IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
AT HYDERABAD

FRIDAY, THE TWENTY EIGHTH DAY OF NOVEMBER
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE APARESH KUMAR SINGH
AND
THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE G.M. MOHIUDDIN

WRIT APPEAL NOS: 1224, 1243, 1250, 1261 AND 1264 OF 2025

W.A.NO: 1224 OF 2025

Writ Appeal under clause 15 of the Letters Patent Preferred Against Order Dated 25/09/2025 in WP.No. 25851 of 2025. on the file of the High Court.

Between:

1. Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, Rep. by its Managing Director, Bus Bhavan, Musheerabad, Hyderabad.
2. The Regional Manager, TGSRTC, Ranga Reddy Region, MGBS, Hyderabad.
3. The Depot Manager, TGSRTC, MYP-I Depot, Miyapur, Hyderabad.

...APPELLANTS/PETITIONERS

AND

M.M. Reddy, S/o. M. Bathki Reddy, Aged about 57 years, Occ. ADC, E. No. 270823, R/ o. 2-52/85/414/P, Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

...RESPONDENT/RESPONDENT

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to suspend the common Orders passed in W.P.No.25851 of 2025 and batch dated 25/09/2025.

Counsel for the Appellants: SRI R.ANURAG, SC FOR TSRTC
Counsel for the Respondent: SRI V.NARASIMHA GOUD

W.A.NO: 1243 OF 2025

Writ Appeal under clause 15 of the Letters Patent preferred against the order dated 25/09/2025 in W.P.No.25766 of 2025 and batch on the file of the High Court.

Between:

1. Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, Rep. by its Managing Director, Bus Bhavan, Musheerabad, Hyderabad.
2. The Regional Manager, TGSRTC, Ranga Reddy Region, MGBS, Hyderabad.
3. The Depot Manager, TGSRTC, MYP-I Depot, Miyapur, R.R. District, Hyd.
4. The Depot Manager, TGSRTC, Uppal Depot, Uppal, Hyderabad.

...APPELLANTS/PETITIONERS

AND

K. Upender, S/o. K. Kamalnatham, Aged about 57 years, Occ ADC, E. No. 203972, R/c. 16-20, Plot No.31, Juma Residency Colony, Medipally, Medchal Malkajgiri District, Hyderabad.

...RESPONDENT/RESPONDENT

IA NO: 2 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to suspend the common Orders passed in W.P. No. 25766 of 2025 and batch dated 25.09.2025.

Counsel for the Appellants: SRI R.ANURAG, SC FOR TSRTC
Counsel for the Respondent: SRI V.NARASIMHA GOUD

W.A.NO: 1250 OF 2025

Writ Appeal under clause 15 of the Letters Patent Filed against the order Dated 25/09/2025 in Writ Petition No.25901 of 2025 on the file of the High Court.

Between:

1. Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, Rep. by its Managing Director, Bus Bhavan, Musheerabad, Hyderabad.
2. The Regional Manager, TGSRTC, Ranga Reddy Region, MGBS, Hyderabad.
3. The Depot Manager, TGSRTC, MYP-I Depot, Miyapur, Hyderabad

...APPELLANTS/PETITIONERS

AND

P. Srinivas, S/ o. Late Sathaiah, Aged about 59 years, Occ- ADC, E. No. 271294, R/o. 4-3-187/32, Seetharampur Colony, Hayathnagar, Ranga Reddy District

...RESPONDENT/RESPONDENT

IA NO: 1 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to suspend the common Orders passed in W.P. No. 25901 of 2025 AND batch dated 25/09/2025.

Counsel for the Appellants: SRI R.ANURAG, SC FOR TSRTC
Counsel for the Respondent: SRI V.NARASIMHA GOUD

W.A.NO: 1261 OF 2025

Writ Appeal under clause 15 of the Letters Patent Preferred Against Order Dated 25/09/2025 in WP.No.25767of 2025 and batch on the file of the High Court.

Between:

1. Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, Rep. by its Managing Director, Bus Bhavan, Musheerabad, Hyderabad.
2. The Regional Manager, TGSRTC, Ranga Reddy Region, MGBS, Hyderabad.
3. The Depot Manager, TGSRTC, MYP-I Depot, Miyapur, Hyderabad.

...APPELLANTS/PETITIONERS

AND

G.D. Reddy, S/o. Ella Reddy, Aged about 59 years, Occ. ADC, E. No. 270774, R/o.1-5-16/ 1/ F2, Gangaputra Colony, Old Alwal, Secunderabad.

...RESPONDENT/RESPONDENT

IA NO: 2 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to suspend the common Orders passed in W.P. No. 25767 of 2025 and batch dated 25.09.2025.

Counsel for the Appellants: SRI R.ANURAG, SC FOR TSRTC
Counsel for the Respondent: SRI V.NARASIMHA GOUD

W.A.NO: 1264 OF 2025

Writ Appeal under clause 15 of the Letters Patent Preferred Against the Order dated. 25-09-2025, in WP.No. 25897 of 2025. on the file of the High Court.

Between:

1. Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, Rep. by its Managing Director, Bus Bhavan, Musheerabad, Hyderabad.
2. The Regional Manager, TGSRTC, Ranga Reddy Region, MGBS, Hyderabad.
3. The Depot Manager, TGSRTC, MYP-I Depot, Miyapur, Hyderabad.

...APPELLANTS/PETITIONERS

AND

R. Kishore Babu, S/o. Ratnam, Aged about 50 years, Occ. Conductor, E. No. 210977. R/o. 6-61/7B, Bhavaipuram, Ameenapur, Sangareddy District.

...RESPONDENT/RESPONDENT

IA NO: 2 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to suspend the common Orders passed in W.P. No. 25897 of 2025 and batch dated 25.09.2025.

Counsel for the Appellants: SRI R.ANURAG, SC FOR TSRTC
Counsel for the Respondent: SRI V.NARASIMHA GOUD

The Court made the following: COMMON JUDGMENT

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SRI APARESH KUMAR SINGH

AND

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE G.M.MOHIUDDIN

WRIT APPEAL Nos.1224, 1243, 1250, 1261 and 1264 of 2025

COMMON JUDGMENT:

These batch of five Writ Appeals arises from the common order of the learned Single Judge dated 25.09.2025 in W.P.Nos.25766, 25767, 25851, 25897 and 25901 of 2025.

