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H.C.P.No.722 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Dated : 26.06.2025

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN

H.C.P.No.722 of 2025

Varalakshmi

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The State of Tamil Nadu
Principal Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Fort St. George
Chennai 600 009

2.The Commissioner of Police
Avadi City, Avadi, Chennai 600 054

3.The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison, Puzhal-2
Puzhal, Chennai 600 066

4.The Inspector of Police
T-11, Thiruninravur Police Station
Chennai 602 024

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India,



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praying to issue Writ of Habeas Corpus, call for the records relating to the detention order dated 06.03.2025 passed by the second respondent in is proceedings No. BCDFGISSSV No.39 of 2025 and quash the same and direct the respondents herein to produce the husband of the petitioner namely Srinivasan, aged about 43 years, son of Sekar, who is presently under going detention in third respondent Central Prison, Puzhal-2, Puzhal, Chennai 600 066, as Drug Offender, before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For petitioner : Mr.S.Hameed Ismail

For Respondents : Mr.E. Raj Thilak
Additional Public Prosecutor

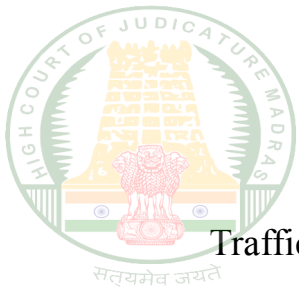
ORDER

M.S.RAMESH, J.

AND

V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN, J.

The petitioner herein, who is the wife of the detenu viz. Srinivasan, aged about 43 years, S/o.Sekar, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent dated 06.03.2025 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 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 submitted that the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority that the detenu is likely to come out on bail suffers from non application of mind, as the similar case relied upon by the detaining authority is not similar.

4. It is seen from the grounds of detention that the detaining authority has relied upon the bail order passed the Principal Special Court under EC & NDPS Act, Chennai, dated 22.10.2021, in CrI.M.P.No.2955 of 2021, in Crime No.2000 of 2021, for an accused in the said case. On a perusal of the said order, we find that in the similar case bail was granted to the accused recording the fact that there is no previous case, whereas the petitioner



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herein has three previous similar nature of cases against him. Therefore, the said case cannot be said to be similar. Hence, the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority regarding the possibility of the detenu is likely to come out 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 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



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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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7. Accordingly, the detention order passed by the second respondent

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in BCDFGISSSV No.39/2025 dated 06.03.2025, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz. Srinivasan, Male, aged about 43 years, S/o.Sekar, presently detained at Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, unless his confinement is required in connection with any other case.

[M.S.R, J.] [V.L.N, J.]
26.06.2025

kas

Index: Yes/No
Neutral Citation
Speaking / Non Speaking

To

Principal Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Fort St. George
Chennai 600 009

2.The Commissioner of Police
Avadi City, Avadi, Chennai 600 054

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4.The Inspector of Police
T-11, Thiruninravur Police Station
Chennai 602 024

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



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