

(2021) 07 TEL CK 0058

In the Telangana High Court

Case No : Criminal Petition No. 5306 Of 2021

Gajbinkar Laxminarayana

APPELLANT

Vs

State Of Telangana

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 13-07-2021

Acts Referred:

Code Of Criminal Procedure, 1973 — Section 482
Indian Penal Code, 1860 — Section 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 328, 336, 420
Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 — Section 20, 20(2)

Citation : (2021) 07 TEL CK 0058

Hon'ble Judges : K. Lakshman, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : Srinivas Reddy Balakisti

Final Decision : Allowed

Judgement

1. This petition is filed under Section - 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to quash the proceedings in Crime No.166 of 2021 pending on the

file of Miryalguda II Town Police Station, Nalgonda District. The petitioner herein is accused No.2 in the said crime. The offences alleged against him

are under Sections 420 and 273 of I.P.C. and Section 20 (2) of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and

Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (for short "COTP Act")

2. Heard Mr. Srinivas Reddy Balakisti, learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of

respondent - State.

3. This Court, by common order dated 05.07.2021 in CrI.P. No.152 of 2020 and

batch, has extensively dealt with the issue covered in the present criminal petition observing that transportation, possession, storage, sale and purchase of tobacco products are not totally banned in the State of Telangana and, therefore, it cannot be said that offences under Sections - 269, 270, 271, 272 and 273, 328, 336 and 420 of IPC are attracted to the petitioners therein.

4. Concerning provisions of Section - 20 of COTP Act, in the said common order, this Court also observed that the said provision deals with punishment for failure to give specified warning and nicotine and tar contents. But, in the complaints / charge sheets therein, there is no allegation against the petitioners therein that they were carrying on trade or commerce in contraband or any other tobacco products without label and specified warning on the said products. In view of the same, the contents of the complaints / charge sheets lack the ingredients of Section - 20 (2) of the COTP Act. Even, there is no allegation that the seized products do not contain labels with statutory warning. Observing so, this Court held that registering the crimes for the said offence against the petitioners therein is contrary to Section - 20 (2) of COTP Act,

5. In the present case also, the allegations against the petitioner are that he was selling the prohibited tobacco products and the contents of the complaint do not attract the ingredients of offences under Sections - 420 and 273 of I.P.C. and Section - 20 (2) of COTP Act and, therefore, the proceedings against the petitioner in the above crime are also liable to be quashed.

6. The present Criminal Petition is accordingly allowed quashing the proceedings in Crime No.166 of 2021 pending on the file of Miraygluda II town Police Station, Nalgonda District, against the petitioner herein.

7. Since the proceedings are quashed against the petitioner herein in the above crime, the Station House Officer, Miraygluda II Town Police Station, is hereby directed to return the seized property to the petitioner on proper identification and verification of ownership under due acknowledgment.

As a sequel, miscellaneous petitions, if any, pending in the criminal petition shall stand closed.