2. W.A.No.1224 of 2025 arises from W.P.No.25851 of 2025; W.A.No.1243 of 2025 arises from W.P.No.25766 of 2025; W.A.No.1250 of 2025 arises from W.P.No.25901 of 2025; W.A.No.1261 of 2025 arises from W.P.No25767 of 2025 and W.A.No.1264 of 2025 arises from W.P.No.25897 of 2025.

3. Since the issue involved in all the above Writ Petitions is integrally and intrinsically connected, the Writ Petitions were disposed of by the learned Single Judge by a common order. The Writ Appeals arising out of the underlying common order being disposed of by a common judgment in view of the fact that the core issue involved is one and the same.

4. The Telangana Road Transport Corporation and its officials are the appellants in all the Writ Appeals (hereafter "appellants" for brevity). The respondents in all the Writ Appeals are the writ

petitioners in the underlying writ petitions (hereafter 'respondents' for brevity).

Factual matrix (in brief)

5. The respondents (except in W.A.No.1264 of 2025 – who was working as conductor) were working as Assistant Depot Clerks (hereafter ADC for brevity) and each respondent was functioning as shift in-charge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at Miyapur-I Depot. The Accounts Officer Rangareddy Division reported certain irregularities in the transactions at the HPCL Fuel Outlet at Miyapur-I Depot. The preliminary enquiry was conducted by the Depot Manager, Picket Depot which uncovered a massive financial loss of about Rs.30,32,000/- to the appellants' corporation. On the basis on an interim enquiry, which *prima facie* indicated the involvement of the respondents, they and were placed under suspension by an order dated 30.06.2025. Charge-sheet dated 08.07.2025 was issued separately to each of the respondents, framing specific charges against each of the respondent alleging serious misconduct in terms of Regulation 28(x) of the TGSRTC Employees (Conduct) Regulations, 1963 (hereafter "1963 Regulations" for brevity) for misappropriation of receivable cash and for failure to submit documents and proof of HP and DPT transactions.

6. The respondents filed the above noted Writ Petitions challenging the order of suspension and charge-sheet as being illegal and arbitrary. The learned Single Judge by a common order dated 25.09.2025 allowed the Writ Petitions filed by the respondents in part, and has set aside the suspension orders dated 30.06.2025 holding that the suspension of the respondents amounts to 'selective treatment' as certain other officials against whom disciplinary proceedings were initiated with similar allegations have not been placed under suspension and directed the appellants to forthwith reinstate the respondents into service. Aggrieved by the said common order, the appellants have preferred the present appeal.

7. Heard Sri R.Anurag, learned Standing Counsel for TGSRTC and Sri V.Narasimha Goud, learned counsel appearing on behalf of respondents and perused the record.

Contentions on behalf of appellants

8. Learned counsel for the appellants contended that the learned Single Judge fell into grave error by applying the principle of equality in a mechanical and superficial manner, without delving into the fundamental and substantive distinctions between the respondents and other employees with whom the respondents seeks comparison.

9. The learned counsel for the appellants contended that the charges against the respondents and the other employees are entirely different. The respondents are charged with the graver misconduct of misappropriation of funds which implies a positive, intentional and dishonest act, as opposed to the other officers who are charged with dereliction of duties which connotes negligence or the failure to properly supervise. The other officers are not in the proximity of the transactions involved and the charge framed against them pertains to negligence in properly overseeing the working of the respondents i.e., a failure in supervision, a charge of omission and no one of commission.

10. Learned counsel further contended that the law treats these two categories of misconduct differently. The learned counsel argued that the suspension in cases of alleged dishonesty is not just an administrative action, but a necessary safeguard to protect the integrity of the enquiry, prevent tampering of evidence and to maintain public confidence in a public utility like TGSRTC. Learned counsel further contended that to equate the charge of active theft with the charge of passive negligence for the purpose of suspension is a gross legal error, as in much as there is substantive distinction in the nature of both the charges.

11. The learned counsel for the appellants contended that the respondents being individuals; directly and physically handling

and accountable for cash and digital transactions at the shift level of the HPCL Fuel Outlet are directly and proximately responsible for the alleged acts unlike the supervisory officers whose alleged failure is lack of the proper overseeing. The respondents, as shift in-charges, were the direct custodians of cash and accountable for the cash and digital transactions and were directly responsible for the reconciliation of the transactions. The alleged misappropriation occurred during the shift(s) of the respondents. The respondents are primary and the proximate cause of the loss. The supervisory officer's alleged failure/dereliction being of a remote nature, created a permissive environment for the misappropriation, but was not directly responsible for the misappropriation/loss.

12. The learned counsel for the appellants contended that a substantial loss of a sum of about Rs.30.32 Lakhs of public money was involved and the respondents are charged with siphoning off the said funds. The learned counsel for the appellants further contended that allowing the respondents to continue in a position of financial trust or even within the organization, can severely undermine the discipline and public trust.

13. It is also contended that the respondents are charged with grave intentional acts of misappropriation of staggering amounts and the appellants' corporation was perfectly justified in taking the immediate step of suspension, taking into account the

respondents' role as being more direct proximate and immediate. The learned counsel for the appellants submitted that the respondents being direct instruments of the alleged misconduct stand on a completely different footing from the supervisory officers, whose fault lies in the failure to properly supervise the transactions at the HPCL Fuel Outlet Depot.

14. The learned counsel for the appellants further contended that the power to suspend an employee, especially when conferred by the statutory regulations is primarily the administrative discretion of the employer. The Writ Court ordinarily ought not to substitute its own judgment for that of the disciplinary authority on the appropriateness of suspension. The learned counsel further submitted that interference by the Writ Court may be warranted only if the suspension is *mala fide,* issued by an incompetent authority or is patently arbitrary and illegal.

