

Vallambhotla Siva Prasad Rao vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh on 12 December, 2022

Author: R. Raghunandan Rao

Bench: R. Raghunandan Rao

HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE R. RAGHUNANDAN RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION No.9896 of 2022

ORDER:

The petitioner is Accused in Crime No.92 of 2021 of Amaravathi Police Station, Guntur District, for offences under Sections 7(1), 20(2) of Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act on the ground that the petitioner was caught storing tobacco and tobacco products. After investigation, the police have filed a charge sheet before the II Additional Junior Civil Judge, Sattenapalli, who took cognizance of the case in C.C.No.177 of 2021.

2. The cases are being booked against 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 definitions 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 the police would not have jurisdiction to initiate or investigate any offences punishable under the provision of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. A 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 of Indian Penal Code.

5. In view of the aforesaid findings which are being consistently followed by this Court, this Criminal Petition is allowed quashing C.C.No.177 of 2021 on the file of II Additional Junior Civil Judge, Sattenapalli against the petitioner.

Miscellaneous petitions, pending if any, in this Criminal Petition shall stand closed.

R. RAGHUNANDAN RAO, J 12.12.2022 RJS HON'BLE
SRI JUSTICE R. RAGHUNANDAN RAO CRIMINAL PETITION No.9896 of 2022 12.12.2022 RJS