



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT
DATED: 23.05.2017
CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.V.MURALIDARAN
AND
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.V.KARTHIKEYAN

H.C.P (MD) No.315 of 2017

Selvi

: Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Additional Secretary,
Government of India,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and
Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs),
Room No.270, Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi - 110 001.

2.The Secretary to the Government,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Co-operation, Food and Consumer
Protection Department, Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009.

3.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Dindigul District, Dindigul.

4.The Inspector of Police,
CSCID, Dindigul.

5.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Madurai District.

: Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for records pertaining to the order of detention passed by the third respondent in his proceedings detention order No.09/2017, dated 19.02.2017 and quash the same as illegal and produce the detenu, namely Thangapandi, son of Gani Nadar, aged about 49 years, now he is confined in Central Prison, Madurai.

For Petitioner

: Mr.T.Lenin Kumar

For Respondent No.1

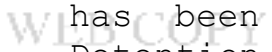
: Mr.R.Murugappan

Central Government Standing Counsel

For Respondents No. 2 to 5

: Mr.C.Mayilvahana Rajendran

Additional Public Prosecutor



The petitioner is wife of the detenu - by name, namely Thangapandi, son of Gani Nadar, aged about 49 years. The detenu has been detained by the third respondent by his order in Detention Order No.09/2017, dated 19.02.2017, holding him to be a "Black Marketeer", as contemplated under the prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (Central Act No.7 of 1980). The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.

3. Though several grounds have been raised in the Habeas Corpus Petition, the learned counsel 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.

5. The Detention Order in question was passed on 19.02.2017. The petitioner made a representation dated 27.02.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 02.03.2017. The remarks were duly received on 21.03.2017. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the representation on 28.03.2017.

7. In *Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, [2011 (5) SCC 244], the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the procedural safeguards and requirements 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, [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, [1980 (2) SCC 321], the Hon'ble 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 13 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and 5 days in considering the representation. The impugned detention order is, therefore, liable to be quashed.

11. In the result, the Detention Order, passed by the second respondent, in his proceedings in Detention Order No.09/2017, dated 19.02.2017, is quashed. The detenu, namely, Thangapandi, son of Gani Nadar, is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith, if he is not required for detention in connection with any other case.

12. In the upshot, we allow the Habeas Corpus Petition.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(AS)

/True Copy/

Sub-Assistant Registrar

To

- 1.The Additional Secretary, Government of India,
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Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs),
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- 2.The Secretary to the Government, Government of Tamil Nadu,
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- 3.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Dindigul District, Dindigul.
- 4.The Inspector of Police, CSCID, Dindigul.
- 5.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Madurai District.
- 6.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.
- 7.The Joint Secretary to Government, Public (Law and Order),
Secretariat, Chennai-9

+One cc to Mr.R.Murugappan, Advocate, SR.No.57029

+One cc to Mr.T.Lenin Kumar, Advocate, SR.No.57112

CM

RL/10C/3P/RR/SAR1/2.6.2017

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ORDER MADE IN
H.C.P (MD) No.315 of 2017

Dated : 23.05.2017