15. The learned counsel contended that the impugned suspension orders were based on a preliminary enquiry report which specifically pointed to the financial irregularities and the misappropriation during the shifts of the respondents. The authority deemed it necessary in public interest to place the respondents under suspension pending a full-fledged departmental enquiry. Learned counsel further submitted that considering the staggering amount of loss and the specific nature of charges

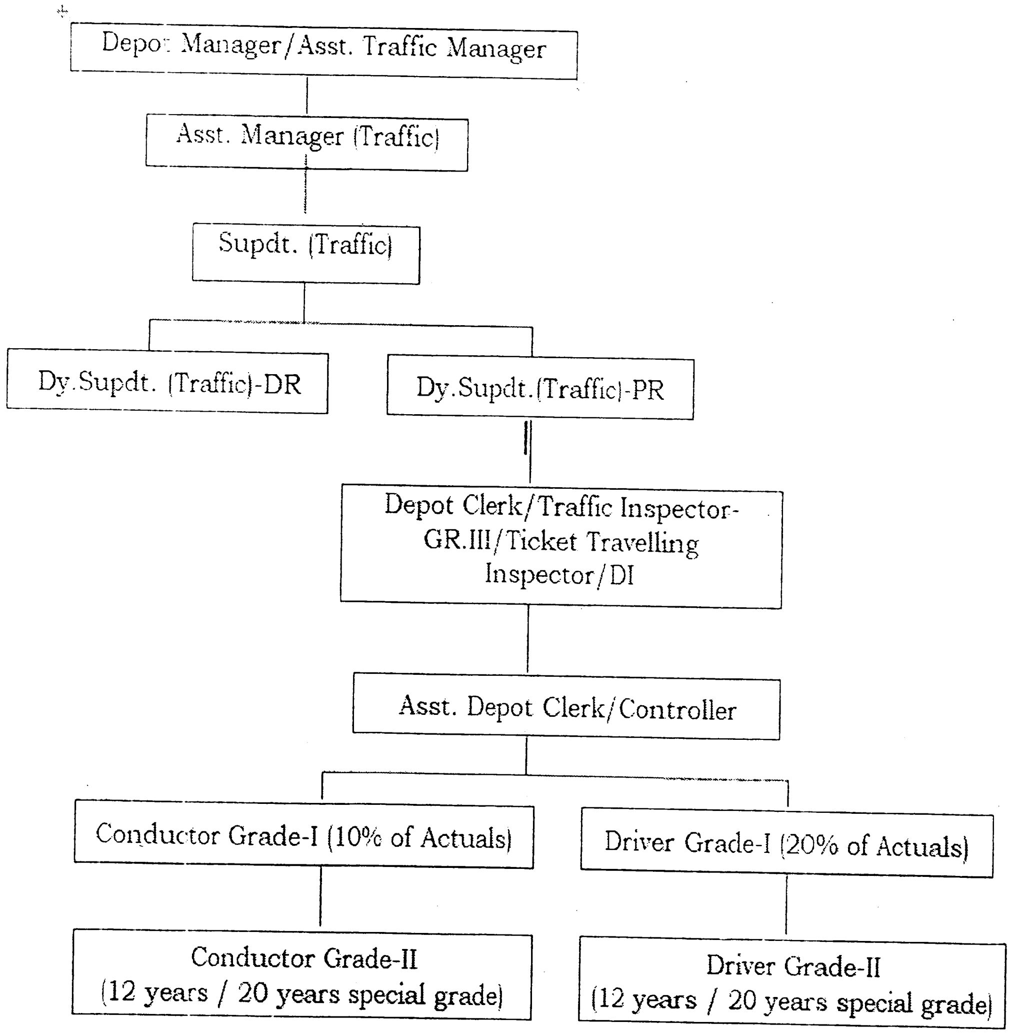
against the respondents', the decision to keep the respondents' under suspension pending enquiry cannot be characterized as arbitrary or *mala fide*. The learned counsel for the appellants submitted that the learned Single Judge erred in interfering with this administrative discretion on the misplaced comparison of the respondents with other supervisory officers who were not in the immediate proximity of the transactions not were involved in the alleged acts of misappropriation.

16. The learned counsel for the appellants contended that reliance placed by the learned Single Judge in ***K.Sukhendar Reddy v. State of A.P and another***[1] is distinguishable. The learned counsel contended that in the said judgment, the involved officers were similarly situated and involved in a criminal case with no material to show one was more culpable. In the instant case, the charges themselves created the distinction and there is a clear and material distinction of the charges against the respondents' act, who were charged with direct act of misappropriation; while the others were charged with supervisory lapses. The learned counsel for the appellants argued that the principle of 'selective suspension' does not apply where a valid and intelligible differentia as exists like in the present case. In such cases, according to the

[1] (1999) 6 SCC 257

learned counsel for the appellants, differential treatment is justified.

17. The learned counsel for appellants placed before this Court the hierarchy of the positions of the respondents and other superior and the same is extracted hereunder for the purpose of appreciating the proximity and distance of the persons concerned with the alleged misconduct/lapses.



18. The learned counsel for the appellants on the strength of the above submissions prayed that the writ appeals to be allowed and sought the setting aside of the order or the learned Single Judge. The learned counsel for the appellant further sought that the order of suspension of the respondents' be upheld.

Contentions on behalf of respondents

19. *Per contra,* the learned counsel for the respondents contended that the preliminary enquiry report itself concludes that a group of employees including the respondents and others are primarily responsible for severe financial loss to the corporation. The report does not, at the present stage, exonerate the officers or single out the respondents as sole perpetrators. The learned counsel for respondents further contended that the loss of Rs.30.32 lakh, if any, is not the result of isolated acts by few respondents but a systemic and collective failure. The learned counsel further contended that when the preliminary report castigated all the persons equally treating them differently for the purpose of suspension at the threshold itself is arbitrary and violative of Article 14. The learned counsel for respondents contended that the suspension of the respondents is selective and cannot be sustained.

20. The learned counsel for the respondents contended that at the stage of suspension, where the charges are merely unproved allegations, the corporation, for its convenience has labelled one set of employees as dishonest and another set of employees as negligent to justify discriminatory treatment. The learned counsel further contended that the final determination of the nature of the misconduct can only be made after a full-fledged enquiry. The learned counsel for the respondents further contended that the charge of misappropriation against the respondents is based on the premise that the respondents failed to cross-check transactions which in essence and negligence. The learned counsel for the respondents further contended that the appellant corporation has not presented any evidence of the respondents' personally benefiting from the alleged misappropriation. The distinction that the appellant corporation seeks to draw between misappropriation and dereliction of duties is artificial and hollow and is an attempt to create a false classification to benefit supervisor officers.

