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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 29.10.2021

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.N.PRAKASH
AND
THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE S.SRIMATHY

H.C.P.NO.1120 OF 2021

Patnala Vinod Kumar
S/o.Ramakrishna

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1. State represented by its
Home Secretary to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George,
Chennai - 600 009.
2. The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Thiruvallur District,
Master Plan Complex,
Thiruvallur - 602 001.
3. The Superintendent of Police,
Thiruvallur District,
Jaya Nagar,
Thiruvallur - 602 001.
4. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison - II,
Puzhal, Chennai - 600 066.
5. The Inspector of Police,
F-1, Gummidipundi Police Station,
Gummidipundi - 601 201.

.. Respondents



Habeas Corpus Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the records relating to the order of detention passed by the second respondent dated 26.02.2021 in BCDFGISSSV No.22/2021 against the detenu Majji Rathnaraj @ Rathnaraj s/o.Somaraj, aged about 40 years, who is confined at Cetnral Prison II, Puzhal and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Karthik

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by S.SRIMATHY, J]

The petitioner is the brother-in-law of the detenu viz., Majji Rathnaraj @ Rathnaraj s/o.Somaraj, aged about 40 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in BCDFGISSSV No.22/2021 dated 26.02.2021, holding him to be a "Drug Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(e) of the 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.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 page No.11 of the Booklet furnished to the detenu, that the arrest of the detenu has been intimated to the daughter of the detenu through SMS.



However, there is no material to substantiate the service of arrest intimation stated to have been made to the daughter of the detenu through SMS. 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 Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the arrest of the detenu has been intimated to the daughter of the detenu through SMS.

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.11 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 daughter 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 BCDGIISSV No.22/2021 dated 26.02.2021 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Majji Rathnaraj @ Rathnaraj s/o.Somaraj, aged about 40



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years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS-V)

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar

gm

To

1. The Home Secretary,
Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George,
Chennai - 600 009.
2. The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Thiruvallur District,
Master Plan Complex,
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3. The Superintendent of Police,
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5. The Inspector of Police,
F-1, Gummidipundi Police Station,
Gummidipundi - 601 201.
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.1120 of 2021

RLD(CO)

RLP(12/11/2021)