

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 09.10.2017

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE RAJIV SHAKDHER

And

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR

H.C.P.No.1426 of 2017

Ganeshvaran

... Petitioner

-VS-

1.The State of Tamil Nadu

Rep. by its Secretary to Government
Department of Prohibition and Excise (Home),
Fort St.George,
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Greater Chennai city Police,
Commissioner Office, 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 records relating to the impugned order in No.391/BCDFGISSSV/2017 dated 30.06.2017 on the file of second respondent herein and set aside the same as illegal and direct to the respondents to produce the detenu Ganeshvaran, son of Vijayarathinam, aged about 26 years, now confined at Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai, before this Hon'ble Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.Ilayaraja Kandasamy

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

O R D E R

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

The petitioner, namely, Ganeshvaran, male, aged about 26 years, is the detenu. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in No.391/BCDFGISSSV/2017, dated 30.06.2017, holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under 2(f) of the 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 30.06.2017. The petitioner made a representation, dated 23.07.2017 and the same was received on 01.08.2017 and also made another representation, dated 23.07.2017 and the same was received on 02.08.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 01.08.2017 in respect of the first representation and on 03.08.2017 in respect of the second representation. The remarks were duly received on 11.08.2017 in respect of both the representations. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representations on 16.08.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that in respect of the first representation there was an inordinate delay of 10 days in submitting the remarks. Insofar as the second representation is concerned, there was a an inordinate delay of 8 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 10 days in respect of the first representation and 8 days in respect of the second representation 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 No.391/BCDFGISSSV/2017, dated 30.06.2017, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Ganeshvaran, son of Vijayarathinam, aged about 26 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 II)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

ggs/pri
To:

1.The Secretary to Government
Department of Prohibition and Excise (Home),
Fort St.George,
Chennai - 600 009.

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

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai.

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

5.The Joint Secretary to Government
Public Law and order
fort St.George Chennai-9

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