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H.C.P.No.1897 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 08.01.2024

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SUNDER MOHAN

H.C.P.No.1897 of 2023

Chitra

...Petitioner/Wife of the Detenu

Vs.

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

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Detaining Authority,
Tiruppur City,
Tiruppur District.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison – Coimbatore,
Coimbatore District.

4.State rep. by its
The Inspector of Police,
Anupparpalayam Police Station,
Tiruppur District.

...Respondents.

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Prayer : Habeas Corpus Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the entire records, relating to my husband detention under Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 vide detention order, dated 06.09.2023 on the file of the 2nd respondent made in proceedings Memo C.No.51/D.O./IS/Tiruppur City/2023, quash the same as illegal and consequently direct the respondents herein to produce my husband namely Karuppaiya, S/o. Solaimalai, aged 41 years before this Court and set my husband at liberty from detention, now my husband detained at Central Prison, Coimbatore.

For Petitioner : Mr.Camyles Gandhi
For Respondents : Mr.E.Raj Thilak
Additional Public Prosecutor
assisted by
Mr.C.Aravind

ORDER

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

The petitioner, wife of the detenu Karuppaiya, aged 41 years, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 06.09.2023 slapped on her husband, branding him as "Drug Offender" under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest



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Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Sexual

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Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 [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



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therein and relied upon an order passed by the Additional District

Judge/Presiding Officer, Special Court for EC Act Cases, Coimbatore in

Spl.C.M.P.No.115 of 2020. On a perusal of the said order in page No.101 of the Booklet, this Court finds that the said order relates to release of the accused on interim bail u/s.167[2] of Cr.P.C., 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.

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 an interim bail order granted to



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an accused in a similar case in Spl.C.M.P.No.115 of 2020. However, the said interim 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 06.09.2023 in C.No.51/D.O./IS/Tiruppur City/2023, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Karuppaiya, S/o. Solaimalai, aged 41 years, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith unless he is required in connection with any other case.

[M.S.R., J] [S.M., J]
08.01.2024

ars

Index : Yes / No

Neutral Citation : Yes / No



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M.S.RAMESH, J.
and
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To

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
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- 2.The Commissioner of Police,
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Tiruppur District.
- 3.The Superintendent of Prison,
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- 4.The Inspector of Police,
Anupparpalayam Police Station,
Tiruppur District.
- 5.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

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