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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 17.02.2022

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA

W.P.NO.2810 OF 2022

Santhosh Kumar

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Superintendent of Police,
Cuddalore District,
Cuddalore.
2. The Deputy Superintendent of Police,
Chidambaram,
Cuddalore District.
3. The Inspector of Police,
Annamalai Nagar Police Station,
Chidambaram.

... Respondents

PRAYER : Writ Petition filed under Section 226 of Constitution of India, pleased to issue a Writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction in the nature of writ, directing the respondents 1 and 2 to consider the petitioner's representation dated 20.11.2021 and consequently, direct the respondents 1 and 2 to remove the name of the petitioner in the History Sheet list maintained by the third respondent.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.T.Raja

For Respondents : Mr.A.Gokulakrishnan
Additional Public Prosecutor.

O R D E R

The Writ Petition has been filed to direct R1 and R2 to consider the petitioner's representation dated 20.11.2021 and to remove the name of the petitioner in the History Sheet list maintained by R3.



2. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner is a graduate in B.E. and M.B.A. Due to some path way dispute between the local councilor and the petitioner, the third respondent police had falsely implicated the petitioner in Crime No.253 of 2008, for punishable offence under Sections 147, 341, 323, 294 (b), 506(i), 307 & 397 IPC r/w Section 147 IPC, during the year 2011, another cases were registered in Crime No.58 of 2011 for the alleged offence under Sections 294(b), 341,& 323 IPC and in Crime No.412 of 2011 for the alleged offence under Sections 341, 294 (b), 506 (2) IPC, to which the final reports have been filed in S.C.No.202 of 2009, S.T.C.No.147 of 2012 and C.C.No.262 of 2016 respectively. In order to harass the petitioner and to restrict his movements, at the instigation of the superior officers in the Police Department, History Sheeted Rowdy Book was opened in HS.No.401 of 2012 at the third respondent police station without considering the earlier acquittal orders made in the above mentioned cases and the petitioner was frequently compelled to attend the police station in the pretext of enquiry. In this regard, the petitioner had already made representation on 20.11.2021 to R1 and R2 to delete his name from the History Sheet book, but the respondents have not yet considered till date. Therefore, he sought for allowing the writ petition.

3. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents submitted that the petitioner is an habitual offender indulging in rowdy activities, extortion, katta panchayats, etc. Hence, History Sheeted Rowdy Book was opened at the third respondent police station as against the petitioner and it is being extended regularly as per the Police Standing Order. Therefore, he prays to dismiss the writ petition.

4. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents.

5. The issue involved in this writ petition has already been dealt with by the Madurai Bench of this Court and detailed order has been passed in W.P.(MD)No.19651 of 2017 on 26.09.2018. On the basis of the above said Order, the Director General Of Police, Chennai issued a circular in Rc.No.66569/Crime 3(2)/2019 dated 24.04.2019, which reads as follows :-

7.From the above judgments the following principles emerge insofar as history sheeters are concerned:

a. In order to facilitate the study of crime and criminals, the Police Standing Orders



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provides a mechanism, whereby every Police Station shall maintain a crime history, which shall be a confidential record. In this record all cases of crime that are mentioned in PSO No.742, which provides various classes of crime, shall be entered and even an attempt to commit those offences, are entered in the records maintained in the Police Station.

b. These crime records maintained by the Various Police Stations shall be reviewed every year by the Inspector of Police of the concerned Police Station. On such review, the Inspector of Police has to furnish a concise appreciation of the year's crime for the benefit of the Superior Officers and also to make suggestions in order to improve the quality of crime control. The review undertaken by the Inspector of Police is not merely a catalogue of the crime in the year. It should reflect the valuable suggestions in order to prevent such crimes in future and to provide ways and means of handling serious offences in an effective manner.

c. History Sheet can be opened by the concerned Police Station under two circumstances. The first circumstance is provided under PSO No.746, which states that the history sheet can be opened against a person who is a resident (permanently or temporarily) within the station limit, who is known or believed to be addicted to commission of crime, whether convicted or not. Here the thrust is on the habituality or the propensity to commit a crime by a person, which is sought to be monitored by opening a history sheet.

d. The second category of persons against whom history sheet can be opened are the persons, who are convicted for various offences that has been listed in PSO No.747, wherein opening of the history sheet is automatic.

e. In the first category of opening history sheet, month wise scrutiny or a close watch on the person concerned is contemplated. Here also there is sub-categorization as, close watch bad characters and non-close watch bad characters. In the former, the entry shall be made month wise



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and in the later, the entry shall be made once in a quarter. What is entered is normally anything of interest in respect of the bad character, which goes to the notice of the Police. These records must be checked and brought upto date once in a year. Here the main thrust is on "Current Doings".

f. In the second category of opening history sheet, a mere act of conviction under the offences listed in PSO No.747 is enough. The name of the persons, who have been convicted for those offences can be retained for a period of two years after their release from jail.

g. PSO No.748, is the most important provision, which deals with discontinuance of history sheet. This provision is common to both the categories falling under PSO Nos.746 and 747. As per PSO No.748, the Superintendent of Police may order a closure of a history sheet at any time. But, the Divisional Officer can order closure of history sheet only after the expiry of the period stipulated in PSO No.747.

h. As per PSO 748, where retention of the history sheet is considered to be necessary, even after two years of registration, orders of an Officer of and above the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police/ Deputy Superintendent of Police must be taken for extension for the first instance upto the end of next December. For further annual extension from January to December, separate orders must be passed every time by an Officer of and above the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police / Deputy Superintendent of Police. This provision is made applicable even for rowdy sheeters.

i. For the purpose of passing such orders, there must be valid materials available on record and it cannot be passed on the whims and fancies of the Police Officers. Therefore, the authority empowered to extend the period of retention of the names of the persons in the history sheet, should record his reasons based on both objective and subjective instructions.



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7. With the above directions, the writ petition stands disposed of. No costs.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CCC)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

ham/rgi

To

1. The Superintendent of Police,
Cuddalore District,
Cuddalore.
2. The Deputy Superintendent of Police,
Chidambaram,
Cuddalore District.
3. The Inspector of Police,
Annamalai Nagar Police Station,
Chidambaram.
4. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras.

+1cc to Mr.S.T.Raja, Advocate, S.R.No.10136

W.P.No.2810 of 2022

PCH(CO)
RLP(03/03/2022)