

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED 06.07.2015

CORAM:

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

H.C.P.No.3814/2014

Sekar

... Petitioner

Vs

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

2. The Commissioner of Police
Salem City, Salem

... Respondents

Prayer:- This Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas corpus directing the respondents to produce the petitioner's mother by name Tmt.Indirani, wife of Srirangan, aged 55 years, before this Court, now confined in Special Sub Jail for Women, Salem, set her at liberty and to call for the records pertaining to the order of detention passed in CMP No.67/D.O/Salem City/2014 dated 09.12.2014 passed by the 2nd respondent and set aside the same.

For Petitioner : Mr.T.Muruganantham

For Respondents : Mr.M.Maharaja,
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[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 CMP No.67/D.O/Salem City/2014 dated 09.12.2014, whereby the detinue/the mother of the petitioner herein, by name, Tmt.Indirani, wife of Srirangan, aged 55 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 her as a "Drug Offender".

2. Though many grounds have been raised in the petition, Mr. T. Muruganantham, 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 and the bail order in 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 the bail application in 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. 5 of the Grounds of Detention that in similar case, the accused was released on bail by the learned Special Judge, EC Act Cases, Salem, in CrI.M.P.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 and bail order in similar case. The said bail application and the bail order filed in similar case were the 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 copy of the bail application and bail order in similar case to the detenu would vitiate the impugned detention order.

6. The Honorable 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 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 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 copy of the bail application and the bail order in similar case, 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 order is set aside. The detenu is directed to be released forthwith, unless her presence is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CO)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

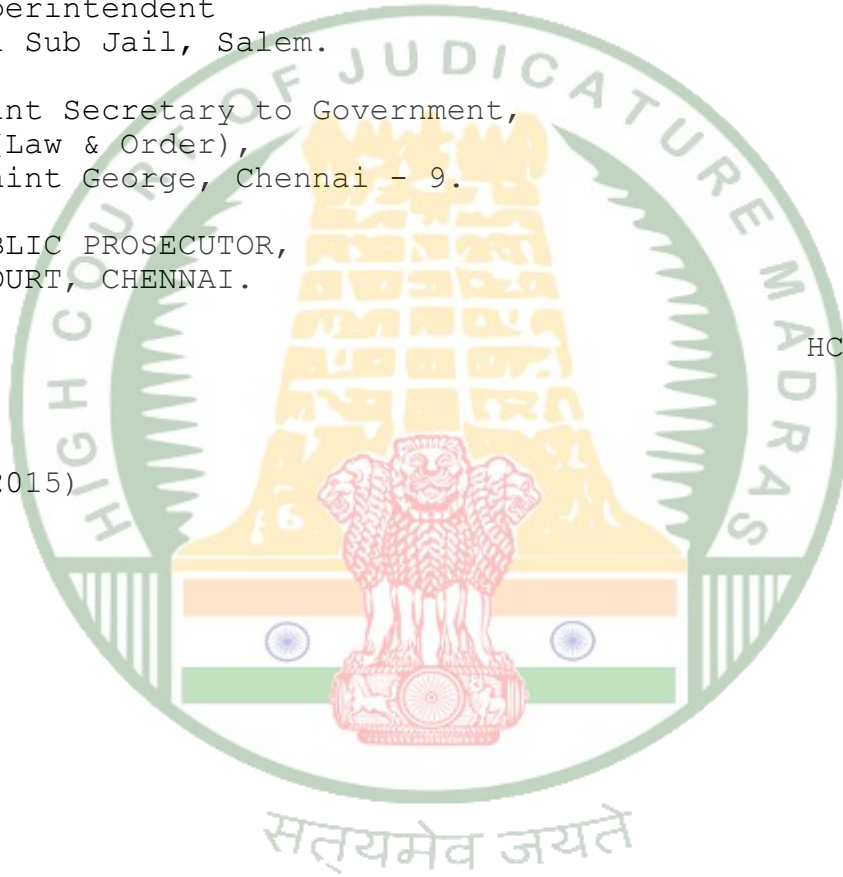
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To

1. The Secretary to Government,
State of Tamil Nadu
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Fort St George, Chennai 600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police
Salem City, Salem.
3. The Superintendent
Special Sub Jail, Salem.
4. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public(Law & Order),
Fort Saint George, Chennai - 9.
5. THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
HIGH COURT, CHENNAI.

HCP.No.3814/2014

PPA(CO)
CA(04/08/2015)



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