



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 20.08.2015

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.NAGAMUTHU

and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.S.RAVI

H.C.P(MD)No. 314 of 2015

Megavani

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thoothukudi District

2.The Secretary to Government, Government of Tamil Nadu
Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George,
Chennai-9.

.. 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 of the 1st respondent in detention order in H.S(M) Condf1.No.12/2015, dated 23/02/2015, setting aside the order of detention passed by the 1st respondent herein setting the detenu by name Balu @ Balasubramanian, S/o. Duraisamy, aged 39 years, at liberty now detained in Central Prison, Cuddalore.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Ramasamy

For Respondents : Mr. T.Mohan,
Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

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

The petitioner is the wife of one Balu @ Balasubramaniyan. The detenu has been detained as per the order of the first respondent under Section 2(b) of the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982, branding him as "Boot Legger".

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 fundamental rights, 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 23.02.2015. As against the same, the petitioner made a representation on 03.03.2015. The remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 06.03.2015. The remarks were received on 06.04.2015. Thereafter, the Government considered the issue and passed the order rejecting the representation on 17.04.2015. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was delay of eighteen 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.

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.

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 twenty five 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 first respondent, in his Detention Order in H.S.(M).Confdl.No.12/2015, dated 23.02.2015, is quashed. The detenu, by name, Balu @ Balasubramanian, S/o. Duraisamy, aged 39 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(CO)

/True copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

PJL/RR

To

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

2. The Secretary to Government, Government of Tamil Nadu,
Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George,
Chennai-9.

3. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Cuddalore. (In Duplicate to Communicate the Detenu)

4. The Joint Secretary to Government
Public (Law & Order) Department, Fort St George, Chennai-9

5. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.

+1cc to Mr.S.Ramasamy, Advocate SR NO.48065

ORDER MADE IN
H.C.P (MD) No.314 of 2015
20.08.2015

RG.25.08.2015/AMF/SAR-I

3P/8C.