21. Learned counsel for the respondents contended that proximity in hierarchical organization cannot be only physical and the managerial and supervisory officers have a functional and accountability based proximity. The learned counsel for respondents argued that to suspend the junior officers at the bottom of the chain, while to allow the senior officers, who failed to

implement the Standard Operating Procedure to remain in power is wholly arbitrary.

22. The learned counsel for the respondent contended that the act of suspending the respondents is a pick and choose policy of the appellant corporation to make the scapegoats of the lower level employees while protecting the higher-ups. He submitted it is a colourable exercise of power. The learned counsel further contended that the continuous suspension of the respondents' caused immense hardship to the respondents inasmuch as the disciplinary proceedings are not being conducted expeditiously. Learned counsel further contended that the learned Single Judge has correctly balanced the interests of both the parties by revoking the suspension while allowing the departmental enquiry to continue, which was a just and equitable exercise and did not warrant the interference from the appellate Court.

23. The learned counsel for the respondents contended that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***K.Sukhendar Reddy's*** case ***(supra 1)*** explicitly prohibited selective suspension. The factual matrix in the case of *K.Sukhendar Reddy's* case squarely applies to the present case. The learned counsel contended that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has observed that when multiple individuals were involved in a single incident, but only junior ones were suspended; the same would tantamount to selective suspension and cannot be

permitted. The learned counsel argued that the principle is of universal application and applies to the present case as well and prayed to dismiss the appeals.

Analysis and reasoning

24. We have given our anxious consideration to the rival contentions.

25. In the present case, there is a qualitative distinction in the charges framed against the respondents' and others. The learned Single Judge proceeded on the premise that all individuals named in the preliminary enquiry report were similarly situated. In our considered view, this is a fundamental fallacy. The nature of misconduct alleged is the primary determinant in classifying the individuals for the purpose of disciplinary action, including suspension. The specific charge against the respondents' is one of misappropriation under Regulation 28(x) of Regulations, 1963. This is a charge of grave, quasi-criminal nature which involves an allegation of active, intentional and dishonest diversion of corporation funds for personal gain or otherwise. The said charge implies *mens rea*.

26. On the other hand, the charges against the supervisory officers are framed under Regulation 28(ix)(a) & xxxii of the 1963 Regulations, for dereliction of duties and failure to enforce

Standard Operating Procedure. These charges pertain to a failure to exercise due supervision, lack of diligence or omission to implement checks and balances. These charges allege negligence but do not fall under the head of intentional dishonesty.

27. It is pertinent to note that the distinction in this matter is substantive and goes to the very root of the misconduct. The law has consistently recognized that the allegations involving moral turpitude, fraud and dishonesty warrant a different and more stringent approach compared to allegations of negligence. Suspension in a case of misappropriation is not just an administrative measure but a necessary step to protect the integrity of the enquiry and to prevent the accused from tampering with the evidence or influencing witnesses, and to equate the charge of active misappropriation with one of supervisory negligence for the purpose of suspension is to ignore this critical legal distinction.

28. Further, a proper appreciation of the distinction between the allegation against the respondents' in the present appeals and the other senior officers of the appellant corporation, particularly regarding the irregularities related to the HPCL Fuel Outlet Depot is necessary. It is opposite to extract the portions of the charge memos and suspension orders issued to the respondents and the charge sheet issued to other senior officers which are as under:

Charge Sheet dated 08.07.2025 issued to respondents in the following Writ Appeals:

i) In W.A.No.1224 of 2025:

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

No.P1/498(1)/2025-RR *O/o the Regional Manager/RR MGBS, HYD. Date: 08.07.2025*

CHARGE SHEET

To
Sri M.M.Reddy, *(Through DM.MYP-1)*
E.270823, ADC
MIYAPUR-1 DEPOT

Sub: *MISAPPROPRIATION - Misappropriation of receivable cash proceeds of Fuel Outlet at Miyapur-1 Depot by you while working as Shift In charge at Fuel Outlet, Miyapur-1 Depot by inflating HP transactions and by not submitting relevant documents for HP pay transactions - Charge Sheet – Issued - Reg.*

Ref: *1.Accounts Officer,RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt.17.06.2025.*
2. DM/PKT interim report dated. 28.06.2025.
3. DM/PKT preliminary enquiry report dt.03.07.2025

ALLEGATION:

Vide reference 1 cited, Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May,2025.

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry in to the matter. As per the preliminary report, the Cash proceeds generated through the sale of fuel to an extent of around Rs. 30 lakhs has been misappropriated during the period December, 2024 to May, 2025 and to conceal that, the HP transactions and DTP transactions have been inflated.

You have discharged your duty as Shift Incharge at the Fuel Outlet during the relevant period, and as per the preliminary enquiry report, total Cash proceeds amounting to approximately Rs.1,22,069.94 lakhs was misappropriated on the days when you discharged your duties as Shift Incharge and you have remitted lesser cash. To conceal that you

have inflated the HP Pay transactions and DTP transactions which are linked to HPCL Portal, to an extent of Rs.1,22,069.94 lakhs.

Based on the above allegations, the following charges are framed against you.

CHARGE No.1:

"For having misappropriated receivable Cash proceeds to a tune off Rs.1,22,069.94 by inflating HP transactions and DTP transactions while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP--Depot during the period December, 2024 to May, 2025, which constitute serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (x) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg.1963"

CHARGE No.2:

"For having not submitted the relevant documents/proofs for HP transactions and DTP transactions, while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP-1 Depot during the period January, 2025 to 17.03.2025, which constitutes serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (ix) (a) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg. 1963"

You are hereby advised to submit the explanation to the above charges within seven(7) days from the date of receipt of this Charge Sheet as to why further action should not be taken against you. If you fail to submit the explanation within the stipulated period, it will be assumed that you have no explanation to offer and further action will be taken against you basing on the available evidences on record.

ii) <u>In W.A.No.1243 of 2025:</u>

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

No.P1/498(1)/2025-RR — *O/o the Regional Manager/RR*
MGBS, HYD. Date: 08.07.2025

CHARGE SHEET

To
Sri K.Upender, *(Through DM.MYP-1)*
E.203972, ADC
MIYAPUR-1 DEPOT(Now working at DM.UPL)

Sub: *MISAPPROPRIATION - Misappropriation of receivable cash proceeds of Fuel Outlet at Miyapur-1 Depot by you while working as Shift In charge at Fuel Outlet, Miyapur-1 Depot by inflating HP transactions and by not submitting relevant documents for HP pay transactions - Charge Sheet – Issued - Reg.*

Ref: *1.Accounts Officer,RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt.17.06.2025.*
2. DM/PKT interim report dated. 28.06.2025.
3. DM/PKT preliminary enquiry report dt.03.07.2025

ALLEGATION:

Vide reference 1 cited, Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May,2025.

