

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 13.10.2017

CORAM:

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

H.C.P. No.1686 of 2017

Chinna Pappa

... Petitioner

-VS-

1. The District Magistrate & District Collector
Namakkal District
Namakkal.
2. The Principal Secretary to the Government
Government of Tamil Nadu (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, calling for the records of the detention order dated 27.04.2017 in detention order No.03/Goonda/2017/M1 on the file of the 1st respondent herein and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the petitioner's son Thiru Velu, S/o. Chandran, aged about 20 years, the detenu, now confined in District Prison and Borstal School, Pudukottai, before this Court and set the petitioner's son Thiru. Velu, S/o. Chandran, aged about 20 years the detenu herein at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.Balamurugane

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

ORDER

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

The petitioner is the mother of the detenu, namely, Velu, S/o. Chandran, Male, aged about 20 years. The detenu has been detained by the 1st respondent by his order in C.M.P.No.03/Goonda/2017/M1, dated 27.04.2017, 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 27.04.2017. The petitioner made a representation, dated 15.05.2017 and the same was received on 17.05.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 18.05.2017. The remarks were duly received on 12.06.2017. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 20.06.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 25 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 8 days

were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 17 days in submitting the remarks.

7. In *Rekha vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, reported in **2011 (5) SCC 204, 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 17 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 C.M.P.No.03/Goonda/2017/M1 dated 27.04.2017, passed by the 1st respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Velu, Son of Chandran, aged about 20 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.

[R.S.A.,J.] [N.S.K.,J.]

13.10.2017

Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes / No

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Note to office:

Issue copy by today itself

order will be communicated to the concerned Jail Superintendent by the Registrar General of this Court via Fax.

RAJIV SHAKDHER, J.

and

N.SATHISH KUMAR, J.

jer/ga

To:

1. The District Magistrate & District Collector
Namakkal District
Namakkal.
2. The Principal Secretary to the Government
Government of Tamil Nadu (Home)
Prohibition and Excise Department
Fort. St.George, Chennai – 600 009.
3. The Superintendent,
District Prison and Borstal School, Pudukottai
4. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madras High Court,
Madras.

सत्यमेव जयते

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