



HCP.No.555 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 24.06.2024

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S. RAMESH
and
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SUNDER MOHAN

H.C.P.No.555 of 2024

M.Thilagam

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.State of Tamil Nadu
Represented by its Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Secretariat
Chennai-600 009

2.The Commissioner of Police
Salem District

3.The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison
Salem

4.The Inspector of Police
Annadanapatty Police Station
Salem District

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to
issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the entire records relating to the



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petitioner's husband detention under Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 vide detention order dated 12.02.2024 on the file of the 2nd respondent herein and made in CMP.No.7/GOONDA/SALEM CITY/2024 and quash the same as illegal and consequently direct the respondents herein to produce the petitioner's husband namely Manickavasagam, son of Somasundaram, aged about 58 years before this Court and set aside the petitioner's husband at liberty from detention, where the petitioner's husband detained in Central Prison, Salem.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.Prem Kumar

For Respondents : Mr.A.Gokulakrishnan
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The petitioner herein, who is the wife of the detenu viz., Manickavasagam, S/o.Somasundaram, aged about 58 years, confined at Central Prison, Salem, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent dated 12.02.2024, slapped on her husband, branding him as "Goonda" under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law



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Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, 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 for the petitioner, as well as the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents.

3. Though several grounds are raised in this petition, the learned counsel for the petitioner focused mainly on the ground that the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority that the relatives of the detenu are taking steps to take out the detenu on bail, suffers from non-application of mind, as the statement under 161 Cr.P.C., said to have been made by the detenu's relative before the Sponsoring Authority, is not dated. Hence, the learned counsel for the petitioner raised a *bona fide* doubt as to when this statement was obtained from the petitioner's relative. The learned counsel further pointed out that, unless the statement relied upon by the Sponsoring Authority is immediately before the Detention Order, it may not have relevance and hence, the subjective



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satisfaction of the Detaining Authority based on this undated statement, would vitiate the Detention Order.

4. It is seen from records that the statement obtained by the Sponsoring Authority from the detenu's relative, enclosed in the Booklet, stating that they are planning to file a bail application to bring out the detenu on bail, is not dated. On a perusal of the Grounds of Detention, it is seen that, in Paragraph No.4, the Detaining Authority has observed that the Sponsoring Authority has stated that he came to understand that the relatives of the detenu are taking steps to take him out on bail by filing bail application before the appropriate Court and has arrived at the subjective satisfaction that the detenu is likely to be released on bail. When the statement obtained by the Sponsoring Authority from the relatives of the detenu stating that they are planning to file bail application to bring out the detenu on bail is not dated, the veracity of such statement becomes doubtful. The compelling necessity to detain the detenu would also depend on when the statement was obtained. In the absence of the date, the compelling necessity to detain, becomes suspect.



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Hence, this Court is of the view that the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority based on such undated material, suffers from non-application of mind.

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. 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:-

“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



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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.”

6. In view of the ratio laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and in view of the aforesaid facts, this Court is of the view that the detention



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order is liable to be quashed.

7. Hence, for the aforesaid reasons, the detention order passed by the second respondent on 12.02.2024 in C.M.P.No.7/Goonda/Salem City 2024, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Manickavasagam, S/o.Somasundaram, aged about 58 years, confined at Central Prison, Salem, 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]

24.06.2024

kas

Index: Yes/No

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

To

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

2.The Commissioner of Police
Salem District

3.The Superintendent of Prison



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Central Prison
Salem



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

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4.The Inspector of Police
Annadanapatty Police Station
Salem District

5.The Joint Secretary,
Law and Order Department,
Secretariat, Chennai.

6.The Public Prosecutor
High Court of Madras
Chennai 600 104

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