



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 10.08.2015

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **S.NAGAMUTHU**

and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **V.S.RAVI**

H.C.P (MD) No.315 of 2015

Sangeetha

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Secretary to Government,
Department of Co-operation,
Food and Consumer Protection,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

2.The District Collector and
District Magistrate,
O/o. the District Collector and
District Magistrate,
Thoothukudi District,
Thoothukudi.

3.The Additional Secretary to
Government of India,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution,
(Department of Consumer Affairs)
Room No.270,
Krishi bavan,
New Delhi-110001.

4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Palayamkottai Central Prison,
Tirunelveli District.

.. Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records, connected with the detention order of the Respondent No.2 in H.S.(M) Confidential No.15/2015 dated 2.3.2015 and quash the same and direct the Respondents to produce the body a person of the detenu namely, J.Murugesan, son of Jayam Nadar, aged about 35 years, now detained in Palayamkottai Central Prison before this Hon'ble Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For petitioner
For respondents

: Mr.R.Alagumani
: Mr. T.Mohan
Additional Public Prosecutor
for R1, R2 & R4
Mr.D.Saravanan
Central Government Standing
Counsel for R3.

**ORDER**

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

The husband of the petitioner has been detained as "Black Marketeer" as per the order of the second respondent in H.S.(M) Confidential No.15/2015 dated 2.3.2015 under Section 3(2)(a) r/w 3 (1) of the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (Central Act 7 of 1980). Challenging the said order, the petitioner is now before this Court with this Habeas Corpus Petition.

2. We have heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondents 1, 2 and 4 and learned Central Government Standing Counsel for R3. 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 2.3.2015. As against the same, the petitioner made a representation on 6.3.2015. The remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 13.3.2015. The remarks were received by the Detaining Authority on 30.3.2015. Thereafter, the Government considered the issue and passed the order rejecting the representation on 13.04.2015. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was delay of eleven days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and there was delay of four 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 working fifteen 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 second respondent, in his proceedings in H.S.(M) Confidential No.15/2015 dated 2.3.2015, is quashed. The detenu, by name, J.Murugesan, son of Jayam Nadar, aged about 35 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(Writs)

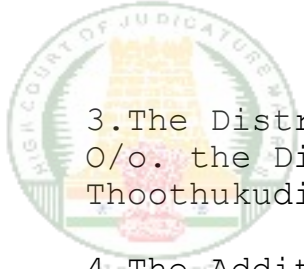
/True copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To:

1.The Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

2.The Secretary to Government,
Home Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort Saint George, chennai-600 009.



3.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
O/o. the District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thoothukudi District,Thoothukudi.

4.The Additional Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs,Food and Public Distribution,
(Department of Consumer Affairs)
Room No.270,Krishi bavan,New Delhi-110001.

5.The Superintendent of Prison,Palayamkottai Central Prison,
Tirunelveli District.

6.The Joint Secretary to Government,Public (Law and order)
Fort Saint George, Chennai-9.

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

+one cc to Mr.D.Saravanan, Advocate in SR.No.45153

ORDER MADE IN
H.C.P (MD) No. 315 of 2015
10.08.2015

cs1/NGM-SS/SAR-II/20.08.2015
4P/9C