

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 12.10.2017

CORAM:

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

H.C.P. No.1340 of 2017

Rajendran ... Petitioner

-vs-

1.The State of Tamil Nadu
Represented by its
Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort. St.George, Chennai - 600 009

2. The Commissioner of Police,
Greater Chennai Police,
Vepery, Chennai - 600 007. ... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the entire records, relating to Petitioner's son detention under Tamil Nadu 14 of 1982 vide detention order, dated 25.05.2017 on the file of the second respondent herein made in proceedings No.302/BCDFGISSSV/2017 and quash the same as illegal and consequently direct the respondents herein to produce the said Petitioner's son namely Deepan, Son of Rajendran, aged 26 years detained at Central Prison-II, Puzhal, Chennai - 600 066 before this Court and set the Petitioner's son at liberty from detention.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.C. Chellappan
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 father of the detenu, namely, Deepan, Male 26, S/o.Rajendran. The detenu has been detained by the 2nd respondent by his order in No.302/BCDFGISSSV/2017, dated 25.05.2017, 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 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 25.05.2017. The petitioner made a representation, dated 19.06.2017 and the same was received on 20.06.2017 and thereafter, made an another representation dated 21.06.2017 and the same was received on 22.06.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 20.06.2017 in respect of the first representation. Insofar as the second representation is concerned, remarks were called for on 23.06.2017. The remarks were duly received on 30.06.2017 for both representations. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representations on 04.07.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that in respect of the first representation there was a delay of 10 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 03 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 07 days in submitting the remarks. Insofar as the second representation is concerned there was a delay of 07 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 01 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 06 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 07 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 06 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 302/BCDFGISSSV/2017 dated 25.05.2017, passed by the 2nd respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Deepan, Son of Rajendran, aged 26 year 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-VIII)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

rkp

To:

1. The Secretary to Government,
Prohibition and Excise Department (Home)
Fort. St. George, Chennai - 600 009
2. The Commissioner of Police,
Greater Chennai Police,
Vepery, Chennai - 600 007.
3. The Superintendent,
Central Prison-II, Puzhal, Chennai.
4. The Public Prosecutor,
Madras High Court, Madras.
5. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & order) Fort St. George, Chennai-9.

H.C.P. No.1340 of 2017

BR(CO)
EU(13/10/2017)