

# **Sri Arrepu Srinivasa Rao Alias Srinu vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh on 16 April, 2021**

**Author: R.Raghunandan Rao**

**Bench: R.Raghunandan Rao**

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE R.RAGHUNANDAN RAO

CRIMINAL PETITION No.2398 of 2021

ORDER :

A Crime in F.I.R.No.1075 of 2020 has been registered in Chodavaram Police Station, Visakhapatnam District against the petitioner/accused No.2 under Section 273 IPC 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 and 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 Crl.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 IPC.

5. In view of the aforesaid findings which are being consistently followed by this Court, this Criminal Petition is allowed quashing the F.I.R.No.1075 of 2020 in Chodavaram Police Station, Visakhapatnam District against the petitioner.

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

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JUSTICE R. RAGHUNANDAN RAO Date : 16.04.2021 SPP  
THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE R. RAGHUNANDAN RAO CRIMINAL PETITION No.2398 of 2021 Date : 16.04.2021 SPP