IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

MONDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE SUJOY PAUL
AND
THE HONOURABLE SMT JUSTICE RENUKA YARA

WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO: 17 OF 2025

Between:

National Union for Migrant Workers, Rep. By its Vice - President, PVKK Bhargav, Office at 7-5-14/A, Venkateshwara Colony, Mahbubnagar Town and District, Telangana State – 509001.

...PETITIONER

AND

1. The State of Telangana, Represented by its Chief Secretary, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad, Telangana State.
2. The State of Telangana, Represented by its Principal Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500022.
3. The Engineer-in-Chief (Administration Wing), Irrigation and Command Area Development (I & CAD) Department, Government of Telangana, Erram Manzil, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.
4. The Chief Engineer (Nagarjuna Sagar Project), Irrigation and Command Area Development (I & CAD) Department, Government of Telangana, Hill Colony, Nagarjuna Sagar, Nalgonda District, Telangana, India.
5. The Director General, Geological Survey of India (GSI), 27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700016, India.
6. The Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), 6th Floor, NDCC-II Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi - 110001, India.
7. The District Collector and Magistrate, Nagarkurnool District, Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC), Kollapur X-Road, Nagarkurnool, Telangana, India.
8. The Superintendent of Police, Nagarkurnool District, SP Office, X-Road, Nagarkurnool, Telangana, India.
9. Jaiprakash Associates Limited (Jaypee Group), Sector-128, Noida, Uttar Pradesh - 201304, India.

...RESPONDENTS

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to Issue a Writ, Order or Direction in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate Writ, Order, or Direction, commanding the concerned authorities to expeditiously take all necessary and immediate steps to facilitate the safe and swift extraction of the eight workers who remain trapped within the tunnel, and to ensure that every possible measure is employed to expedite the rescue operation with due regard to their safety and well-being, in view of the grave and imminent peril to their lives and the inhumane conditions they are enduring. ii) Direct the Authorities to Ensure. Safe Working Conditions by passing a comprehensive order requiring the relevant statutory bodies and authorities to take prompt and effective action to ensure that the working conditions in all such hazardous, perilous and dangerous environments, including but not limited to tunnelling operations, are meticulously regulated, and that proper safety protocols, measures, and safeguards are implemented and enforced in accordance with prevailing labour laws and regulations, in order to mitigate the risks to workers' lives and health, and to uphold their fundamental right to a safe and secure working environment, as enshrined in law. iii) Mandate the Provision of Adequate Remuneration by issuing an order compelling the appropriate authorities to establish and enforce a framework for the provision of standardized, fair, and equitable remuneration to all workers employed in high-risk and hazardous occupations, particularly those engaged in such perilous operations as tunnelling, ensuring that such remuneration is commensurate with the risks involved, and reflective of the arduous and dangerous nature of the work, thereby safeguarding the workers' dignity, welfare, and economic rights. iv) Ensure Accountability for Non-Compliance by directing that the relevant authorities be held accountable for any failure to act with due diligence and in accordance with statutory obligations to ensure the safety, welfare, and fair compensation of workers engaged in hazardous conditions, and that appropriate action be taken against any persons or entities responsible for negligence, misconduct, or failure to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. v) Grant Further Relief by passing any other appropriate order or direction which this Honourable Court deems just and necessary in the facts and circumstances of the present case, for the protection of the lives, rights, and dignity of the workers, and to ensure the overall enforcement of justice, equity, and the rule of law.

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the Writ Petition(Pil), the High Court may be pleased to Stay the Operation of the tunnel construction till the final disposal of the present petition.

Counsel for the Petitioner: SRI KANDHULA ANKAMA RAO REPRESENTING SRI P. AKHIL RAJ

Counsel for the Respondent No.1: SRI A. SUDARSHAN REDDY, ADVOCATE GENERAL / GP FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Counsel for the Respondent No.2: GP FOR LABOUR

Counsel for the Respondent No.3 & 4: GP FOR IRRIGATION

Counsel for the Respondent No.5,6 & 9: SRI GADI PRAVEEN KUMAR,
DY. SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

Counsel for the Respondent No.7: GP FOR REVENUE

Counsel for the Respondent No.8: GP FOR HOME

Counsel for the Respondent No.9: - - - -

The Court made the following: ORDER

THE HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE SUJOY PAUL
AND
THE HON'BLE SMT. JUSTICE RENUKA YARA

WRIT PETITION (PIL) No.17 of 2025

ORDER *(Per the Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul)*:

Sri Kandhula Ankama Rao, learned counsel represents Sri P. Akhil Raj, learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri A. Sudarshan Reddy, learned Advocate General for the State.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that this petition is merely filed to facilitate the safe and swift extraction of the eight workers, who remained trapped in the Srisailam Left Bank Canal-I Tunnel and to take all effective measures to expedite the rescue operations. The petitioner has also prayed for other reliefs.

