

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 08.11.2017

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE RAJIV SHAKDHER  
and  
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR

H.C.P.No.1020 of 2017

Sathya

... Petitioner

-vs-

1.State of Tamil Nadu,  
Rep. By the Secretary, Home,  
Prohibition and Excise Department,  
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

2.District Collector and District Magistrate,  
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate,  
Krishnagiri District. .... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records relating to the detention order in S.C.No.31/2017, dated 23.05.2017 passed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent under the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 and set aside the same and direct the respondent to produce the petitioner's husband Jagathratchagan S/o.Kannan aged about 29 years the detenu, now confined in Central Prison, Salem before this Court and set the petitioner's husband Jagathratchagan S/o.Kannan aged about 29 years the detenu herein at liberty.

For Petitioner: Mr.A.Gokula Krishnan

For Respondents: Mr.V.M.R.Rajentran  
Additional Public Prosecutor

WEB COPY  
O R D E R

[Order of the Court was made by N.SATHISH KUMAR, J.]

The petitioner is the Wife of the detenu, namely, Thiru.Jagathratchagan, S/o.Kannan, Male, aged about 29 years. The detenu has been detained by the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent by his order in S.C.No.31/2017, dated 23.05.2017, holding him to be a "Sand Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(gg) of Tamil Nadu

Act 14 of 1982. The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.

2. We have heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing 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 appearing 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 in time and there was an inordinate and unexplained delay with regard to the same.

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 23.05.2017. The petitioner made representations, dated 15.06.2017 and 22.06.2017 and the same was received on 19.06.2017 and 28.06.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on the same days, i.e., 19.06.2017 and 28.06.2017. The remarks were duly received on 09.08.2017 and 28.07.2017. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 16.08.2017 and 23.08.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 51 days and 30 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 15 days and 8 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 36 days and 22 days in submitting the remarks. Thereafter, there was another delay of 6 days and 26 days in considering the representation, of which 3 days and 10 days were Government Holidays, hence, there was another inordinate delay of 3 days and 16 days in considering the representation.

7. In *Rekha vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, reported in 2011 (5) SCC 244, the Honourable 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, reported in 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 Anbazhagansthan and others, reported in 1980 (2) SCC 321, the Honourable 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 36 days and 22 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and 3 days and 16 days in considering the representation. The impugned detention order is, therefore, liable to be quashed.

11.In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in S.C.No.31/2017, dated 23.05.2017, passed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Thiru.Jagathratchagan, S/o.Kannan, Male, aged about 29 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case. Given the nature of the case, this order will be communicated to the concerned Jail Superintendent by the Registrar General of this Court via Fax.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS VI)

//True Copy//

सत्यमेव जयते

Sub Assistant Registrar

WEB COPY

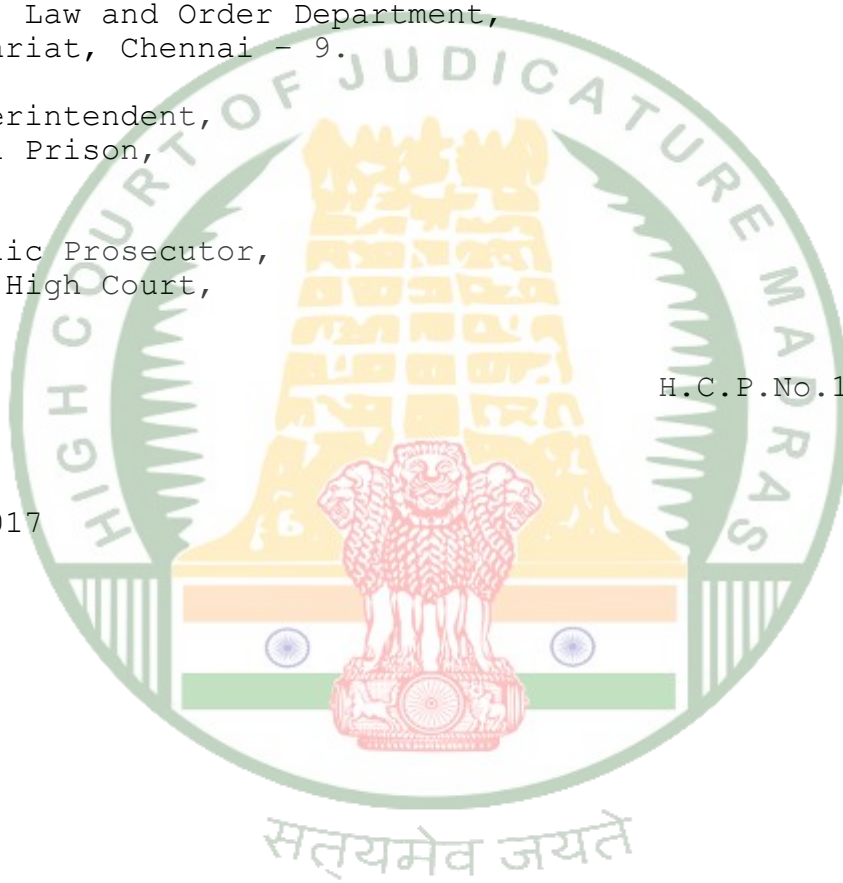
pam

To:

- 1.The Secretary, Home,  
Prohibition and Excise Department,  
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.District Collector and District Magistrate,  
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate,  
Krishnagiri District.
- 3.The Joint Secretary to Government  
Public, Law and Order Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai - 9.
- 4.The Superintendent,  
Central Prison,  
Salem.
- 5.The Public Prosecutor,  
Madras High Court,  
Madras.

H.C.P.No.1020 of 2017

gmr(co)  
aa08/11/2017



WEB COPY