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry in to the matter. As per the preliminary report, the Cash proceeds generated through the sale of fuel to an extent of around Rs. 30 lakhs has been misappropriated during the period December, 2024 to May, 2025 and to conceal that, the HP transactions and DTP transactions have been inflated.

You have discharged your duty as Shift Incharge at the Fuel Outlet during the relevant period, and as per the preliminary enquiry report, total Cash proceeds amounting to approximately Rs.80,969.14 was misappropriated on the days when you discharged your duties as Shift Incharge and you have remitted lesser cash. To conceal that you have inflated the HP Pay transactions and DTP transactions which are linked to HPCL Portal, to an extent of Rs.80,969.14.

Based on the above allegations, the following charges are framed against you.

CHARGE No.1:

"For having misappropriated receivable Cash proceeds to a tune off Rs. Rs.80,969.14 by inflating HP transactions and DTP transactions while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP--Depot during the period January, 2025 to 17.03.2025, which constitute serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (x) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg.1963"

CHARGE No.2:

"For having not submitted the relevant documents/proofs for HP transactions and DTP transactions, while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP-1 Depot during the period January, 2025 to 17.03.2025, which constitutes serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (ix) (a) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg. 1963"

You are hereby advised to submit the explanation to the above charges within seven(7) days from the date of receipt of this Charge Sheet as to *why further action should not be taken against you. If you fail to submit the explanation within the stipulated period, it will be assumed that you have no explanation to offer and further action will be taken against you basing on the available evidences on record.*

iii) <u>In W.A.No.1250 of 2025:</u>

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

No.P1/498(1)/2025-RR *O/o the Regional Manager/RR MGBS, HYD. Date: 08.07.2025*

CHARGE SHEET

To
Sri P.Srinivas, *(Through DM.MYP-1)*
E.271294, ADC
MIYAPUR-1 DEPOT

Sub: *MISAPPROPRIATION - Misappropriation of receivable cash proceeds of Fuel Outlet at Miyapur-1 Depot by you while working as Shift In charge at Fuel Outlet, Miyapur-1 Depot by inflating HP transactions and by not submitting relevant documents for HP pay transactions - Charge Sheet – Issued - Reg.*

Ref: *1. Accounts Officer, RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt.17.06.2025.*
2. DM/PKT interim report dated. 28.06.2025.
3. DM/PKT preliminary enquiry report dt.03.07.2025

ALLEGATION:

Vide reference 1 cited, Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May,2025.

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry in to the matter. As per the preliminary report, the Cash proceeds generated through the sale of fuel to an extent of around Rs. 30 lakhs has been misappropriated during the period December, 2024 to May, 2025 and to conceal that, the HP transactions and DTP transactions have been inflated.

You have discharged your duty as Shift Incharge at the Fuel Outlet during the relevant period, and as per the preliminary enquiry report, total Cash proceeds amounting to approximately Rs.14,23,423.70 lakhs was misappropriated on the days when you discharged your duties as Shift Incharge and you have remitted lesser cash. To conceal that you

have inflated the HP Pay transactions and DTP transactions which are linked to HPCL Portal, to an extent of Rs.14,23,423.70 lakhs.

Based on the above allegations, the following charges are framed against you.

CHARGE No.1:

"For having misappropriated receivable Cash proceeds to a tune off Rs. Rs.14,23,423.70 lakhs by inflating HP transactions and DTP transactions while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP--Depot during the period December 2024 to May, 2025, which constitute serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (x) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg.1963"

CHARGE No.2:

"For having not submitted the relevant documents/proofs for HP transactions and DTP transactions, while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP-1 Depot during the period December 2024 to May 2025, which constitutes serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (ix) (a) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg. 1963"

You are hereby advised to submit the explanation to the above charges within seven(7) days from the date of receipt of this Charge Sheet as to why further action should not be taken against you. If you fail to submit the explanation within the stipulated period, it will be assumed that you have no explanation to offer and further action will be taken against you basing on the available evidences on record.

iv) <u>In W.A.No.1261 of 2025:</u>

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

No.P1/498(1)/2025-RR *O/o the Regional Manager/RR MGBS, HYD. Date: 08.07.2025*

CHARGE SHEET

To
Sri G.D.Reddy, *(Through DM.MYP-1)*
E.270774, ADC
MIYAPUR-1 DEPOT

Sub: *MISAPPROPRIATION - Misappropriation of receivable cash proceeds of Fuel Outlet at Miyapur-1 Depot by you while working as Shift In charge at Fuel Outlet, Miyapur-1 Depot by inflating HP transactions and by not submitting relevant documents for HP pay transactions - Charge Sheet – Issued - Reg.*

Ref: *1.Accounts Officer,RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt.17.06.2025.*
2. DM/PKT interim report dated. 28.06.2025.
3. DM/PKT preliminary enquiry report dt.03.07.2025

ALLEGATION:

Vide reference 1 cited, Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May,2025.

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry in to the matter. As per the preliminary report, the Cash proceeds generated through the sale of fuel to an extent of around Rs. 30 lakhs has been misappropriated during the period December, 2024 to May, 2025 and to conceal that, the HP transactions and DTP transactions have been inflated.

You have discharged your duty as Shift Incharge at the Fuel Outlet during the relevant period, and as per the preliminary enquiry report, total Cash proceeds amounting to approximately Rs.12,62,208.29 lakhs was misappropriated on the days when you discharged your duties as Shift Incharge and you have remitted lesser cash. To conceal that you have inflated the HP Pay transactions and DTP transactions which are linked to HPCL Portal, to an extent of Rs.12,62,208.29 lakhs.