3. Learned Advocate General for the State submits that the Indian Army, State Disaster Response Force, National Disaster Response Force, Singareni Collieries, Indian Navy, Larsen and Turbo and 20 Mazdoors are making herculean efforts to save the lives of the trapped workers in the aforesaid Tunnel. Apart from that, the Rat Miners have been called to undertake the rescue operations. The rescue operations are continuing and all efforts are being made to save the precious lives of the trapped workers. In addition, learned Advocate General submits that the entire Cabinet

Ministers visited the aforesaid Tunnel to ensure that the rescue works are going on emergency basis.

4. In view of aforesaid statements made by learned Advocate General, we hope and trust that the Government will make all endeavour to save the precious lives and will leave no stone unturned to remove the obstructing stones and other impediments which are coming in the way to save the precious lives of the trapped workers.

5. With aforesaid observation, we deem it proper to dispose of the writ petition leaving the other points as open to be raised and decided in appropriate cases.

6. Accordingly, the W.P.(PIL) is **disposed of**. No costs.

Interlocutory applications, if any pending, shall also stand closed.

//TRUE COPY//

SD/- L. VIJAYA LAXMI
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Chief Secretary, The State of Telangana, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad, Telangana State.
2. The Principal Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, The State of Telangana, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500022.
3. The Engineer-in-Chief (Administration Wing), Irrigation and Command Area Development (I & CAD) Department, Government of Telangana, Erram Manzil, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.
4. The Chief Engineer (Nagarjuna Sagar Project), Irrigation and Command Area Development (I & CAD) Department,Government of Telangana, Hill Colony, Nagarjuna Sagar, Nalgonda District, Telangana, India.
5. The Director General, Geological Survey of India (GSI), 27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolata, West Bengal - 700016, India.
6. The Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), 6th Floor, NDCC-II Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi - 110001, India.
7. The District Collector and Magistrate, Nagarkurnool District, Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC), Kollapur X-Road, Nagarkurnool, Telangana, India.
8. The Superintendent of Police, Nagarkumool District, SP Office, X-Road, Nagarkumool, Telangana, India. Email. sp@nkl.tspolice.gov.in
9. One CC to SRI P. AKHIL RAJ, Advocate [OPUC]
10. Two CCs to SRI A. SUDARSHAN REDDY, ADVOCATE GENERAL, High Court for the State of Telangana. [OUT]

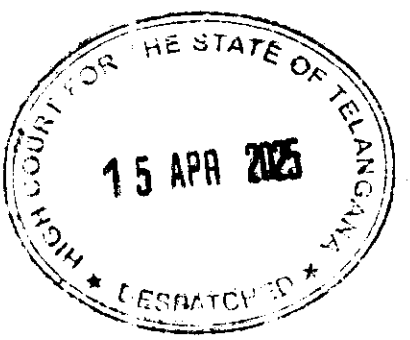
11. Two CCs to GP FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, High Court for the State of Telangana. [OUT]
12. Two CCs to GP FOR LABOUR, High Court for the State of Telangana. [OUT]
13. Two CCs to GP FOR IRRIGATION, High Court for the State of Telangana. [OUT]
14. Two CCs to GP FOR REVENUE, High Court for the State of Telangana. [OUT]
15. Two CCs to GP FOR HOME, High Court for the State of Telangana. [OUT]
16. One CC to SRI GADI PRAVEEN KUMAR, (Deputy Solicitor General of India), High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad. [OPUC]
17. Two CD Copies

BN
LS

DATED:03/03/2025

ORDER

WP(PIL).No.17 of 2025



DISPOSING OF THE WRIT PETITION (PIL) WITHOUT COSTS

PA

25/3/25