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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT
DATED: 16.06.2016

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.K.SASIDHARAN
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE B.GOKULDAS

H.C.P(MD)No.313 of 2016

Hemalatha : Petitioner
Vs.

1.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Office of the District Magistrate and
District Collector,
Virudhungan District, Virudhungan.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Madurai Central Prison,
Madurai 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, connected with the detention order of the second respondent in Cr.M.P.No.17/Sexual Offender/2015, dated 12.10.2015 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu, by name, Thangavelan, son of Sivaraj, aged about 45 years detained in Madurai Central Prison before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani
For Respondents : Mr.C.Ramesh,
Additional Public Prosecutor.

O R D E R

[Order of the Court was made by K.K.SASIDHARAN, J.]

This Habeas Corpus Petition is filed by the wife of the detenu -Thangavel, who is under detention, pursuant to the order passed by the second respondent dated 12.10.2015, in Cr.M.P.No.17/Sexual Offender/2015, under Section 2(ggg) of the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug-offenders, Forest-offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Sexual Offenders, Slum-Grabbers and Video Pirates Act,1982, (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982), read with the orders issued by the Government in G.O.(D).No.174, Home Prohibition and Excise (XVI) Department, dated 18.07.2015, under Sub-Section (2) of Section 3 of the said Act, branding him as "Sexual Offender".



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 produced by the Detaining Authority.

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 gross violation of procedural safeguards, which would vitiate the detention. The learned counsel, by placing authorities, submitted that the representation made by the petitioner was not considered on time and there was an inordinate and unexplained delay.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor opposed the Habeas Corpus Petition. He would submit that though there was delay in considering the representation, on that score alone, the impugned detention order cannot be quashed. According to the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, 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. The Detention Order in question was passed on 12.10.2015. The petitioner made a representation dated 18.11.2015. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 18.11.2015. The remarks were duly received on 27.11.2015. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the representation on 14.12.2015.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of seven days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and thereafter, there was again a delay of nine days in considering the representation.

7. In *Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, [2011 (5) SCC 244], the Hon'ble Supreme Court has 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 undertaken by the detenu.

8. 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 order of detention.

9. 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 very detention illegal.

10. In the subject case, admittedly, there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of seven days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and nine days in considering the representation. The impugned detention order is, therefore, liable to be quashed.



11. In the result, the Detention Order, passed by the second respondent, in his proceedings in Cr.M.P.No.17/Sexual Offender/2015, dated 12.10.2015 is quashed. The detenu, namely, Thangavelan, is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith, if he is not required for detention in connection with any other case.

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12. In the upshot, we allow the Habeas Corpus Petition.

Sd/

Assistant Registrar(AS)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar.

To

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Office of the District Magistrate and
District Collector,
Virudhungan District, Virudhungan.
- 3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Madurai Central Prison,
Madurai District.(In duplicate communicate to detenue)
4. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law and Order) Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai.
- 5.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

ORDER MADE IN
H.C.P(MD)No.313 of 2016
Dated: 16.06.2016

ssm

AM/SKS.RR/23.06.2016/3P/7C