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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 03.08.2021

Coram

The Honourable Mr. Justice P.N.PRAKASH
and
The Honourable Ms. Justice R.N.MANJULA

H.C.P.No.70 of 2021

Chinnaponnu

...Petitioner

Vs.

State represented by

1.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai - 9.

2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Namakkal District, Namakkal.

3.The Superintendent of Police,
Namakkal District, Namakkal.

4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Salem.

5.The Inspector of Police,
Namakkal Police Station,
Namakkal.

...Respondents

Prayer : Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the records in C.M.P.No.17/Drug Offender/2020/M1 dated 23.10.2020 on the file of the second respondent and quash the detention as illegal and direct the respondents to produce the detenu Rajkumar, son of Daniel, aged about 34 years, now confined in Central Prison, Salem, before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Sengkodi

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj,
Govt.Advocate (Crl.Side)



ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by P.N.PRAKASH, J.]

The petitioner is the wife of the detenu Rajkumar, son of Daniel, aged about 34 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in C.M.P.No.17/Drug Offender/2020/M1 dated 23.10.2020, holding him to be a "Drug Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(e) 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 Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

3. Though many grounds have been raised in the petition, 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. According to the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, the sponsoring authority has stated in the Arrest Memo at page No.46 of the Booklet furnished to the detenu, that the arrest of the detenu has been intimated to the wife of the detenu. However, there is no material to substantiate the service of arrest intimation stated to have been made to the wife of the detenu. Therefore, it is stated that the detenu was deprived of making an effective representation in the absence of furnishing of full particulars by the detaining authority. Hence, it is stated that the Detaining Authority has passed the impugned detention order in total non-application of mind.

4. Per contra, the learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) would submit that the arrest of the detenu has been intimated to the wife of the detenu through SMS. He strongly opposed the habeas corpus petition by filing his counter.

5. However we find that there are no material particulars to substantiate the same. This Court has also taken the similar view in such cases that the detention order cannot be sustained.

6. As evidenced from the document in page No.46 of the Booklet furnished to us, a mere endorsement is made by the authorities to the effect that the arrest intimation has been informed to the wife of the detenu through SMS, but, no materials have been furnished to substantiate that the said intimation was sent through Thapal or Registered post or as per the procedure laid down. Therefore, non-furnishing of details given to the relatives of the detenu would amount to deprivation of the right of the detenu to make an effective representation and the same would vitiate the order of detention and the same cannot be sustained in the eye of law.



7. It is a 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. The impugned detention order is therefore liable to be quashed.

In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in C.M.P.No.17/Drug Offender/2020/M1 dated 23.10.2020, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Rajkumar, son of Daniel, aged about 34 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

nsd

To

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai - 9.
- 2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Namakkal District, Namakkal.
- 3.The Superintendent of Police,
Namakkal District, Namakkal.
- 4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Salem.
- 5.The Inspector of Police,
Namakkal Police Station,
Namakkal.
- 6.The Joint Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Public, Law and Order Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 9.



7.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

H.C.P.No.70 of 2021

SSV(CO)
RVM(05/08/2021)