

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Dated : 24.10.2017

Coram

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE RAJIV SHAKDER
&
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR

H.C.P.No.1034 of 2017

K.Ramalingam

... Petitioner

Vs.

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

2. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort. St.George,
Chennai 600 009.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, directing the respondents herein to produce the detenu, "SUDHAKAR", S/o.Ramalingam who is detained under Act 14/82 by the District Collector and District Magistrate Villupuram District, Villupuram in his proceedings C2/13750/2017 dated 18.05.2017 who is now confined in the Central Prison Cuddalore before this Court and quash the same and set the petitioner's son at liberty forth with.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.N.Rajan

For Respondents : Mr.V.M.R.Rajentran,
Addl. Public Prosecutor.

WEB COPY

O R D E R

(Order of the Court was made by N.SATHISH KUMAR, J)

The petitioner is the father of the detenu, namely, Sudhakar, Son of Ramalingam, male, aged about 28 years. The detenu has been detained by the first respondent by his proceedings in C2/13750/2017 dated 18.05.2017, holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under 2(f) 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 representations made by the petitioner was not considered on 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 18.05.2017. The petitioner made representations, dated Nil & dated 01.06.2017 and the same were received on 26.05.2017 & 19.06.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 26.05.2017 in respect of the first representation. Insofar as the second representation is concerned, remarks were called for on 19.06.2017. The remarks were duly received on 14.06.2017 in respect of the first representation. Insofar as the second representation, remarks were duly received on 10.07.2017. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representations on 20.06.2017 & 12.07.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that in respect of the first representation there was a delay of 19 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 6 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 13 days in submitting the remarks. Insofar as the second representation is concerned there was a delay of 21 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 7 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 14 days in submitting the remarks.

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 Rajasthan 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 13 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority in respect of the first representation. Insofar as the second representation is concerned, there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of 14 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority. 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 C2/13750/2017 dated 18.05.2017,, passed by the first respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Sudhakar, Son of Ramalingam, male, aged about 28 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/--

सत्यमेव जयते
Assistant Registrar(CCC)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

vsm

To

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

2. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort. St.George,
Chennai 600 009.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Cuddalore.

4.The Public Prosecutor,
Madras High Court,
Chennai.

H.C.P.No.1034 of 2017

GN(25/10/2017)



WEB COPY