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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 13.10.2015

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.NAGAMUTHU
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.S.RAVI

H.C.P (MD) No.1067 of 2015

S.Manimegalai

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Additional Secretary,
Government of India,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and
Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)
Room No.270, Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi- 110 001.
2. The Secretary,
Government of Tamilnadu,
Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai -9.
- 3.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thanjavur District,
Thanjavur.
- 4.The Inspector of Police,
C.S.C.I.D., Thanjavur.

.. Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records pertaining to the order of detention passed by the third respondent in his proceedings P.D.No.34 of 2015, dated 29.06.2015, and quash the same as illegal and produce the detenu, namely, Shanmugam alias Shanmugaraj, S/o.Soundhirapandian, aged about 33 years, now he is confined in central Prison, Trichy before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.T.Lenin Kumar

For RR 2 to 4 : Mr.T.Mohan

Additional Public Prosecutor

For R1 : Mr.R.Arjunarajan,
Senior Panel Counsel,
Government of India

O R D E R



Shanmugaraj. He has been detained as per the order of the third respondent under Section under Section 3(2)(a) read with 3(1) of the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (Central Act 7 of 1980), branding him as "Black-Marketeer".

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2. We have heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondents and we have also perused the records carefully.

3. Though several grounds have been raised in the Habeas Corpus Petition, the learned counsel for the Petitioner would mainly focus his argument on the ground that there is violation of procedural safeguards, which are guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India. The learned counsel would submit that the representation made by the petitioner was not considered on time and there was an inordinate and unexplained delay. The learned counsel has relied on few Judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Based on the same, the learned counsel would plead for setting aside the detention order.

4. But, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would, however, oppose this Habeas Corpus Petition. He would submit that though there was delay in considering the representation, on that score, the impugned detention order need not be interfered with, as on account of the said delay, no prejudice has been caused to the detenu and thus, there is no violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India.

5. We have considered the above submissions.

6. In this case, the Detention Order was passed on 29.06.2015. As against the same, the petitioner made a representation on 15.07.2015. The remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 21.07.2015. The remarks were received on 03.08.2015. Thereafter, the Government considered the issue and passed the order rejecting the representation on 13.08.2015. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was delay of nine days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority.

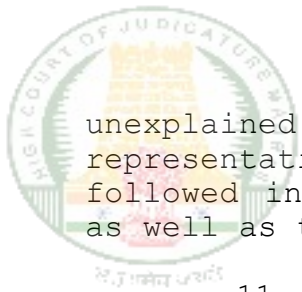
7. Now, the question is as to whether on that score, the impugned order can be quashed.

8. In *Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, [2011 (5) SCC 244], the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the right to life and liberty of a person is protected, under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further held that the procedural safeguards are required to be zealously watched and enforced by the Courts of law and their rigour cannot be allowed to be diluted on the basis of the nature of the alleged activities of the detenu.

9. In *Sumaiya Vs. The Secretary to Government*, [2007 (2) MWN (Cr.) 145], a Division Bench of this Court has held that the unexplained delay of three days in disposal of the representation made on behalf of the detenu/detenu would be sufficient to set aside the detention order.

<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/>

10. In *Tara Chand Vs. State of Rajasthan and others*, [1980 (2) SCC 321], the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that any inordinate and



unexplained delay on the part of the Government in considering the representation renders the detention illegal. This dictum has been followed in several Judgments consistently by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as this Court.

11. Applying the said dictum laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, if we look into the facts of the present case, undoubtedly, there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of nine working days and therefore, the impugned detention order is liable to be quashed.

12. In the result, this Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the impugned Detention Order passed by the third respondent in his proceedings in P.D.No.34/2015, dated 29.06.2015, is quashed. The detenu, by name, Shanmugam alias Shanmugaraj, S/o.Soundhirapandian, aged about 33 years, is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith, if he is not required for detention in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(AE)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar.

To

- 1.The Additional Secretary,Government of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) Room No.270, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi- 110 001.
- 2.The Secretary, Government of Tamilnadu,Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Secretariat, Chennai -9.
- 3.The District Collector and District Magistrate,Thanjavur District, Thanjavur.
4. The Joint Secretary to Government Public (Law and Order)Department, Fort St.George, Chennai.
5. The Director General of Police, Chennai-4
- 6.The Inspector of Police,C.S.C.I.D., Thanjavur.
- 7.The Superintendent of Prison,Central Prison,Tiruchirappalli District.
(In duplicate communicate to detenu)
- 8.The Additional Public Prosecutor,Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.

+1CC to Mr.T.Lenin Kumar,Advocate, SR.No. 60632

+1CC to Mr.Aruna Rajan, Advocate, SR.No. 60660.

ORDER MADE IN
H.C.P(MD)No.1067 of 2015
13.10.2015

AM/14.10.2015/NGM.SS/SAR-II/3P/12C