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H.C.P.No.2406 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 10.04.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.NIRMAL KUMAR

H.C.P. No.2406 of 2022

Surya
S/o.Selvam

.. Petitioner/Detenu

Vs.

State rep. by

1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Government of Tamil Nadu,
Fort St. George, Chennai -600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Tambaram City.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Puzhal-II,
Chennai.

4.The Inspector of Police (Crime),
T-1, Tambaram Police Station,
Chennai.

.. Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus to call for the records pertaining to the order of detention dated 21.10.2022 passed by the 2nd respondent in



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No.170/BCDFGISSSV/2022 and quash the same as illegal and direct the respondent to produce the detenu Surya, son of Selvam, Male, aged about 24 years, now confined at Central Prison-II, Puzhal, Chennai before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Senthil Kumar

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Additional Public Prosecutor
assisted by
Mr.M.Sylvester John, Advocate

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by M.NIRMAL KUMAR, J.]

Captioned 'Habeas Corpus Petition' [hereinafter 'HCP' for the sake of convenience and brevity] has been filed by the detenu assailing 'detention order dated 21.10.2022 bearing reference 170/BCDFGISSSV/2022' [hereinafter 'impugned detention order' for the sake of convenience]. To be noted, the fourth respondent is the sponsoring authority and the second respondent is the detaining authority as impugned detention order has been made by the second respondent.

2. Impugned detention order has been made under 'The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber law offenders,



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Drug-offenders, Forest-offenders, Goondas, Immoral traffic offenders, Sand-offenders, Sexual-offenders, Slum-grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act No.14 of 1982)' [hereinafter 'Act 14 of 1982' for the sake of convenience and clarity] on the premise that the detenu is a 'Goonda' within the meaning of Section 2(f) of Act 14 of 1982.

3. There are five adverse cases and one ground case. The ground case which is the substratum of the impugned detention order is Crime No.688 of 2022 on the file of T-1 Tambaram Police Station for alleged offences under Sections 341, 336, 427, 392, 397 and 506(ii) of 'The Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)' [hereinafter 'IPC' for the sake of convenience and clarity]. Owing to the nature of the challenge to the impugned detention order, it is not necessary to delve into the factual matrix or be detained further by facts.

4. Mr.S.Senthil Kumar, learned counsel for petitioner and Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned Additional Public Prosecutor assisted by Mr.M.Sylvester John learned counsel for all respondents are before us.



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5. Learned counsel for petitioner predicated his campaign against the impugned detention order on one short point and that is, in the Arrest memo it is recorded that the arrest of the detenu was informed to his friend one Ms.Aasha but there is no signature or any acknowledgement to show that such arrest intimation is informed to the friend or family members of the petitioner. He further submitted that this would not be a proper communication of arrest, more so, there is no statement recorded from the said Ms.Aasha to confirm as to whether she received the arrest intimation, thereby hampered the right of the detenu to make an effective representation.

6. The Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in the case of ***“Akilandeswari Vs. State, rep. by Secretary to Government, Home, Prohibition and Excise Department, Chennai-600009, reported in 2008 (3) MLJ (Crl.) 744”***, held as follows:

“5. Though the learned Additional Public Prosecutor has made an attempt to justify by stating that the family members were intimated through telegrams, he has not placed any material to satisfy this Court as to whether any telegram was sent and the same was acknowledged either by the family members or relatives of the detenu. A right of intimation to the relatives or family members of the detenu encompasses itself the



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fundamental right guaranteed under Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India to make a representation to the Detaining Authority or the State Government, as the case may be. In the event the arrest is not intimated, the detenu would not be in a position to make any such representation and in that context, failure on the part of the Detaining Authority would amount to deprivation of the right of the detenu to make an effective representation guaranteed under Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India. On the facts of this case, a specific averment has been made that the intimation was not given. We also find that the said averment has not been controverted in the Counter Affidavit. Though the learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the family members of the detenu were informed of the arrest through telegram, there are no materials placed before us to substantiate the said contention. Further, the copy of the telegram has also not been furnished to the detenu. In the absence of the same, we are unable to accept the contention of the learned Additional Public Prosecutor that the family members or the relatives of the detenu were informed of the arrest. Under these circumstances, the detention order is vitiated.”

7. Following ***Akilandeswari*** Case (cited supra), this Court in the case of “***Ganesh @ Lingesan Vs. State of Tamil Nadu and another*** reported in ***2012 (3) MWN (Cr.) 315 DB***”, in paragraph No.10, held as follows:



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“10. “No man shall be deprived of his life and liberty except by procedure established by law” has been guaranteed in Article 21 of the Constitution of India. His right to be informed of the arrest is his basic human right. Curtailment of his personal freedom in pursuance of a preventive detention law though has the constitutional sanction (see Article 22(3)(b) of the Constitution of India), it is conditioned by many constraints, one of which is a chance for him to make representation as against his detention. (see Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India). If his arrest is not informed to his dear and near ones, who could make representation as against the detention order on his behalf, he cannot exercise the right given to him under Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India. In this constitutional perspective, the argument of the Respondent that by non-supply of a copy of the telegram informing his arrest no prejudice is caused to the detenu is too big a pill to gulp.”

8. In this case, the arrest intimation was not informed properly to the family members of the detenu. The reason given is not acceptable, proper intimation has to be given to the detenu and the detenu must know the reason for his arrest. Further, right of the detenu to make an effective representation qua the preventive detention order is a Constitutional safeguard ingrained in Clause (5) of Article 22 of the Constitution of India. In the light of the



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narrative thus far, this Constitutional safeguard is hampered. The sequitur is, the impugned preventive detention order deserves to be dislodged.

9. Ergo, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed and the detention order dated 21.10.2022 bearing reference 170/BCDFGISSSV/2022 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Surya, aged 24 years, son of Thiru.Selvam is directed to be set at liberty forthwith unless required in connection with any other case. There shall be no order as to costs.

(M.S,J.) (M.N.K.,J.)
10.04.2023

Index : Yes / No
Speaking / Non-speaking
Neutral Citation : Yes / No
rsi

P.S: Registry to forthwith communicate this order to Jail authorities in Central Prison, Puzhal-II, Chennai.



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M.SUNDAR, J.
and
M.NIRMAL KUMAR, J.

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To

- 1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Government of Tamil Nadu,
Fort St. George, Chennai -600 009.
- 2.The Commissioner of Police,
Tambaram City.
- 3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Puzhal-II,
Chennai.
- 4.The Inspector of Police (Crime),
T-1, Tambaram Police Station,
Chennai.
- 5.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras,
Chennai - 104.

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