



*H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022*

WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 30.09.2022

CORAM:

**THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE J. NISHA BANU**

**and**

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH**

**H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022**

Balamurugan

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1.State of Tamil Nadu,  
Rep. by The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,  
Tirunelveli City,  
Tirunelveli.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,  
Central Prison,  
Palayamkottai  
Tirunelveli.

.. Respondents



H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022

WEB COPY

**PRAYER:** Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the entire records connected with the detention order of the respondent No.2 in No.26/BCDFGISSSV/2022, dated 16.03.2022 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu or body of the detenu namely, Balamurugan, son of David, aged about 41 years, now detained at the Central Prison, Palayamkottai before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.N.Pragalathan

For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar  
Additional Public Prosecutor

### **ORDER**

**J.NISHA BANU, J.**  
**and**  
**N.ANAND VENKATESH, J.**

The petitioner is the detenu viz., Balamurugan, son of David, aged about 41 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in No.26/BCDFGISSSV/2022, dated 16.03.2022



*H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022*

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. 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. 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.



H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022

WEB COPY

4. The main ground that has been projected by the learned counsel for the petitioner is that the arrest of the detenu, the arrest memo that has been provided only shows that the mobile number which the SMS has been sent no particulars have been given as to the person in whose name the mobile stand. Hence, the learned counsel submitted that mandatory requirements of informing the arrest was not made to the relative of the detenu.

5. *Per contra*, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the arrest of the detenu has been intimated to the wife of the detenu through SMS.

6. 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.



*H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022*

WEB COPY

7. As evidenced from the document in page No.247 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.

8. 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.



*H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022*

WEB COPY

9. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in No.26/BCDFGISSSV/2022, dated 16.03.2022 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Balamurugan, son of David, aged about 41 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

**(J.N.B., J.) (N.A.V., J.)**  
**30.09.2022**

Index : Yes/No  
Internet : Yes  
rm



*H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022*

Copy to

WEB COPY

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
State of Tamil Nadu,  
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai - 600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police,  
Tirunelveli City,  
Tirunelveli.
3. The Superintendent of Prison,  
Central Prison,  
Palayamkottai  
Tirunelveli.
4. The Additional Public Prosecutor,  
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,  
Madurai.



WEB COPY



*H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022*

**J.NISHA BANU,J.**

**and**

**N.ANAND VENKATESH, J.**

rm

**H.C.P.(MD)No.739 of 2022**

**30.09.2022**