputy Solicitor General of India, for respondent No.1, directed issue of notice to the Respondents herein to show cause as to why this WRIT PETITION should not be admitted.

You viz:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of labour and Employment, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, Bikaji Cama Place, Union of India, New Delhi - 110066.
2. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, 3-4-763, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027.
3. The Assistant PF Commissioner, 3-4-763, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027.

are directed to show cause on or before 22.01.2026 to which date the case stands posted as to why in the circumstances set out in the petition and the affidavit filed therewith (copy enclosed) this WRIT PETITION should not be admitted.

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the writ petition, the High Court may be pleased to Stay the order dated 22/10/2025 in TS/RO/HYD/APHYD/0022057000/50101/7Q/2025-26/416 passed by the 2nd Respondent in e-proceedings diary No 587/2024 and 24/2025 including all further proceedings, pending disposal of WP No. 40545 of 2025, on the file of the High Court.

The Court made the following: ORDER

Notice before admission.

Ms. NVR Rajyalakshmi, learned counsel, representing Sri N. Bhujanga Rao, learned Deputy Solicitor General of India, appearing for respondent No.1, takes notice and seeks time to get instructions.

Learned counsel for the petitioner is permitted to take out personal notice to respondent Nos.2 and 3 by Speed Post with Acknowledgment Due and file proof of service before the Registry by the next date of listing.

Smt. C.Vani Reddy, learned Standing Counsel for the petitioner would submit that initially, the petitioner had received summons, dated 19.09.2024 from the respondents to attend the personal hearing meeting on 03.10.2024 and directing to remit the damages under Section 7 (Q) of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (for short "the EPF Act"). In compliance with the said summons, the nominated Officers of the

petitioner were appeared in-person for hearing and vide Lr.No.RSCL/EPF/iior/2015, dated 23.12.2024 requested to provide details of employees under EPF scheme to facilitate the petitioner to submit the reply to the summons, dated 19.09.2024. Learned counsel would further submit that, without furnishing the information sought for by the petitioner and without affording any opportunity of hearing to the petitioner, the impugned order dated 22.10.2025 was passed by respondent No.3 under Section 14B in File No.TS/RO/HYD/ APHYD0022057000/50101/14B/2025-26/416 imposing damages at Rs.2,48,888/- for the period from 01.04.1996 to 31.05.2024 and directing the petitioner to deposit the same into the respective accounts of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization maintained at the State Bank of India, failing which action shall be taken under Section 8 of the EPF Act. Learned counsel would further submit that, levying damages after a lapse of 30 years that too without assigning any reasons is illegal and prayed to suspend the impugned order.

Prima facie, it appears that respondent No.3 had issued the summons initially on 19.09.2024 and thereafter, the petitioner had addressed letters to provide details of the employees under EPF scheme and without furnishing the said information and without reference to the communication made by the petitioner, the impugned order, dated 22.10.2025 is issued by respondent No.3. The said aspect can only be decided after hearing the respondents.

However, as an interim measure, there shall be interim stay of all further proceedings issued by respondent No.3 in File No.TS/RO/HYD/ APHYD0022057000/ 50101/ 14B/ 2025-26/ 416, dated 22.10.2025, till the next date of listing.

List on 22.01.2026.

//TRUE COPY//

SD/-S.MALLIKARJUNA RAO
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR


SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Secretary, Ministry of labour and Employment, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, Bikaji Cama Place, Union of India, New Delhi - 110066.

2. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, 3-4-763, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027.
3. The Assistant PF Commissioner, 3-4-763, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhavan, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027. (RR 1 to 3 by SPAD- along with a copy of petition and affidavit)
4. One CC to Ms C VANI REDDY, SC FOR ICAR [OPUC]
5. One spare copy
SRT

HIGH COURT

EVVJ

DATED:31/12/2025

List on 22.01.2026

NOTICE BEFORE ADMISSION

WP.No.40545 of 2025

INTERIM STAY