Based on the above allegations, the following charges are framed against you.

CHARGE No.1:

"For having misappropriated receivable Cash proceeds to a tune off Rs. Rs.12,62,208.29 lakhs by inflating HP transactions and DTP transactions while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP--Depot during the period December 2024 to May, 2025, which constitute serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (x) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg.1963"

CHARGE No.2:

"For having not submitted the relevant documents/proofs for HP transactions and DTP transactions, while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP-1 Depot during the period December 2024 to May 2025, which constitutes serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (ix) (a) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg. 1963"

You are hereby advised to submit the explanation to the above charges within seven(7) days from the date of receipt of this Charge Sheet as to *why further action should not be taken against you. If you fail to submit the explanation within the stipulated period, it will be assumed that you have no explanation to offer and further action will be taken against you basing on the available evidences on record.*

v) <u>In W.A.No.1264 of 2025:</u>

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

No.P1/498(1)/2025-RR

O/o the Regional Manager/RR
MGBS, HYD. Date: 08.07.2025

CHARGE SHEET

To
Sri R.Kishore Babu,
E.210977, ADC
MIYAPUR-1 DEPOT

(Through DM.MYP-1)

Sub: *MISAPPROPRIATION - Misappropriation of receivable cash proceeds of Fuel Outlet at Miyapur-1 Depot by you while working as Shift In charge at Fuel Outlet, Miyapur-1 Depot by inflating HP transactions and by not submitting relevant documents for HP pay transactions - Charge Sheet – Issued - Reg.*

Ref:
1. Accounts Officer, RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt.17.06.2025.
2. DM/PKT interim report dated. 28.06.2025.
3. DM/PKT preliminary enquiry report dt.03.07.2025

ALLEGATION:

Vide reference 1 cited, Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May,2025.

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry in to the matter. As per the preliminary report, the Cash proceeds generated through the sale of fuel to an extent of around Rs. 30 lakhs has been misappropriated during the period December, 2024 to May, 2025 and to conceal that, the HP transactions and DTP transactions have been inflated.

You have discharged your duty as Shift Incharge at the Fuel Outlet during the relevant period, and as per the preliminary enquiry report, total Cash proceeds amounting to approximately Rs.1,03,152.55 lakhs was misappropriated on the days when you discharged your duties as Shift Incharge and you have remitted lesser cash. To conceal that you

have inflated the HP Pay transactions and DTP transactions which are linked to HPCL Portal, to an extent of Rs.1,03,152.55 lakhs.

Based on the above allegations, the following charges are framed against you.

CHARGE No.1:

"For having misappropriated receivable Cash proceeds to a tune off Rs. Rs.1,03,152.55 lakhs by inflating HP transactions and DTP transactions while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP--Depot during the period December 2024 to May, 2025, which constitute serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (x) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg.1963"

CHARGE No.2:

"For having not submitted the relevant documents/proofs for HP transactions and DTP transactions, while you were discharging your duties as Shift Incharge at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP-1 Depot during the period December 2024 to May 2025, which constitutes serious misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (ix) (a) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg. 1963"

You are hereby advised to submit the explanation to the above charges within seven(7) days from the date of receipt of this Charge Sheet as to why further action should not be taken against you. If you fail to submit the explanation within the stipulated period, it will be assumed that you have no explanation to offer and further action will be taken against you basing on the available evidences on record.

Suspension order dated 30.06.2025 issued to respondents in the subject Writ Appeals:

Sub:	*MISAPPROPRIATION – Financial loss to a tune of Rs.30,32,256.21 at HPCL Fuel Outlet at Miyapur-1 Depot-Suspension order Issued-Reg.*
Ref:	*1. Accounts Officer, RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt. 17.06.2025.* *2. DM/PKT interim report dtd. 28.06.2025.* *3. Regulation No. 18 & 20 of TGSRTC Employees (CC&A) of 1967.*

Vide reference 1 cited. Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May 2025.

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry and he has submitted an interim report vide reference 2nd cited. As per the Interim report, it is prima facie evident that while you were discharging duty as Shift in-charge at Fuel Outlet. Miyapur-1 Depot, receivable cash proceeds were misappropriated and to conceal that HP transactions were inflated. You have failed to submit relevant documents for HP pay transactions.

You are, therefore, placed under suspension with immediate effect, pending further investigation.

You need not attend the Depot/Office during the period of Suspension. Whenever your presence is required, you will be informed through a separate letter.

You will be paid admissible Subsistence allowance during the period of Suspension as par rules in force. You must report promptly, if any changes, in your present address to this office.

Charge Sheet dated 26.07.2025 issues to other officers in subject Writ Appeals:

i. Charge Sheet issued to one Sri G.Ravi Shanker:

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

No.P1/498(1)/2025-RR

O/o the Regional Manager/RR
MGBS, HYD. Date: 26.07.2025

CHARGE SHEET

To
Sri G.Ravi Shanker,
E.411613 AE(Mech),
MIYAPUR-1 DEPOT

(Through DM.MYP-1)

Sub: *DERILICTION OF DUTY – Financial loss to a tune of Rs.30,32,256.21 at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP-1 Depot due to failure to inform higher authorities about discrepancies came to notice – Charge sheet issued – Reg.*

Ref:
1.Accounts Officer, RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt.17.06.2025.
2. DM/PKT interim report dated. 28.06.2025.
3. DM/PKT preliminary enquiry report dt.03.07.2025
4. Cir.No.3/20250CTM©dt.17.02.2025.

ALLEGATION:

Vide reference, 1st cited, Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May, 2025.

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry in to the matter. As per the preliminary report, the Cash proceeds generated through the sale of fuel to an extent of around Rs.30 lakhs has been misappropriated during the period December, 2024 to May 2025 and to conceal that, the HP transactions and DTP transactions have been inflated by the Staff/ADCs working in HPCL Fuel outlet at MYP-1 Depot..

The DM, Picket in his report stated that you have the information on the wrong entries occurring in the HP Pay transactions. It is also stated that you have taken an assurance letter from the ADC K.Upender, E.203972, while relieving him to Uppal depot that the ADC shall be held responsible if they find any discrepancies in fuel outlet transactions.

