

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Dated : 22.07.2020

CORAM :

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. D. JAGADISH CHANDIRA

CrI.O.P.No.10874 of 2020

G. Santhosh Kumar

... Petitioner

Vs.

The State Represented by,
The Inspector of Police
Civil Supplies CID, Patravakkam,
Chennai - 600 053.
(Crime No.137 of 2020)

.... Respondent

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 438 of Criminal Procedure Code to enlarge the petitioner on bail in the event of his arrest in Crime No.137 of 2020 on the file of respondent police.

For Petitioner : Mr. P. Paul Selvam

For Respondent : Mr. M. Mohamed Riyaz,
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

(The case has been heard through video conference)

The petitioner who apprehends arrest at the hands of the respondent Police for the offence punishable under Section 6(4) of Tamil Nadu Scheduled Commodities (RDCS) order 1982 read with 7(i), a(ii) of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in Crime No.137 of 2020, seeks anticipatory bail.

2. The case of the prosecution as per the defacto complainant is that the respondent police got information that the accused person had been transporting PDS rice through lorry following which, the vehicle was detained and checked and it was containing 14,000 Kgs of Barn rice and 2,000 Kgs of PDS rice without proper license. Hence, the complaint.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner is an innocent person and he is the owner of the lorry and he has been falsely implicated in this case. He would further submit that during lock down period, his lorry was used by his driver viz, Kalidas and that he has transported the PDS rice

without the knowledge of the petitioner. However on instruction, he would further submit that without prejudice to his defence, the petitioner is prepared to deposit considerable amount to any charitable Organization or Association. Hence, he prays to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the petitioner was illegally transporting 14,000 Kgs of Barn rice and 2,000 Kgs of PDS rice without obtaining proper license. Hence he vehemently opposed for the grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner.

5. In order to curb the illegal transportation of PDS Rice, this Court is of the opinion that the petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) as non refundable deposit to the "The Commissioner, Corporation, Salem, for the purpose of using it to "Amma Unavagam" without prejudice to his rights and contentions before the trial Court.

6. Merely, because the petitioner deposits the said amount, it would not amount to admission of his guilt. Therefore, it is open to the trial Court to deal with the case independently.

7. Taking note of the facts and circumstances, this Court is inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner with certain conditions:-

[a] The petitioner is directed to deposit a sum of Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) as non refundable deposit to the "The Commissioner of Corporation, Salem, for the purpose of using it to "Amma Unavagam" within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. Thereafter, the petitioner is directed to be released on bail in the event of his arrest or on his appearance and on production of proof of deposit of the above amount and on further condition that the petitioner shall execute a bond for a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Ten thousand only) with two sureties each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the police officer who intends to arrest, failing which the petition for anticipatory bail shall stands dismissed automatically and on further condition that the petitioner shall also give a letter of undertaking before the respondent/police that the said amount has been paid in respect of particular crime number.

[b] the petitioner and the sureties shall affix their photographs and Left Thumb Impression in the surety bond and the respondent/police may obtain a copy of their Aadhar card or Bank pass Book to ensure their identity.

[c] the petitioner shall report before the respondent police every Monday and Friday at 10.30 a.m., until further orders.

[d] the petitioner shall not tamper with evidence or witness either during investigation or trial.

[e] the petitioner shall not abscond either during investigation or trial.

[f] On breach of any of the aforesaid conditions, the learned Magistrate/Trial Court is entitled to take appropriate action against the petitioner in accordance with law as if the conditions have been imposed and the petitioner is released on bail by the learned Magistrate/Trial Court himself as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in P.K.Shaji vs. State of Kerala [(2005)AIR SCW 5560].

[g] If the accused thereafter absconds, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 229A IPC.

8. With the above directions, this Criminal Original Petition is ordered.

9. Post the matter for "reporting compliance" on 12.08.2020.

-sd/-
22/07/2020

This order, on being produced, be punctually observed and carried into execution by all concerned

TRUE COPY

Sub-Assistant Registrar (Statistics/C.S.)
High Court, Madras - 600 104.

TO

1 THE METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE
NO.VI, EGMORE, CHENNAI.

2 THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
HIGH COURT, MADRAS.

3 THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
CIVIL SUPPLIES CID, PATRAVAKKAM,
CHENNAI-600 053.

4 THE COMMISSIONER OF CORPORATION,
SALEM.

CC to M/S. P.PAUL SELVAM Advocate on payment of necessary charges

CRL OP.10874/2020

Date :22/07/2020