

# **Pendyala Chakradhar vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh on 13 December, 2022**

**Author: R. Raghunandan Rao**

**Bench: R. Raghunandan Rao**

HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE R. RAGHUNANDAN RAO

Crl.P.No.8409 of 2022

ORDER:

The petitioner is accused in Crime No.129 of 2020 of Repalli Town Police Station, Bapatla District, for the offence punishable under Sections 42 & 273 read with Section 34 IPC and Sections 56, 57 and 63 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 on the ground that the petitioner was caught storing tobacco and tobacco products.

2. The cases are being booked against the persons, who are found to be either storing or transporting tobacco or tobacco products in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Persons, who are facing such cases, have been approaching this Court for relief.

3. In Crl.P.No.5421 of 2019 and batch dated 18.12.2019, a learned Single Judge of this Court had held that tobacco does not fall within the definition of "food" and as such, registration of Crime under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is not permissible.

4. In W.P.No.3731 of 2018 and batch dated 27.08.2018, a learned Single Judge of this Court had held that the police would not have jurisdiction to initiate or investigate into any offences punishable under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The learned Single Judge had also held that transport or storage of tobacco and tobacco products would not constitute an offence punishable under Sections 270 to 273 IPC.

5. In view of the aforesaid findings, which are being consistently followed by this Court, this Criminal Petition is allowed quashing Crime No.129 of 2020 of Repalli Town Police Station, Bapatla District, against the petitioner, with a direction to return the seized tobacco and tobacco products.

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

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R. RAGHUNANDAN RAO, J.

13th December, 2022.

Js.

3 RRR,J HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE R. RAGHUNANDAN RAO 13th December, 2022 Js.