

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE NOOTY RAMAMOHANA RAO

WRIT PETITION No. 8794 OF 2015

ORDER:

The petitioner herein, who was working as a Field Assistant with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, challenges the validity of the orders passed by the Project Director, Kurnool on 20.02.2015 placing him under suspension pending inquiry.

The Project Director, Kurnool had reason to believe that the petitioner has indulged in gross irregularities, such as booking binami payments, creating bogus job cards, misappropriation of huge amounts of public funds, etcetera. Hence, he passed the impugned order placing the petitioner under suspension pending inquiry into such gross allegations.

Heard learned counsel for the petitioner Sri K. Rathanga Pani Reddy, Sri M.S.R. Chandra Murthy, learned Standing Counsel for Respondents 2 and 3 and learned Assistant Government Pleader for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development (Andhra Pradesh) on behalf of the 1st respondent.

When grave and serious allegations are thrown against a Field Assistant, touching upon his integrity, it is only appropriate that such a person should be kept away from any possibility of repeating similar mistake. Suspension is only a step-in-aid for conducting the necessary inquiry. I am therefore, not in a position to hold that placing the petitioner under suspension pending inquiry is, in any manner, vitiated. However, it should be noted that as soon as an employee is placed under suspension, every effort must be made to conduct a detailed inquiry by affording a fair and reasonable opportunity to such an individual to participate effectively demonstrating his defence there against and appropriate final orders should be passed. Let this exercise be completed within a maximum period of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

With this, the Writ Petition stands disposed of. No costs.

Consequently, the miscellaneous applications, if any shall also stand disposed of.

NOOTY RAMAMOHANA RAO, J

31st March 2015

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