



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 19.11.2015

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.R.SHIVAKUMAR
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.S.RAVI

H.C.P(MD)No.1112 of 2015

Santhosh @ Santhoshkumar .. Petitioner

Vs.

1.State of Tamil Nadu,
rep.by the Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai - 600 009.

2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
O/o. District Magistrate and District Collector,
Karur District, Karur.

3.The Superintendent of Central Prison,
Tiruchirapalli.

.. Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a writ of habeas corpus or any other appropriate writ or order or direction in the nature of a writ calling for the entire records connected with the detention order passed in Cr.M.P.No.06 of 2015 dated 14.07.2015 by the second respondent and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the person or body of the petitioner namely Santhosh @ Santhoshkumar, S/o.Manoharan, male, aged 36 years, now detained in Central Prison, Tiruchirapalli before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.A.S.Prabhu
For Respondents : Mr.A.Ramar,
Additional Public Prosecutor.

O R D E R

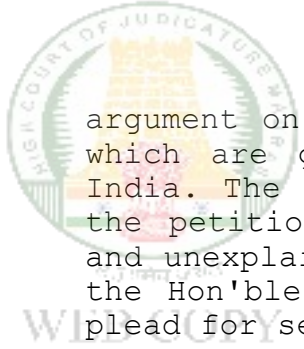
[Order of the Court was made by V.S.RAVI,J]

The petitioner is the detenu, namely Santhosh @ Santhoshkumar. He has been detained as per the order of the second respondent under Section 2(f) of the Tamilnadu Act 14 of 1982, branding him as "Goonda". Challenging the same, he has come up with this petition.

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

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

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 representations made by the petitioner were 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. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor would, however, oppose this Habeas Corpus Petition. He would submit that though there was delay in considering the representations, 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 14.07.2015. As against the same, the petitioner made two representations. In the first representation, after receiving the remarks from the Detaining Authority, the Government considered the issue and passed the order rejecting representation on 14.08.2015. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was delay of seven days on the part of the Government in considering the representation.

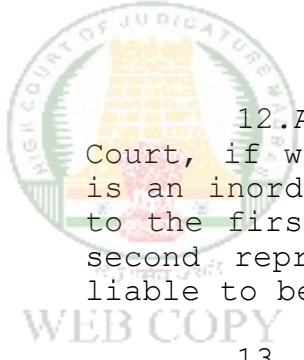
7. Also, for the second representation, the remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 27.08.2015. The remarks were received on 08.09.2015. Thereafter, the Government considered the issue and passed the order rejecting representation on 21.09.2015. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was delay of seven days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and there was delay of seven days on the part of the Government in considering the same.

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.



12. 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 seven working days with regard to the first representation and fourteen working days with regard to the second representation and therefore, the impugned detention order is liable to be quashed.

13. In the result, this Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the impugned Detention Order passed by the second respondent, in his proceedings in Cr.M.P.No.06 of 2015 dated 14.07.2015, is quashed. The detenu, by name, Santhosh @ Santhoshkumar, S/o.Manoharan, aged 36 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.

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar.

To

1. Secretary to Government
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai - 600 009.
2. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order) Department,
Fort. St.George, Chennai
3. The District Magistrate and District Collector,
O/o. District Magistrate and District Collector,
Karur District, Karur.
4. The Superintendent of Police, Karur District,
Karur.
5. The Superintendent of Central Prison,
Tiruchirapalli. (In duplicate communicate to the detenu)
6. The Commissioner of Police,
Trichy.
7. The District Collector, Karur,
8. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

Order Made in
H.C.P (MD) No.1112 of 2015
19.11.2015