

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: **29.11.2022**

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH
AND
THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

H.C.P.(MD)No.928 of 2022

Velmurugan

... Petitioner /Detenue

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 District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District,
Tirunelveli.

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

...Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records connected with the detention order passed in M.H.S.Confdl.No.57/2022 dated 06.05.2022

on the file of the 2nd respondent herein and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu or body of the detenu namely Velmurugan, aged about 23 years, S/o.Muthupandian, 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.Thiruvadikumar

Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

M.S.RAMESH,J.

and

N. ANAND VENKATESH,J.

The petitioner is the detenu viz., Velmurugan, aged about 23 years, S/o.Muthupandian. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in M.H.S.Confdl.No.57/2022 dated 06.05.2022 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 several grounds have been raised in the Habeas Corpus Petition, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would mainly focus his argument on the ground that there is gross violation of procedural safeguards, which would vitiate the detention. The learned counsel, by placing authorities, submitted that the representation made by the petitioner was not considered on time and there was an inordinate and unexplained delay.

4. Apart from the other grounds, the main ground that was urged by the learned counsel for the petitioner is that the detaining authority, after being aware of the fact that bail petition filed by the detenu was dismissed by relying upon the order passed in CrI.M.P.No.6939 of 2019, came to a conclusion that there is a likelihood of the detenu being let out on bail. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the order that was relied upon by the detaining authority is not a similar case.

5. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor strongly opposed the Habeas Corpus Petition by filing his counter.

6.We have carefully went through the order passed in CrI.M.P.No. 6939 of 2019.

7.That was a case where bail was granted on the ground that the co-accused had already been released on bail and the properties have also been recovered and the accused had also undergone the long period of incarceration. The facts of that case cannot be considered to be a similar case to the case on hand and hence, the detention order clearly suffers from non application of mind. The impugned detention order is, therefore, liable to be quashed.

8.In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in M.H.S.Confdl.No.57/2022 dated 06.05.2022 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, Velmurugan, aged about 23 years, S/o.Muthupandian, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(M.S.R.,J.) (N.A.V.,J.)
29.11.2022

To:

- 1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai-600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District,
Tirunelveli.
- 3.The Superintendant of Prison,
Central Prison,
Palayamkottai,
Tirunelveli.
- 4.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

HCP(MD)No.928 of 2022

M.S.RAMESH,J.

and

N. ANAND VENKATESH,J.

Ns

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