

# Yallampalli Mahesh vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh on 23 March, 2021

**Author: R.Raghu NANDAN Rao**

**Bench: R.Raghu NANDAN Rao**

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE R.RAGHUNANDAN RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION No.1749 OF 2021

ORDER:

-

A Crime in F.I.R No.95 of 2017 has been registered in Vidavalur Police Station against the petitioner under Sections 353, 273 of IPC and Section 59(i) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and same is numbered as C.C.No.3 of 2018 on the file of Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Kovur on the ground that the petitioner was caught while transporting tobacco and tobacco products in car bearing registration No.AP- 26-AY-2594.

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

3. In CrI.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 that the police would not have jurisdiction to initiate or investigate any offences punishable under the provisions 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 IPC.

5. In view of the aforesaid findings which are being consistently followed by this Court, this criminal petition is allowed quashing C.C.No.3 of 2018 on the file of Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Kovur with a direction to return the seized tobacco and tobacco products and car bearing registration No.AP-26-AY-2594 to the petitioner.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUSTICE R.RAGHUNANDAN RAO Date :  
23-03-2021 SDP THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE R.RAGHUNANDAN RAO CRIMINAL PETITION  
No.1749 OF 2021 Date : 23-03-2021 SDP