



H.C.P.No.63 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 13.02.2025

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S. RAMESH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE N. SENTHILKUMAR

H.C.P.No.63 of 2025

Joseph Bakiyaraj

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition & Excise (XVI) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police/Detaining Authority,
Coimbatore City.

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

4.The Inspector of Police,
B-2, R.S.Puram Police Station,
Coimbatore City.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records connected with the detention order in C.No.55/G/IS/2024 on 29.05.2024 on the file of the



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respondent No.2 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the petitioner's brother namely S.Arul Prakasam @ Arul Tori Arul, S/o.(Late) Stalin Selvaraj, aged about 37 years, now confined at Central Prison, Coimbatore, before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Panneer Selvan

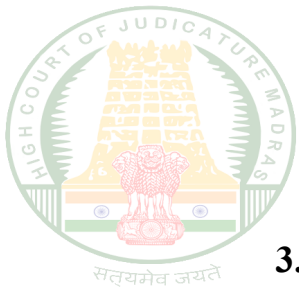
For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj,
Additional Public Prosecutor
assisted by Mr.M.Sylvester John

ORDER

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

The petitioner herein, who is the brother of the detenu namely S.Arul Prakasam @ Arul Tori Arul, aged about 37 years, S/o.(Late) Stalin Selvaraj, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent dated 29.05.2024 slapped on his brother, branding him as "Goonda" under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law 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.



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3. Though several grounds are raised in the petition, the learned counsel for the petitioner pointed out that the bail order relied upon by the Detaining Authority is not similar to the case on hand, by referring to the fact that bail was granted to the accused therein mainly on the ground that the co-accused were granted bail. Therefore, the learned counsel submitted 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.

4. On a perusal of the Booklet, this Court finds that, in the similar case relied upon by the Detaining Authority, i.e., in CrI.M.P.No.2089 of 2020, dated 30.07.2020, the accused therein was granted bail mainly on the ground that his co-accused were granted bail. Hence, this Court is of the view that the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority that the detenu is also likely to be released on bail, by relying upon the aforesaid similar case, 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 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.



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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.

7. Accordingly, the detention order passed by the second respondent on 29.05.2024 in C.No.55/G/IS/2024, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz., S.Arul Prakasam @ Arul Tori Arul, aged about 37 years, S/o.(Late) Stalin Selvaraj, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, unless his confinement is required in connection with any other case.

[M.S.R, J.]

[N.S, J.]

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Index: Yes/No

Speaking order/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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M.S.RAMESH, J.
and
N. SENTHILKUMAR, J.

Sni

To

1.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition & Excise (XVI) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police/Detaining Authority,
Coimbatore City.

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

4.The Inspector of Police,
B-2, R.S.Puram Police Station,
Coimbatore City.

5.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

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