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H.C.P.No.2521 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 02.02.2024

CORAM :

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

H.C.P.No.2521 of 2023

Prem Kumar

... Petitioner / Son of the Detenue

Vs.

1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai-600009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Greater Chennai,
Vepery, Chennai-600007.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Puzhal,
Chennai-600066.

4.State rep by,
The Inspector of Police,
Team-15, Land Fraud Investigation Wing-1,
Central Crime Branch, Chennai.

... Respondents



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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 second respondent pertaining to the order made in No.393/BCDFGISSSV/2023, dated 12.09.2023 in detain the detenu under 2(f) of Tamil Nadu Act of 1982 as a Goonda and quash the same and direct the respondent to produce the detenu, Loganathan, son of Paulraj, Hindu, aged about 66 years, who is detained at Central Prison, Puzhal at Chennai before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.Gopinath

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 herein, who is the son of the detenu, Loganathan, son of Paulraj, aged about 66 years, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent dated 12.09.2023 slapped on his father, branding him as "Goonda" under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, Immoral



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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 the petition, the learned counsel for the petitioner pointed out that the Detaining Authority has not applied its mind while expressing its subjective satisfaction that the detenu is also likely to be released on bail. It is his submission that the case relied upon by the Detaining Authority is not similar to the present case, as a civil suit was pending thereof, and on that ground, bail was granted in favour of the accused therein.

4. On a perusal of the Booklet, this Court finds that the bail order relied upon by the Detaining Authority in CrI.O.P.No.201 of 2022, dated 07.01.2022, is not similar to the case on hand, since the accused therein was granted bail after recording the fact that a Civil suit was pending thereof. Considering the nature of the bail order in the similar case relied upon by the Detaining Authority and the case on hand, this Court finds



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that the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority that the detenu is also likely to be released on bail, 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 paragraphs 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 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 order is liable to be quashed.



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WEB COPY 7. Accordingly, the detention order passed by the second respondent in No.393/BCDFGISSSV/2023, dated 12.09.2023, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Loganathan, son of Paulraj, aged about 66 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]

02.02.2024

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Internet: Yes/No
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

Anu



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3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Puzhal,
Chennai-600066.

4.The Inspector of Police,
Team-15, Land Fraud Investigation Wing-1,
Central Crime Branch, Chennai.

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

6.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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