From the evidences on record and as per the preliminary enquiry, it is observed that though wrong entries by ADCs in fuel transactions/HP pay transactions came to your notice on 10.03.2025, you have failed to inform the same to higher authorities, which resulted in huge financial loss approximately Rs.30 lakhs to the Corporation.

Based on the above allegations, the following charge is framed against you.

CHARGE No.

"For having failed to inform the discrepancies in entries by ADCs in HP Pay transactions at the Fuel Outlet operated by MYP-I depot to the Depot Manager, which resulted in huge financial loss, amounting to Rs 30 lakhs (approximately), to the Corporation during the period December, 2024 to May 2025, which constitutes misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (ix)(a) & (xxxii) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg. 1983"

You are hereby advised to submit the explanation expla to the above charge, within seven(7) days from the date of receipt of this Charge Sheet, as to why further action should not be taken against you. If you fail to submit the explanation within the stipulated period, it will be assumed that you have no explanation to offer and further action will be taken against you basing on the available evidences on record.

ii. Charge Sheet issued to one Sri S.Ramaiah:

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

No.P1/498(1)/2025-RR *O/o the Regional Manager/RR MGBS, HYD. Date: 26.07.2025*

CHARGE SHEET

To
Sri S.Ramaiah, *(Through RM/ADB Region)*
E.253626 Dy.RM(M)
MIYAPUR-1 DEPOT

Sub: *DERILICTION OF DUTY – Financial loss to a tune of Rs.30,32,256.21 at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP-1 Depot due to failure to ensure proper impiementation of SOP – Charge Sheet issued– Reg.*

Ref: *1.Accounts Officer, RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt.17.06.2025.*
2. DM/PKT interim report dated. 28.06.2025.
3. DM/PKT preliminary enquiry report dt.03.07.2025
4. Cir.No.3/20250CTM©dt.17.02.2025.

ALLEGATION:

Vide reference 1 cited, Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May, 2025.

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry in to the matter. As per the preliminary report, the Cash proceeds generated through the sale of fuel to an extent of around Rs.30 lakhs has been misappropriated during the period December, 2024 to May 2025 and to conceal that, the HP transactions and DTP transactions have been Inflated by the Staff/ADCs working in HPCL Fuel outlet at MYP-1 Depot,

Vide Circular 4th cited, the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) was communicated on the accountal of Cash/Digital payments at the FUEL OUTLETS operated by TGSRTC and DMs were advised to educate the concerned and ensure that they adhere with the instructions and Implemented scrupulously to avoid discrepancies.

You worked as DM, MYP-1 for the period from May 2022 to 24.03.2025.

From the evidences on record and as per preliminary enquiry, it is observed that during your tenure as DM, MYP-1 Depot, you have failed to ensure and enforce the

Based on the above allegations, the following charge is framed against you.

CHARGE No.1:

"For having failed to ensure and enforce adherence of Standard Operating Procedures(SOP) communicated by Corporate Office vide Circular No.3/25-CTM DT.17.02.2025 by the staff deployed at Fuel Outlet operated by MYP-I depot during your tenure from March 25 to May 25, resulted in huge financial loss, amounting to Rs.30 lakhs (approximately), to the Corporation during the period. December, 2024 to May 2025, which constitutes misconduct in terms of Reg 28 (ix)(a) & (xxxii) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg: 1963

You are hereby advised to submit the explanation to the above charge within seven(7) days from the date of receipt of this Charge Sheet, as to why further action should not be taken against you. If you fail to submit the explanation within the stipulated period, it will be assumed that you have no explanation to offer and further action will be taken against you basing on the available evidences on record.

iii. Charge Sheet issued to one Sri V.Mohan Rao:

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

No.P1/498(1)/2025-RR *O/o the Regional Manager/RR*
MGBS, HYD. Date: 26.07.2025

CHARGE SHEET

To
Sri V.Mohan Rao
E.307231, Depot Manager
MIYAPUR-1 DEPOT

Sub: *DERILICTION OF DUTY - Financial loss to a tune of Rs.30,32,256.21 at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP-1 Depot due to failure to ensure proper implementation of SOP – Charge Sheet issued– Reg.*

Ref: *1.Accounts Officer, RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt.17.06.2025.*
2. DM/PKT interim report dated. 28.06.2025.
3. DM/PKT preliminary enquiry report dt.03.07.2025
4. Cir.No.3/20250CTM©dt.17.02.2025.

ALLEGATION:

Vide reference ace 1st cited, Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities *led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May,2025.*

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry in to the matter. As per the preliminary report, the Cash proceeds generated through the sale of fuel to an extent of around Rs.30 lakhs has been misappropriated during the period December, 2024 to May,2025 and to conceal that, the HP transactions and DTP transactions have been inflated by the Staff/ADCs working in HPCL Fuel outlet at MYP-1 Depot.

Vide Circular 4th cited, the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) was communicated by the Corporate office on the accountal of Cash/Digital payments for the transactions at FUEL OUTLETS operated by TGSRTC and DMs were advised to educate the concerned Staff and ensure that they adhere with the instructions to avoid any discrepancies.

From the evidences on record and as per preliminary enquiry report, it is observed that you have failed to ensure and enforce the Standard Operating Procedure(SOP) at Fuel Outlet operated by MYP-I depot and failed to adhere to the instructions issued by the Corporate office vide Circular No.3/25-CTM © DT.17.02.2025, which resulted in huge financial loss approximately Rs.30 lakhs to the Corporation.

