

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 18.12.2020

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE M.M.SUNDRESH
AND
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE D.KRISHNAKUMAR

H.C.P.NO.1175 OF 2020

S.Gomathi

... Petitioner

Vs

1. The Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Home, Prohibition and Excise Department, Fort St. George, Chennai -9.
2. The District Collector and District Magistrate, Cuddalore District, Cuddalore.
3. The Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore District, Cuddalore.
4. The Superintendent of Prison, Central Prison, Cuddalore.
5. Station House Officer, Devanampattinam Police Station, Cuddalore District.

... Respondents

Prayer:-

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of Writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the records in C3/D.O./79/2020 on the file of the second respondent, set aside the detention order dated 25.06.2020 and direct the second respondent to produce the detenu Selvamani son of Ramalingam, aged about 32 years, presently detained at the Central Prison, Cuddalore, under the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 as a GOONDA, before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.Balasubramaniam

For Respondents : Mr.R.Prathap Kumar,
Addl.Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by M.M.SUNDRESH, J.]

The petitioner is the wife of Selvamani, son of Ramalingam, aged about 32 years, who is the detenu. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in C3/D.O./79/2020 dated 25.06.2020, holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under Section 2(f) of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982. The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.

2. We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

3. Amidst several grounds raised by the learned counsel for the petitioner to attack the impugned order of detention, he has mainly focused his argument on the ground that the detaining authority failed to ask clarification from the sponsoring authority about non serving of arrest memo to the family members, relatives or friends of the detenu and there is no proof to show that the intimation of arrest was given, which clearly shows non-application of mind on the part of detaining authority.

4. A close reading of the booklet shows that though there is a mention about the adverse cases and ground case in the impugned order of detention, particularly Page No.147 of the booklet, there is no proof to show that the arrest of detenu has been intimated to the family members, relatives or friends as mandated by the Constitution. It is also to be remembered that in order to meet fairness, justness and reasonableness, after a person is taken into custody in pursuance of an order of detention, the members of his household, preferably the parent, the child or the spouse, must be informed in writing of the passing of the order of detention and of the fact that the detenu has been taken into custody, by duly intimating as to the place of detention, including the place where the detenu is transferred from time to time, which would ensure the right of the person arrested under preventive detention. If such intimation of arrest has not been made effectively, then, it would confer a right upon the arrestee to impugn the arrest effected on him.

5. In the case on hand, there is no proof to exhibit such intimation of arrest to the family members of the detenu. Thus, on account of the failure of the detaining authority in communicating the arrest of detenu to the family members, the

detention order would be vitiated on the ground of deprivation of right guaranteed under Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India. Thus, for the reasons stated herein-above, the impugned detention order cannot be sustained.

6. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in C3/D.O./79/2020 dated 25.06.2020, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Selvamani, son of Ramalingam, aged about 32 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CCC)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

mmi/ssm

To

1. The Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Home, Prohibition and Excise Department, Fort St. George, Chennai -9.
2. The District Collector and District Magistrate, Cuddalore District, Cuddalore.
3. The Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore District, Cuddalore.
4. The Superintendent of Prison, Central Prison, Cuddalore.
5. The Station House Officer, Devanampattinam Police Station, Cuddalore District.
6. The Public Prosecutor, High Court, Madras.

H.C.P.No.1175 of 2020

SR II(CO)
CS/19/01/2021