



HCP(MD)No.922 of 2023

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED: 27.07.2023

CORAM

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

H.C.P.(MD)No.922 of 2023

M.Selvi

... Petitioner / Mother of the Detenu

Vs.

1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai - 600 009.

2.The District Collector Cum District Magistrate,
Theni District, Theni.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Madurai.

.. Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records relating to the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent in Detention Order No.104 of 2022, dated 15.11.2022 and quash the same and direct the respondents to



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produce the body or detenu, namely, M.Arunkumar, S/o.Muthuraman, aged about 21 years now detained at Central Prison, Madurai before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Vijayakumar

For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar,
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The petitioner is the mother of the detenu viz., M.Arunkumar, S/o.Muthuraman, aged about 21 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in Detention Order No.104 of 2022, dated 15.11.2022, holding him to be a "Drug Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(e) of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982. The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.



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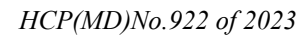
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2.We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

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 the detaining authority, had inferred that if the detenu comes out on bail, there is every possibility of the detenu indulging in further activities in future, which is bereft of particulars and on that score, the detention order is liable to be interfered with.

4.Though the learned Additional Public Prosecutor has not filed any counter, he has strongly opposed the Habeas Corpus Petition.

5.The detaining authority, while recording the detenu's involvement in the sole ground case in Crime No.293/2022, had observed



6.A co-ordinate Bench of this Court, in the case of ***Jebasta @Gnanamalar Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu and others*** passed in ***ID).No.1815 of 2022 vide order dated 21.02.2023***, had an occasion with the similar aspect in the following manner:

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consideration of merit and careful consideration of relevant records. It is stated in the counter that recourse in normal criminal law effectively preventing him from indulging in such activity in future which are prejudice to the maintenance of the public order. The detaining authority has arrived at such a conclusion based on the sole and solitary case against the petitioner that too, arising out of a property dispute which is purely civil in nature and except this one case, there is no adverse record against the detenu to infer that he had been indulging in such activity in the past or he will indulge in such activity in future. Mere apprehension that he will indulge in such activity in future is not suffice to invoke the provision of Act 14 of 1982. There must be some prima facie material to arrive at such conclusion. In this case, this Court finds that no such material. Therefore for bereft of supportive documents, the detention order is vitiated.”

Thus, when the detenu did not have any previous or adverse cases as per the detention order, the subjective satisfaction arrived at by the detaining authority, to the effect that the detenu is likely to indulge in further activities



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in future, is baseless and would amount to non-application of mind. Hence, the impugned order of detention is liable to be quashed.

7.In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in Detention Order No.104 of 2022, dated 15.11.2022 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., M.Arunkumar, S/o.Muthuraman, aged about 21 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.)
27.07.2023

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No

Yuva

To

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



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2.The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public Law and Order,
Fort St.George, Chennai-600 009.

3.The District Collector Cum District Magistrate,
Theni District, Theni.

4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Madurai.

5.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
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AND
M.NIRMAL KUMAR, J.

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