

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 10.3.2015

Coram:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.JAICHANDREN
and
THE HON'BLE MS.JUSTICE K.B.K.VASUKI

H.C.P.No.2631 of 2014

Ramakrishnan

.. petitioner

vs.

1. The Secretary to the Government
Home Prohibition and Excise Dept.,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009
2. The Commissioner of Police
Chennai City

.. Respondents

Prayer: This Habeas Corpus Petition has been filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for the issuance of a writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the records in connection with the order of detention passed by the second respondent dated 9.9.2014 in Memo No.11951/2014 against the petitioner son Alagu @ Alagumurugan, male aged 23 years s/o.Ramakrishnan, who is confined at Central Prison, Puzhal II, Chennai and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu before this Court and set him at liberty.

For petitioner : Mr.S.Senthilvel

For Respondents: Mr.C.Emalias

Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

This Habeas Corpus Petition is filed by the father of the detenu, namely, Alagu @ Alagumurugan, aged 23 years, son of Ramakrishnan, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the records in Memo No.11951/2014, dated 9.9.2014, passed by the second respondent detaining the detenu, under Section 3(1) 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), read with orders issued by the Government in G.O.(D) No.143, Home, Prohibition and Excise (XVI) Department, dated 18.7.2014, under Sub Section (2) of Section 3 of the said Act, branding him as a "Goonda", in the Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai, and to quash the same and to direct the respondents to produce the body of the detenu and set him at liberty forthwith.

2. Though several grounds have been raised in this Habeas Corpus Petition, the learned counsel for the petitioner has assailed the impugned detention order only on the ground of non-supply of copies of the bail applications as well as the bail order filed in similar cases, 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, 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 copies of the bail applications as well as the bail order were 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 4 of the Grounds of Detention that in a similar case registered at R-7 K.K. Nagar Police Station in Crime No.301 of 2009, under Sections 147, 148, 341 and 302 IPC, bail was granted by this Court in Crl.O.P.No.13843 of 2009 and also in a similar case registered at V-5 Thirumangalam Police Station in Crime No.1640 of 2011, under Sections 294(b), 341, 336, 307, 397 and 506(ii) IPC bail was granted by the Principal Sessions Court, Chennai, in Crl.M.P.No.10992 of 2011. On a perusal of the Paper Book furnished by the Prosecution, it is seen that it does not contain the copies of the said bail applications as well as the bail order filed in similar cases. The said bail applications as well as the bail order filed in similar cases were documents relied upon by the Detaining Authority to come to a subjective satisfaction that the detenu was likely to be released on bail. Admittedly, such documents have not been supplied to the detenu, as it did not form part of the Paper Book furnished by the Prosecution. Therefore, non-supply of the copies of the bail applications as well as the bail order in similar cases to the detenu would vitiate the impugned detention order.

6. The Honourable Supreme Court in M.AHAMED KUTTY Vs. UNION OF INDIA AND ANOTHER (1990-2-SCC-1) has observed thus:-

"7. Considering the facts in the instant case, the bail application 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 EXCISE 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 copies of the bail applications 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 copies of the bail applications as well as the bail order filed in similar cases to the detenu has the effect of vitiating the impugned detention order. Further, due to non-supply of such vital documents, 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 is set aside. The detenu is directed to be released forthwith, unless his presence is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-
Asst.Registrar (AD I)

/true copy/

Sub Asst. Registrar

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To:

1. The Secretary to the Government
Home Prohibition and Excise Dept.,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009
2. The Commissioner of Police
Chennai City
3. The Superintendent
Central Prison II, Puzhal,
Chennai 66
4. The Joint Secretary to Government
Public (Law and order) Fort Saint George,
Chennai 9
5. The Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras

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H.C.P.No.2631 of 2014

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