



HCP(MD)No.656 of 2023

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED: 06.07.2023

CORAM

**THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH
AND
THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE M.NIRMAL KUMAR**

H.C.P.(MD)No.656 of 2023

Praveenkumar

.. Petitioner/Detenu

Vs.

1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise (XVI) Department,
Fort St.George,
Chennai – 600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
District Collector and District Magistrate's Office,
Thanjavur District.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Trichy Central Prison,
Trichy District.

.. 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 of the Respondent No.2 in P.D.No.102 of 2022 dated 07.08.2022 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the detenu by name Praveenkumar, son of John Benny,



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aged about 19 years, now detained as 'Goonda' at Trichy Central Prison before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani

For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadikumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The petitioner is the detenu viz., Praveenkumar, aged about 19 years, S/o.John Benny. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in P.D.No.102/2022 dated 07.08.2022 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.



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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 the detaining authority has relied upon the order passed in Criminal Miscellaneous Petition No.3545/2021 dated 04.10.2021 and came to the conclusion that in a similar case bail has been granted and that there is likelihood of the detenu released on bail. The learned counsel submitted that the detaining authority was aware of the fact that the detenu filed bail application in the ground case and the same is pending. The learned counsel for the petitioner therefore submitted that the order relied upon by the detaining authority is not similar and there is non application of mind on the part of the detaining authority.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor has not filed his counter. However, he strongly opposed the Habeas Corpus Petition.

5. On carefully going through the detention order, it is seen that in the order that was relied upon by the detaining authority in Criminal Miscellaneous Petition No.3545/2021 dated 04.10.2021, the accused was granted bail since there was no previous case. However, in the present case,



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the accused was involved in two previous cases. Hence, the order that was relied upon by the detaining authority cannot be considered to be an order passed in a similar case.

6. In view of the above, the detention order suffers from non application of mind and the same is liable to be interfered with by this Court. The impugned detention order is, therefore, liable to be quashed.

7. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in P.D.No.102/2022 dated 07.08.2022 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Praveenkumar, S/o.John Benny, aged about 19 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(M.S.R.,J.) (M.N.K.,J.)
06.07.2023

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
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and
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