

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 23.05.2016

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE G.CHOCKALINGAM
and
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE M.V.MURALIDARAN

H.C.P.No.296 of 2016

Radhakrishnan

...Petitioner

Vs.

1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Department of Prohibition and Excise,
Fort St.George, Chennai 600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Cuddalore District, Cuddalore. ...Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records made in C3/DO/1/2016 dated 29.01.2016 on the file of the second respondent herein and quash the same as illegal and direct the respondents to produce the detenu Gowtham @ Gowthamraj, son of Perumal, now confined at Central Prison, Cuddalore, before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Sankarasubbu

For Respondents : Mr.M.Maharaja

Addl. Public Prosecutor

सतयमेव जयते
O R D E R

[Order of the Court was made by G.CHOCKALINGAM, J.]

Challenge is made to the order of detention passed by the second respondent vide Proceedings in C3/D.O/1/2016 dated 29.01.2016, whereby the detenu, namely Gowtham @ Gowthamraj, S/o.Perumal, aged about 24 years, was ordered to be detained under the provisions of Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Sexual Offenders, Slum-Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982) branding him as a "Bootlegger".

2. Though many grounds have been raised in the petition, Mr.R.Sankarasubbu, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, confines his argument only in respect of non-application of mind on the part of the detaining authority in passing the order of detention.

3. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that the detenu has been remanded to judicial custody in the ground case in Cr.No.43 of 2016 as well as in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd adverse cases in Cr.No.425/2015, Cr.No.612 of 2015 and Cr.No.723 of 2015 and though a mention has been made by the Detaining Authority in respect of the ground case in paragraph 6 of the Grounds of Detention, the factum of the remand of the detenu in 1st, 2nd and 3rd adverse cases in Cr.No.425/2015, Cr.No.612 of 2015 and Cr.No.723 of 2015 has not been reflected. This is indicative of the non-application of mind on the part of the Detaining Authority and hence, submitted that the detention order is vitiated and the same is liable to be quashed.

4. Per contra, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the order of detention has been passed on cogent and sufficient materials and the same cannot be interfered with at the instance of the petitioner. Therefore, he submits that the Habeas Corpus Petition does not merit any consideration and the same is liable to be dismissed.

5. We have heard the learned counsel for both sides with regard to the facts and citation.

6. As could be evidenced from the Grounds of Detention, the detenu was arrested in the ground case in Cr.No.43 of 2016 as well as in 1st, 2nd and 3rd adverse cases in Cr.No.425/2015, Cr.No.612 of 2015 and Cr.No.723 of 2015, but the factum of remand of the detenu in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd adverse cases has not been reflected in paragraph 6 of the Grounds of Detention. When nothing has been stated about the remand of the detenu in the said adverse case, it is not known whether the detenu has filed any bail application in the said adverse case or not. If that be so, there is no imminent possibility of the detenu coming out on bail in the said adverse cases. Hence, the Detaining Authority has passed the Detention order in total non-application of mind which would vitiate the detention order.

7. It is trite law that personal liberty protected under Article 21 is so sacrosanct and so high in the scale of Constitutional values that it is the obligation of the detaining authority to show that the impugned detention meticulously accords with the procedure established by law. Preventive detention is preventive and not punitive. When ordinary law of the land is sufficient to deal with, taking recourse to the preventive detention law is illegal.

8. In the light of the above facts and law, we have no hesitation in quashing the order of detention on the above mentioned ground.

9. Accordingly, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the impugned detention order passed by the second respondent 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(J)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

- 1.The Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Prohibition and Excise,
Fort St.George, Chennai 600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Cuddalore District, Cuddalore.
- 3.The Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras.
- 4.The Superintendent
Central Prison, Cuddalore.
- 5.The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order),
Fort St.George, Chennai-9.

+1cc to Mr.R.Sankarasubbu, Advocate Sr.28708

H.C.P.No.296 of 2016

kgk(CO)
srg(30/05/2016)