Based on the above allegations, the following charge is framed against you,

CHARGE No.1:

"For having failed to ensure and enforce the Standard Operating Procedure(SOP) at the Fuel Outlet operated by MYP-I depot and for having failed to adhere to the instructions issued by the Corporate office vide Circular No.3/25-CTM DT 17.02.2025 resulting in huge financial loss, amounting to Rs.30 lakhs (approximately), to the Corporation during the period December, 2024 to May 2025, which constitutes misconduct in terms of Reg 28 (ix)(a) & (xxxii) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg 1963"

You are hereby advised to submit your explanation to the above charge within seven(7) days from the date of receipt of this Charge Sheet, as to why further action should not be taken against you. If you fail to submit your explanation within the stipulated period, it will be assumed that you have no explanation to offer and further action will be taken against you basing on the available evidences on record.

iv. <u>Charge Sheet issued to one Sri B.Sitarama Sastry:</u>

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

No.P1/498(1)/2025-RR — *O/o the Regional Manager/RR*
MGBS, HYD. Date: 26.07.2025

CHARGE SHEET

To
Sri B.Sitarama Sastry
E.203934, Sr.Asst.(F) (Through DM.MYP-1)
MIYAPUR-1 DEPOT

Sub: DERILICTION OF DUTY – Financial loss to a tune of Rs.30,32,256.21 at HPCL Fuel Outlet at MYP-1 Depot due to your gross negligence – Charge Sheet issued– Reg.

Ref: 1.Accounts Officer, RR Lr.No.AM(F)/377(1)/2025-AD dt.17.06.2025.
2. DM/PKT interim report dated. 28.06.2025.
3. DM/PKT preliminary enquiry report dt.03.07.2025

ALLEGATION:

Vide reference 1" cited, Accounts Officer, Rangareddy Region has reported that certain irregularities are noticed in the transactions at Fuel Outlet operated by Miyapur-1 Depot. As per the report, the irregularities led to financial loss to an extent of Rs.30,32,256.21 to the Corporation during the period January, 2025 to May, 2025.

The Depot Manager, Picket Depot has been nominated to conduct preliminary enquiry in to the matter. As per the preliminary report, the Cash proceeds generated through the sale of fuel to an extent of around Rs.30 lakhs has been misappropriated during the period December, 2024 to May, 2025 and to conceal that, the HP transactions and DTP transactions have been inflated by the Staff/ADCs working in HPCL Fuel outlet at MYP-1 Depot. It has been further reported that, you have failed to cross check and reconcile all HP Pay Transactions in OMCs portal and you have made payments for the fuel without reconciling, which has resulted in huge financial loss to the Corporation.

Based on the above allegations, the following charge is framed against you.

CHARGE No.1:

"For having failed to cross check and reconcile all the HP pay transactions in HPCL(OMC) portal daily and for making payments for the fuel without reconciling during the period December, 2024 to May,2025, resulting in huge financial loss approximately Rs. 30 lakhs to the Corporation, which is gross negligence on your part and constitutes misconduct in terms of Reg.28 (ix)(a) & (xxxii) of TGSRTC Employee's (Conduct) Reg. 1963"

You are hereby advised to submit the explanation to the above charges within seven(7) days from the date of receipt of this Charge Sheet as to why further action should not be taken against you If you fail to submit the explanation within the stipulated period, it will be assumed that you have no explanation to offer and further action will be taken against you basing on the available evidences on record.

29. The learned Single Judge failed to appreciate that the respondents are directly related to and in immediate proximity to the misconduct. In the present case, the factual matrix being unequivocal, the respondents as shift in-charges were the primary and direct custodian of the cash and digital transaction records at HPCL Fuel Outlet. The respondents were responsible for the physical act of receiving cash, reconciling nozzle readings with Drive Track Plus transactions/HP-Pay, and ensure correct remittance as mandated by Circular No.3 of 2025. The alleged act of misappropriation i.e., inflating digital transactions to cover up the siphoning of cash could not have occurred without direct involvement of the respondents. In contrast, the supervisory officers being situated in the hierarchy of control, their alleged dereliction is one of a failure to detect or prevent the misconduct at the ground level and their connection to the loss is indirect and contingent on the primary acts of the shift in-charges (respondents). Further, the respondents who are charged alleged misconduct of a grave nature and intentional acts stand on a completely different footing from those, whose fault lies in a remote failure of supervision. To hold otherwise, would be to obliterate the distinction between the perpetrator of the act and those who may have failed to prevent it. Thus, the appellant corporation was perfectly justified in viewing the respondents' role as being of

immediate proximity and serious nature warranting the immediate step of suspension.

30. This court is of the considered view that the scope of judicial review in suspension matters is limited, Interference is warranted in suspension matters only if the suspension order is *mala fide,* issued by an incompetent authority or is patently arbitrary or illegal. The learned Single Judge in the present case, erred by interfering with the administrative discretion of the appellant corporation on the ground of a misplaced comparison of the respondents' with other superior officers. The learned Single Judge, in our view, has transgressed the limits of judicial review.

31. The principle of selective suspension does not apply in the present case, where there is valid and intelligible differentia to treat the respondents' and other officers differently.

32. For the foregoing reasons, we are of the considered view that the learned Single Judge failed to recognize the substantive and legal distinction between the charge of misappropriation and a charge of dereliction of duties and also the significance of the respondents' proximate role in the alleged misconduct. The impugned common order, therefore suffers from a manifest error of law and cannot be sustained.

33. Consequently, the Writ Appeals are allowed. The common order dated 25.09.2025 passed by the learned Single Judge in W.P.Nos.25766, 25767, 25851, 25897 and 25901 of 2025 is hereby set aside. As a result, the suspension orders dated 30.06.2025 against the respondents stand restored. It is made clear that this order shall not prejudice the rights of the respondents in the pending departmental proceedings, which shall be concluded as expeditiously as possible, in accordance with law. There shall be no order as to costs.

Miscellaneous applications pending, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/-I.NAGALAKSHMI
JOINT REGISTRAR

//TRUE COPY//

SECTION OFFICER

To

1. The Managing Director, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, Bus Bhavan, Musheerabad, Hyderabad.
2. The Regional Manager, TGSRTC, Ranga Reddy Region, MGBS, Hyderabad.
3. The Depot Manager, TGSRTC, MYP-I Depot, Miyapur, Hyderabad.
4. The Depot Manager, TGSRTC, Uppal Depot, Uppal, Hyderabad.
5. One CC to SRI R.ANURAG, SC FOR TSRTC [OPUC]
6. One CC to SRI V.NARASIMHA GOUD, Advocate [OPUC]
7. Two CD Copies

PSK.
LS PA

HIGH COURT

DATED:28/11/2025

COMMON JUDGMENT

WA.Nos.1224, 1243, 1250, 1261 AND 1264 of 2025

ALLOWING THE WRIT APPEALS
WITHOUT COSTS

9 PA
8/12/25