



WEB COPY



H.C.P.No.1299 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.1299 of 2023

Praveena
W/o Dharma

..

Petitioner

v.

1. The State of Tamil Nadu
represented by Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Fort St.George, Chennai 600 009
2. The District Collector and District Magistrate
Mayiladuthurai District, Mayiladuthurai
3. The Superintendent of Police
Mayiladuthurai District, Mayiladuthurai
4. The Inspector of Police
PEW Sirkazhi Police Station
Mayiladuthurai District
5. The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison, Tiruchirappalli .. Respondents



H.C.P.No.1299 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 relating to the detention order dated 10.06.2023 passed by the second respondent in his proceedings No.C.O.C.No.30/2023 and quash the same and direct the respondents herein to produce the petitioner's husband namely Kuttymaan @ Dharma, Son of Durai @ Tamilselvan aged about 26 years, who is presently undergoing detention in the Central Prison, Trichy, as Bootlegger before this Hon'ble Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner :: Mr.M.Vinoth

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, who is the wife of the detenu, namely, Kuttymaan @ Dharma, aged 26 years, S/o Durai @ Tamilselvan, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 10.06.2023 slapped on her husband, branding him as 'Bootlegger' under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas,



H.C.P.No.1299 of 2023

Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Sexual Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982).

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.997 of 2022 dated 25.04.2022 by the Principal Sessions Court, Nagapattinam 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 that no bad antecedent was reported against the accused. However, in the present case, it is admitted that there are two adverse cases against the detenu. Therefore, the detention order is liable to be set aside on the sole ground that the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority suffers from non-application of mind.



H.C.P.No.1299 of 2023

4. This Court perused page-116 of the booklet and is convinced with the statement of the learned counsel for petitioner that the bail was granted to the accused in similar case on the ground that no bad antecedent was reported against them. However, in the present case, it is admitted that there are two adverse cases against the detenu. 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 judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Rekha's case, this



H.C.P.No.1299 of 2023

Court finds that the impugned detention order is vitiated for non-application of mind.

5. Accordingly, the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 10.06.2023 in C.O.C.No.30/2023 is hereby set aside and the habeas corpus petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Kuttymaan @ Dharma, S/o Durai @ Tamilselvan, aged 26 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 & Excise Department
Fort St.George
Chennai 600 009

2. The District Collector and District Magistrate
Mayiladuthurai, Mayiladuthurai District



H.C.P.No.1299 of 2023

3. The Superintendent of Police
Mayiladuthurai, Mayiladuthurai District

WEB COPY

4. The Inspector of Police
PEW Sirkazhi Police Station
Mayiladuthurai District

5. The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison, Tiruchirappalli

6. The Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras



WEB COPY



H.C.P.No.1299 of 2023

S.S.SUNDAR,J.

AND

SUNDER MOHAN,J.

SS

H.C.P.No.1299 of 2023

10.11.2023