

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Dated : 27.11.2017

Coram

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

H.C.P.No.1508 of 2017

N.Sundari

... Petitioner

Vs.

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu  
Rep. by its Secretary to the Government  
Home Prohibition and Excise Dept.  
Fort St. George  
Chennai 600 009.
- 2.The District Collector & District Magistrate  
Cuddalore District  
Cuddalore

...Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records relating to the Impugned Order of Detention passed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent in C3/D.O./41/2017 dated 12.07.2017 and set aside the same and consequently direct the respondents to produce the detenu Mr.Natarajan, son of Gunasekaran, aged about 24 years, the petitioner's husband now confined at Central Prison, Cuddalore, before this Court and set him at liberty.

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

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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, Natarajan, S/o.Gunasekaran, male, aged about 25 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in C3/D.O.41/2017 dated 12.07.2017, holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under Section 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 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 12.07.2017. The petitioner made a representation dated 04.08.2017 and 18.08.2017 and the same was received on 08.08.2017 and 22.08.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 08.08.2017 and 22.08.2017. The remarks were duly received on 18.09.2017 and 12.10.2017. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation 03.10.2017 and 27.10.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 41 and 51 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 15 and 17 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 26 and 34 days in submitting the remarks. Thereafter, another delay of 15 and 15 days in considering the representation, of which 6 and 2 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 9 and 13 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 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 26 and 34 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and 9 and 13 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 C3/D.O.41/2017 dated 12.07.2017, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Thiru.Natarajan, S/o.Gunasekaran, male, aged about 25 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//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu  
Rep. by its Secretary to the Government  
Home Prohibition and Excise Dept.  
Fort St. George  
Chennai 600 009.
- 2.The District Collector & District Magistrate  
Cuddalore District  
Cuddalore
- 3.The Joint Secretary to Government  
Public Law and Order Department  
Government of Tamil Nadu  
Fort St. George, Chennai-9.
- 4.The Superintendent,  
Central Prison,  
Cuddalore **(also by Fax)**  
(In duplicate for communication to the detenu)
- 5.The Additional Public Prosecutor,  
Madras High Court,  
Chennai.

H.C.P.No.1508 of 2017

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