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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 06.07.2015

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THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE S.TAMILVANAN
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.T.SELVAM

H.C.P.No.30/2015

R.Deepan

...Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Secretary to the Government,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Fort St George,
Chennai-9.

2. The Commissioner of Police
Greater Chennai,
Vepery,
Chennai 600007.

...Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the records in detention order passed in Memo No.2112/BCDFGISSV/2014 dated 08.12.2014 on the file of the 2nd respondent herein and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu i.e, the body of R.Deepan, son of Thiru Ravi, Male, aged about 26 years, the detenu herein now confined in Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai, vide detention order No.2112/BCDFGISSV/2014 dated 08.12.2014 before this Court and set him at liberty.

For petitioner : Mr.V.Purushothaman

For respondents : Mr.M.Maharaja
Additional Public Prosecutor



O R D E R

[Order of the Court was made by S.TAMILVANAN, J.]

Challenge is made to the order of detention passed by the second respondent vide Proceedings in Memo No.2112/BCDFGISSV/2014 dated 08.12.2014, whereby the detenu/the petitioner herein, by name Deepan, aged 26 years, son of Ravi, was ordered to be detained under the provisions of Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Slum-grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982) branding him as a "GOONDA".

2.Though many grounds have been raised in the petition, Mr.V.Purushothaman, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, confines his argument only in respect of non-application of mind on the part of the detaining authority in passing the order of detention.

3.Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that the detenu has been formally arrested and remanded to judicial custody in the adverse case in Cr.No2261/2014 registered by the E1 Mylapore Police Station, but the said factum of the remand of the detenu in the adverse case in Cr.No.2747/2014 has not been reflected in the grounds of detention, more particularly in paragraph 4 of the Detention order. This is indicative of the non-application of mind on the part of the Detaining Authority and hence, submitted that the detention order is vitiated and the same is liable to be quashed.

4.Per contra, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the order of detention has been passed on cogent and sufficient materials and the same cannot be interfered with at the instance of the petitioner. Therefore, he submits that the Habeas Corpus Petition does not merit any consideration and the same is liable to be dismissed.

5.We have heard the learned counsel for both sides with regard to the facts.

6.As could be evidenced from the Grounds of Detention furnished before us, in particular, page No.4, it has been stated that

"During the course of investigation, the Inspector of Police, Law and Order, E1 Mylapore Police Station arrested Thiru Deepan on 18.11.2014 at 11.00 hours at Sathiyavanimuthu Nagar Colony in E1 Mylapore Police Station Cr.No.2747/2014 u/s.302 IPC and produced him



before the 18th Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Saidapet, Chennai as remand prisoner and lodged him at Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai....."

But the above factum of remand of the detenu in the adverse case No.2, viz., in Cr.No.2747/2014, has not been reflected in paragraph 4 of the Grounds of Detention and only a reference has been made in respect of the ground case where the bail application filed by the detenu was pending as on the date of the passing of the detention order before the court concerned. When nothing has been stated about the remand of the detenu in the said adverse case No.2, it is not known whether the detenu has filed any bail application in the said adverse case or not. If that be so, there is no imminent possibility of the detenu coming out on bail in the said adverse case. Hence, the Detaining Authority has passed the Detention order in total non-application of mind which would vitiate the detention order.

7.It is a trite law that personal liberty protected under Article 21 is so sacrosanct and so high in the scale of Constitutional values that it is the obligation of the detaining authority to show that the impugned detention meticulously accords with the procedure established by law. Preventive detention is preventive and not punitive. When ordinary law of the land is sufficient to deal with, taking recourse to the preventive detention law is illegal.

8.In the light of the above facts and law, we have no hesitation in quashing the order of detention on the above mentioned grounds.

9.Accordingly, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the impugned detention order passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu is directed to be released forthwith unless his presence is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CS-IV)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

1. The Secretary to the Government,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Fort St George, Chennai-9.
2. The Commissioner of Police
Greater Chennai, Vepery, Chennai 600007.
3. The Superintendent of Central Prison
Puzhal, Chennai.
4. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order)
Fort St. George, Chennai - 9.
5. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

1 CC to Mr.V.Purushothaman, Advocate SR.No. 33379

H.C.P.No.30/2015

PPA (CO)
PSI (10.08.2015)