



WEB COPY



H.C.P.No.83 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 18.04.2024

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SUNDER MOHAN

H.C.P.No.83 of 2024

M.Kala

... Petitioner

Vs.

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

2.The Commissioner of Police
Salem City

3.The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison, Salem - 7

4.The Inspector of Police
Steel Plant Police Station
Salem City

... Respondents

Prayer : Habeas Corpus Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for a Writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the records in connection with the order of detention passed by the second respondent



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dated 20.12.2023 in C.M.P.No.117 / Goonda/Salem City/2023 against the petitioner's son Naresh Kumar, Male, aged 37 years, S/o.Muniraj, who is confined at Central Prison, Salem and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu before the court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.D.Balaji

For Respondents : Mr.E.Raj Thilak
Additional Public Prosecutor
Assisted by Mr.Aravind.C

ORDER

M.S.RAMESH, J.
AND
SUNDER MOHAN, J.

The petitioner, mother of the detenu has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 20.12.2023 slapped on her son, branding him as "Goonda" under the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982.

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



3. Though several points have been raised by the learned counsel for the petitioner, the detention order is liable to be quashed on the sole ground that the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority regarding the possibility of the detenu coming out on bail by relying upon the bail order granted to the accused in a similar case, suffers from non-application of mind.

4. In paragraph No.4 of the Grounds of Detention, the Detaining Authority has stated that there is a possibility of the detenu coming out on bail in the ground case since in a similar case, bail was granted to the detenu therein and relied upon an order passed by the learned Judicial Magistrate, Salem in CrI.M.P.No.1542 of 2023. On a perusal of the said order in page No.9 of the Booklet Volume I, this Court finds that the said order relates to release of the accused on bail u/s.167[2] of Cr.P.C., since the accused therein had been in prison for more than 60 days and not on merits. Therefore, it is not a similar case and the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority, regarding the possibility of the detenu coming out on bail suffers from non-application of mind, which vitiates the detention order.



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5.The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the case of ***Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu through Secretary to Government and Another*** reported in ***2011 [5] SCC 244***, has dealt with a situation where the Detention Order is passed without an application of mind. 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. In the instant case, the Detaining Authority has arrived at the subjective satisfaction that the detenu is likely to be released on bail by referring to a bail order granted to an accused in a similar case in CrI.M.P.No.1542 of 2023. However, the said bail was granted on the ground that accused is entitled to statutory bail and not on merits and therefore, the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority that the detenu is likely to be released on bail suffers from non-application of mind. Hence, on the above grounds, the Detention Order is liable to be quashed.

6.In view of the aforesaid reason, the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 20.12.2023 in C.M.P.No.117/Goonda/Salem City/2023, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz.,



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Naresh Kumar, aged about 37 years, S/o.Muniraj, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, unless his confinement is required in connection with any other case.

[M.S.R., J] [S.M., J]

18.04.2024

kas

Internet : Yes
Neutral Citation

To

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

2.The Commissioner of Police
Salem City

3.The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison, Salem - 7

4.The Inspector of Police
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5.The Public Prosecutor
High Court of Madras
Chennai 600 104



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