

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED 05.02.2016

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE S.TAMILVANAN
AND

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE D.HARIPARANTHAMAN

H.C.P.No.2528/2015

Lakshmi ... Petitioner/Daughter of the detenue

Vs

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

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Chennai Police,
Vepery, Chennai-600 007.

.. Respondents

Prayer:- This Habeas Corpus Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to call for the entire records relating to the detention of the petitioner's mother Vijaya, wife of Sundaram, F/A 45 years has been detained under Act 14 of 1982 as a "Bootlegger" vide detention order dated 19.09.2015 made in Memo No.987/BCDFGISSSV/2015 quash the same and consequently direct the respondents herein to produce the body and person of the said detenue before this Court and thereafter set him at liberty from the Central Prison, Puzhal at Chennai.

For Petitioner : Mr.T.V.Somasundaram

For Respondents : Mr.A.N.Thambidurai
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

(Order of the Court made by S.TAMILVANAN,J.)

Challenge is made to the order of detention passed by the second respondent vide Memo No.987/BCDFGISSSV/2015, dated 19.09.2015, whereby the detenue/petitioner's mother, by name, Vijaya, wife of Sundaram, aged 45 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 "Bootlegger".

2. Though many grounds have been raised in the petition, Mr. T.V. Somasundaram, 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 the similar case, referred to in the grounds of detention, for arriving at the subjective satisfaction that there is likelihood of the detainee 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 copy of the bail application in the 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 was released on bail by the Principal Sessions Judge, Chennai in CrI.MP.No.20210/2014 in respect of the case in Crime No.418/2014 for the offence under Sections 4(1)(a) r/w 4(1-A) of TNP Act on the file of Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Triplicane Unit. 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 and only the respective bail order was furnished to the detainee in page Nos.217 to 223 [in English version and in Vernacular version] in the Booklet placed before us. 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 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 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 or detention.

8.As already analysed by us, in the facts and circumstances of the present case, non-supply of the documents, 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 detenue 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

To

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

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Chennai Police,
Vepery, Chennai-600 007.

3. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Chennai.

4.The Superintendent of Special Prison for Women,
Puzhal, Chennai-66.

5.The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public(Law & Order),
Fort Saint George, Chennai - 9.

HCP.No.2528/2015

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