



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 18.09.2017

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.M.SUNDRESH  
and  
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR

H.C.P. (MD) No.666 of 2017

S.Niraiikulathan

... Petitioner

-vs-

1.State represented by,  
The District Collector and District Magistrate,  
Tirunelveli District,  
Tirunelveli - 9.

2.The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Home, Prohibition and Excise (xiv) Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai - 9.

3.State represented by,  
The Superintendent of Prison,  
Central Prison,  
Palayamkottai,  
Tirunelveli District.

... Respondents

**PRAYER:** Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records from the first respondent in M.H.S. Confdl. No.44/2017 dated 07.04.2017 by setting aside the said order of detention passed by the first respondent and setting the detenu Thamarai Kannan, aged about 29 years, S/o. Govindhan alias Pitchiah Konar, at liberty, now detained in the Central Prison, Palayamkottai.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.Prabhu

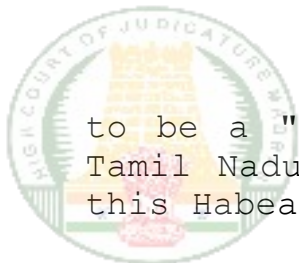
For Respondents : Mr.C.Ramesh

Additional Public Prosecutor

**O R D E R**

**[Order of the Court was made by M.M.SUNDRESH, J.]**

The petitioner is the uncle of the detenu, namely, Thamarai Kannan, son of Govindhan alias Pitchiah Konar, aged 29 years. The detenu has been detained by the first respondent by his order in M.H.S. Confdl. No.44/2017 dated 07.04.2017, holding him



to be a "Sand Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(gg) 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.

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 07.04.2017. The petitioner made a representation on 04.05.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 08.05.2017. The remarks were duly received on 10.05.2017. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 16.06.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 37 days in considering the representation by the Minister for Electricity and Prohibition and Excise after the Deputy Secretary dealt with the same, of which 10 days were Government Holidays, hence, there was inordinate delay of 27 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 27 days in considering the representation by the Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Exercise Department. 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 M.H.S. Confdl. No.44/2017, dated 07.04.2017, passed by the first respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Thamaraikannan, son of Govindhan alias Pitchiah Konar, aged about 29 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(P&A)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To:

- 1.The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Home, Prohibition and Excise (xiv) Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai - 9.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,  
Tirunelveli District,  
Tirunelveli - 9.
- 3.The Superintendent of Prison,  
Central Prison,  
Palayamkottai,  
Tirunelveli District.
4. The The Joint Secretary to Government,  
Public (Law & Order)  
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009



5. The Additional Public Prosecutor,  
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,  
Madurai.

+1cc to Mr.K.Prabhu, Advocate Sr.No.79527

SJ

VB/SV/MMS/SAR2/28/09/2017/4P/7C

**H.C.P. (MD) No.666 of 2017**  
**18.09.2017**