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H.C.P.No.1120 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 10.11.2023

CORAM :

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.S.SUNDAR
AND
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SUNDER MOHAN

H.C.P.No.1120 of 2023

Ramalingam
S/o Bolliyan

..

Petitioner

v.

1. The Secretary to the Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Secretariat, Chennai 600 009

2. District Collector & District Magistrate
Tirupathur District, Tirupathur 635 601

3. The Superintendent of Police
Tirupathur District, Tirupathur 635 601

4. The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison, Vellore-2

5. The Inspector of Police
Tirupathur Police Station
Tirupathur District

..

Respondents



H.C.P.No.1120 of 2023

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for issuance of a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records in connection with the order of detention passed by the second respondent dated 12.06.2023 in C3/D.O.No.11/2023 against the petitioner/detenu Ramalingam, Male aged 42 years, S/o Bolliyan, who is confined at Central Prison, Vellore and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu before the Hon'ble Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner :: Mr.D.Balaji

For Respondents :: Mr.E.Raj Thilak
Additional Public Prosecutor
assisted by Mr.C.Aravind, Advocate

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by S.S.SUNDAR,J.)

The petitioner/detenu has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 12.06.2023, branding him as 'Bootlegger' under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Sexual Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act 14



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of 1982).

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

3. Though several grounds are raised in the petition, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner confined his argument to the point that the detaining authority has relied upon the bail order passed in CrI.M.P.No.3646 of 2021 dated 20.09.2021 by the Principal Sessions Court, Vellore in respect of the accused in similar case, which is not similar to the case on hand, as the bail was granted to the accused in similar case considering the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, the detention order is liable to be set aside on the sole ground that the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority regarding the possibility of the detenu coming out on bail in the ground case, suffers from non-application of mind.

4. This Court perused pages 96 & 97 of the booklet and is convinced with the statement of the learned counsel for petitioner that the bail was



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granted to the accused in similar case considering the Covid-19 pandemic.

This Court has held in several cases that the detention order is vitiated if there is no application of mind as to the real ground on which the bail was granted to the accused in similar case. It is also relevant to point out that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of ***Rekha v. State of Tamil Nadu through Secretary to Government and another, (2011) 5 SCC 244***, has held that in case any of the reasons stated in the order of detention is non-existent or a material information is wrongly assumed, that will vitiate the detention order. When the subjective satisfaction was irrational or there was non-application of mind, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the order of detention is liable to be quashed. It is relevant to extract paragraph Nos.10 and 11 of the said judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, as follows:-

“10.In our opinion, if details are given by the respondent authority about the alleged bail orders in similar cases mentioning the date of the orders, the bail application number, whether the bail order was passed in respect of the co-accused in the same case, and whether the case of the co-accused was on the same



footing as the case of the petitioner, then, of course, it could be argued that there is likelihood of the accused being released on bail, because it is the normal practice of most courts that if a co-accused has been granted bail and his case is on the same footing as that of the petitioner, then the petitioner is ordinarily granted bail. However, the respondent authority should have given details about the alleged bail order in similar cases, which has not been done in the present case. A mere ipse dixit statement in the grounds of detention cannot sustain the detention order and has to be ignored.

11. In our opinion, the detention order in question only contains ipse dixit regarding the alleged imminent possibility of the accused coming out on bail and there was no reliable material to this effect. Hence, the detention order in question cannot be sustained."

In view of the position of law enunciated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Rekha's case, this Court finds that the impugned detention order is vitiated for non-application of mind.



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5. Accordingly, the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 12.06.2023 in C3/D.O.No.11/2023 is hereby set aside and the habeas corpus petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Ramalingam, S/o Bolliyan, aged 42 years, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, unless he is required in connection with any other case.

Index : yes/no

(S.S.S.R.,J.)

(S.M.,J.)

Neutral citation : yes/no

10.11.2023

ss

To

1. The Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Fort St.George
Chennai 600 009
2. The District Collector & District Magistrate
Tirupathur 635 601, Tirupathur District
3. The Superintendent of Police
Tirupathur 635 601, Tirupathur District
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5. The Inspector of Police
Tirupathur Pew Police Station
Tirupathur District

6. The Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras



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S.S.SUNDAR,J.

AND

SUNDER MOHAN,J.

SS

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