

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED 27.04.2015

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE S.TAMILVANAN
AND

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE B.RAJENDRAN

H.C.P.No.3505/2014

Kattaikal Raja @ Rajan .. Petitioner

Vs

1.The Secretary, State of Tamil Nadu
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Fort St George, Chennai 600 009.

2.The District Magistrate &
District Collector
Salem District, Salem.
Respondents ..

Prayer:- This Habeas Corpus Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas corpus calling for the records in CMP.No.21/D.O.C2/2014 dated 11.11.2014 on the file of the 2nd respondent herein and quash the same as illegal and direct the respondents to produce the detenue Rukumani, wife of Kattaikal Raja @ Rajan, aged about 48 years, now confined at Special Prison for Women Wing, Vellore Central Prison, Vellore, before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Sankarasubbu
For Respondents : Mr.M.Maharaja, APP

ORDER

Challenge is made to the order of detention passed by the second respondent vide Proceedings in CMP.No.21/D.O.C2/2014 dated 11.11.2014, whereby the detenue/the wife of the petitioner herein, by name, Rukumani, aged 48 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 "Drug Offender".

2.Though many grounds have been raised in the petition, Mr.R.Sankarasubbu, the 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 similar case, referred to in the grounds of detention, for arriving at the subjective satisfaction that there is likelihood of the detenue 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 the bail application in similar case, referred to in the grounds of detention was not supplied to the detainee.

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 Vasantha was released on bail by the learned Special Judge, EC Act Cases, Salem, in CrI.MP.No.371/2012 in respect of the case in Cr.No.857/2012 for the offence u/s.80[c] r/w 20[b][ii][B] NDPS Act, 1985, on the file of Pallapatty Police Station. On a perusal of the Paper Book furnished by the Prosecution, it is seen that it does not contain the copy of the said bail application in similar case. The said bail application filed in similar case were the documents relied upon by the Detaining Authority to come to a subjective satisfaction that the detainee was likely to be released on bail. Admittedly, such documents have not been supplied to the detainee, as it did not form part of the Paper Book furnished by the Prosecution. Therefore, non supply of the copy of the bail application in similar case to the detainee 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 detainee 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 detainee'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 detainee illegal and entitling the detainee 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 detainee has the effect of vitiating the order or detention.

8.As already analysed by us, in the facts and circumstances of the present case, non-supply of the copy of the bail application in similar case, to the detainee has the effect of vitiating the impugned detention order. Further, due to non-supply of such a vital document, the detainee 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 detainee is directed to be released forthwith, unless her presence is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

AP

To

- 1.The Secretary, State of Tamil Nadu
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Fort St George, Chennai 600 009.
- 2.The District Magistrate & District Collector
Salem District, Salem.
3. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public(Law & order) Fort St. George Chennai-9
4. The Superintendent, Special Prison for Women, Vellore.
- 5.The Public Prosecutor, High Court, Madras.

HCP.No.3505/2014

KU(CO)

Eu 22.05.15