



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.886 of 2017

Ganesan

... Petitioner

-vs-

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department,
2nd Floor, Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai,
Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.
 - 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District,
Tirunelveli.
 - 3.The Additional Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution,
(Department of Consumer Affairs),
Room No.270, Krishna Bavan,
New Delhi - 110 001.
 - 4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Tirunelveli Central Prison,
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, connected with the detention order of the Respondent No.2 in M.H.S. Confdl No.60/2017 dated 07.06.2017 and quash the same and direct the Respondents to produce the body and person of the detenu by name Ganesan, son of Krishnan, aged about 38 years, now confining at Palayamkottai Central Prison before this Honourable Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani

For Respondents : Mr.C.Ramesh
Additional Public Prosecutor

1, 2 & 4

<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/>

O R D E R



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

The petitioner Ganesan, son of Krishnan, aged about 38 years, is the detenu. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in M.H.S.Confdl. No.60/2017 dated 07.06.2017, holding him to be a "Black Marketeer", as contemplated under the provisions of Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (Act No.7 of 1980). 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 1, 2 and 4. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

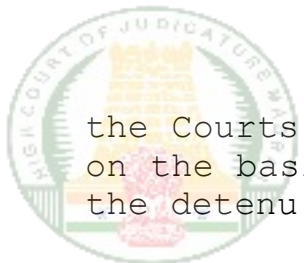
3. Though several grounds have been raised in the Habeas Corpus Petition, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would mainly focus his argument on the ground that there is gross violation of procedural safeguards, which would vitiate the detention. The learned counsel, by placing authorities, 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 07.06.2017. The petitioner made a representation on 13.06.2017. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 19.06.2017. The remarks were duly received on 05.07.2017. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 12.07.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 16 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 4 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 12 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 12 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 M.H.S.Confdl. No.60/2017, dated 07.06.2017, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Ganesan, son of Krishnan, aged about 38 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

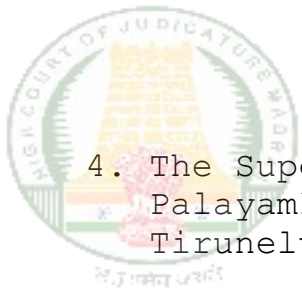
Assistant Registrar(P&A)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To:

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
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2nd Floor, Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai,
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Room No.270, Krishna Bavan,
New Delhi - 110 001.



4. The Superintendent of Prison,
Palayamkottai Central Prison,
Tirunelveli District.

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

6. The The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order)
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009

+1cc to Mr.P.Paul Pandi, Advocate Sr.No.79263

SJ

VB/SV/MMS/SAR2/28/09/2017/4P/8C

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