

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 03.10.2017

CORAM:

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

H.C.P. No.1099 of 2017

Mahidoss

... Petitioner

-vs-

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

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

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records in C3/D.O/23/2017 on the file of the 1st respondent, quash the detention order dated 08.5.2017 and direct the production of the detenu Chinnathangachi @ Tamilarasi wife of Balakrishnan, aged 50 years presently detained at the Special Prison for Women, Vellore, under the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982.

For Petitioner : Mr. A.M.Rahamath Ali

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

O R D E R

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

The petitioner is the son of the detenu, namely, Chinnathangachi @ Tamilarasi, female, aged about 50 years. The detenu has been detained by the first respondent by his order in C3/DO/23/2017, dated 08.05.2017, holding her to be a "Boot-legger", as contemplated under 2(3) 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 08.5.2017. The petitioner made a representation, dated 16.06.2017 and the same was received on 19.06.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 19.06.2017. The remarks were duly received on 10.07.2017. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 12.07.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 20 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 9 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 11 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 11 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 C3/D.O/23/2017, dated 08.05.2017, passed by the first respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Chinnathangachi@Tamilarasi, wife of Balakrishnan, aged about 50 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless her 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 III)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

vsm/ga

To:

1. The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Cuddalore District, Cuddalore.
2. The Secretary to the Government
of Tamil Nadu
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Fort.St.George, Chennai - 9
3. The Superintendent,
Special Prison for Women,
Vellore(BY Fax through The Registrar General,
High Court, Madras)

4.The Public Prosecutor,
Madras High Court,
Madras

5.The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public(Law & Order)
Fort St. George,
Ch-9

H.C.P.No. 1099 of 2017

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