

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 23.06.2015

CORAM

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

H.C.P.No.694 of 2015

Rani

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Petitioner

Vs

1.The State of Tamil Nadu rep. By its
Secretary, Home Department
(Prohibition and Excise)
Fort St. George, Chennai - 9.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Chennai Police Commissioner
Office, Vepery, Chennai - 7.

...

Respondents

Habeas Corpus Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the records pertaining to impugned order of detention passed by the second respondent in No.1858/2014 dated 16.11.2014 against her husband Settu @ Prabhu, aged about 27 years, S/o.Manickam under 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 (Act 14 of 1982), now confined in Central Prison, Puzhal and quash the same as illegal, arbitrary, abuse of power, non-application of mind and set the detenu at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Chakkaravarthy

For Respondents : Mr.M.Maharaja
Addl. 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 No.1858/2014, dated 16.11.2014, whereby the detenu/husband of the petitioner herein, by name, Settu @ Prabhu, aged about 27 years, was ordered to be detained under the provisions

of the 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. R. Chakkaravarthy, learned counsel for the petitioner has assailed the impugned detention order only on the ground of non-supply of copy of the bail application in the similar case, referred to in the grounds of detention, for arriving at the subjective satisfaction that there is likelihood of the detenu coming out on bail, which has affected the constitutional right of making an effective and purposeful representation to the authorities concerned, thereby vitiating the detention.

3. Per contra, Mr. M. Maharaja, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the impugned detention order has been passed on cogent and sufficient materials and there is no illegality or infirmity in the impugned order of detention. However, he submitted that the copy of bail application in the similar case, referred to in the grounds of detention was not supplied to the detenu.

4. We have given our careful and anxious consideration to the rival submissions put forward by the learned counsel on either side and thoroughly scanned through the impugned detention order and the entire materials available on record.

5. It is seen from paragraph No. 4 of the Grounds of Detention that in similar case, the accused was granted bail by this Court in CrI.O.P.No.13843/2009 in respect of Crime No.301/2009 for the offences registered under Sections 147, 148, 341 and 302 IPC on the file of R7 K.K.Nagar Police Station. On a perusal of the Paper Book furnished by the Prosecution, it is seen that it does not contain any of the document, viz., the bail application, in respect of the similar case. The said bail application filed in similar case was the document relied upon by the Detaining Authority to come to a subjective satisfaction that the detenu was likely to be released on bail. Admittedly, such document has not been supplied to the detenu, as it did not form part of the Paper Book furnished by the Prosecution. Therefore, the non-supply of the copy of the bail application and other documents in similar case to the detenu would vitiate the impugned detention order. Any bail applications moved by the detenu in the ground case or in the adverse case, necessarily would have to be considered by the Court concerned solely on merits.

6. The Honourable Supreme Court in M. Ahammed Kutty Vs. Union of India and another (1990-2-SCC-1) has observed thus:-

"7. Considering the facts in the instant case, the

bail applications and the bail order were vital materials for consideration. If those were not considered the satisfaction of the detaining authority itself would have been impaired and if those had been considered, they would be documents relied on by the detaining authority though not specifically mentioned in the annexure to the order of detention and those ought to have formed part of the documents supplied to the detenu with the grounds of detention and without them the grounds themselves could not be said to have been complete. We have, therefore, no alternative but to hold that it amounted to denial of the detenu's right to make an effective representation and that it resulted in violation of Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India rendering the continued detention of the detenu illegal and entitling the detenu to be set at liberty in this case." (Emphasis added)."

7. This Court in *Jarinabegam Vs. State of Tamil Nadu* by Secretary to Government, Prohibition and Exercise Department, Chennai and another (2007-1-MLJ-Crl-18) relying upon the decision of the Honourable Supreme Court cited *supra* has held that non-supply of the copy of the bail application in similar case to the detenu has the effect of vitiating the order of detention.

8. As already analysed by us, in the facts and circumstances of the present case, non-supply of the document, viz., bail application, in similar case to the detenu has the effect of vitiating the impugned detention order. Further, due to non-supply of such a vital document, the detenu has lost valuable right to make an effective representation to the authorities concerned.

9. In the light of the above said principles laid down by the Honourable Supreme Court and for the reasons stated above, the impugned order of detention is vitiated and the same is liable to be quashed.

10. In the result, this Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The impugned detention order 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

True Copy

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
Home Department
(Prohibition and Excise)
Fort St. George, Chennai - 9.
- 2.The Commissioner of Police,
Chennai Police Commissioner
Office, Vepery, Chennai - 7.
3. The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Puzhal,
Chennai.
- 4.The Joint Secretary to Government
Public (Law & Order)
Fort St.George,Chennai-9
- 5.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Chennai.

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