



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 02.12.2015

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.R.SHIVAKUMAR

and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.S.RAVI

H.C.P(MD)No.1262 of 2015

Mariamammal

:Petitioner

Vs.

1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep by its Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort.St.George, Secretariat,
Chennai 600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thoothukudi District, Thoothukudi.

3.The Inspector of Police,
Kovilpatti West Police Station,
Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi District.

:Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the entire records relating to the impugned detention order passed in H.S.[M]. Confdl.No.63/2015, dated 16.08.2015, on the file of the second respondent herein and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu namely M.Chinnaraj, aged about 28 years, S/o.Muthupandi Thevar, now confined in Central Prison, Palayamkottai before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner
For Respondents

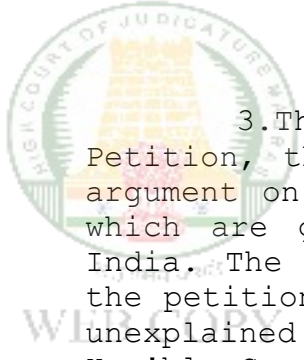
: Mr.S.Sundara Pandian
: Mr.A.Ramar
Additional Public Prosecutor.

O R D E R

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

The petitioner is the mother of the detenu - M.Chinnaraj, aged about 28 years, S/o.Muthupandi Thevar. He has been detained, as per the order of the second respondent, dated 16.08.2015, under Section 2(f) of the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug-offenders, Forest-offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Slum-grabbers and Video Pirates Act,1982, (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982), read with the order issued by the Government in G.O.[D].No.171, Home Prohibition and Excise (XVI) Department, dated 18.07.2015, branding him as "Goonda". Challenging the same, she has come up with this Habeas Corpus 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.



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. 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 16.08.2015. As against the same, the petitioner made a representation dated 26.08.2015. The remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 31.08.2015. The remarks were received on 02.10.2015. Thereafter, the Government considered the issue and passed the order rejecting the representation on 15.10.2015. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was delay of 23 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and thereafter, there was delay of 7 days in considering the representation.

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 would be sufficient to set aside the detention order.

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 30 working days and therefore, the impugned detention order is liable to be quashed.



12. In the result, this Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and this Court sets aside the Order of Detention dated 16.08.2015, made in H.S. [M].Confdl.No.63/2015, passed by the second respondent and directs the release of the detenu, by name M.Chinnaraj, aged about 28 years, S/o.Muthupandi Thevar, forthwith, if his continued custody is not authorised in specific cases or by any other detention order.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(W)

/True copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

To

1. THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
HOME PROHIBITION & EXCISE DEPARTMENT,
FORT. ST. GEORGE, SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI - 600 009.
2. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT, THOOTHUKUDI.
3. THE JOINT SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
PUBLIC (LAW & ORDER) DEPT., FORT ST.GEORGE, CHENNAI.
4. THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
KOVILPATTI WEST POLICE STATION, KOVILPATTI, THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT.
5. THE SUPERINTENDENT,
CENTRAL PRISON, PALAYAMKOTTAI, TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.
(IN DUPLICATE TO COMMUNICATE THE DETENU)
6. THE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT,
MADURAI.

+1cc to M/s.S.S.Sundara Pandian, Advocate in SR.No.68836

H.C.P (MD) No.1262 of 2015

Dated: 02.12.2015

nb

PBK/NGM-SS/SAR-II 03/12/2015 ::3P-9C::