



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 06.02.2017

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.SUBBIAH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE J.NISHA BANU

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION(MD).No.1090 of 2016

Panju : Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Secretary to Government
State of Tamilnadu
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

2. The Commissioner of Police,
Office of the Commissioner of Police,
Madurai City, Madurai.

3. The Superintendent of Prison,
District Prison and Borstal School,
Pudukottai District.

: Respondents

Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus To call for the entire records connected with the detention order of the Respondent No. 2 in No.56/BCDFGISSSV/ 2016 dated 06.08.2016 and Quash the same and direct the Respondents to produce the detenu by name Mookuthi @ Sugapriyan son of Masanam aged about 19 years detained in District Prison and Borstal School Pudukottai before this Honourable Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani

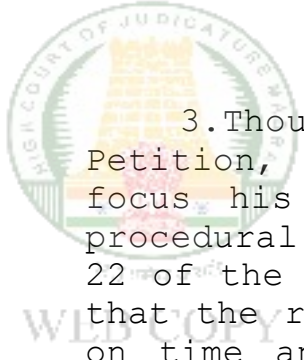
For Respondents : Mr.Mayil Vagana Rajendran

Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

The petitioner is the mother of the detenu viz., "Mookuthi" @ Sugapriyan, S/o.Masanam, aged about 19 years. The detenu has been detained, as per the order of the second respondent, dated 06.08.2016, under Section 2(f) of the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982, branding him as "Goonda". Challenging the same, she has come up with this Habeas Corpus Petition.

2.We have heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the
also perused the records carefully.



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 violation of procedural safeguards, which are guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India. The learned counsel would submit that the representation made by the petitioner was not considered on time and there was an inordinate and unexplained delay. The learned counsel has relied on few Judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Based on the same, the learned counsel would plead for setting aside the detention order.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor would, however, oppose this Habeas Corpus Petition. He would submit that though there was delay in considering the representation, on that score, the impugned detention order need not be interfered with, as on account of the said delay, 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.

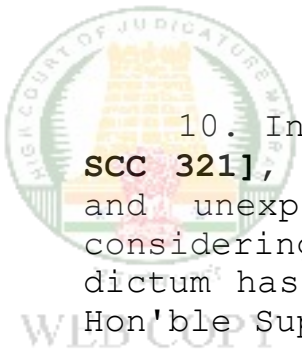
5. We have considered the above submissions.

6. In this case, the Detention Order was passed on 06.08.2016. As against the same, the petitioner made a representation on 14.08.2016. The remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 22.08.2016. The remarks were received on 26.08.2016. Thereafter, the Under Secretary has dealt with the representation on 31.08.2016 and the Minister for (Electricity and Prohibition and Excise) has dealt with the representation only on 15.10.2016, after a delay of 44 days, out of which 15 days were Government holidays. As such, there has been an actual delay of 29 days in dealing with the representation made on behalf of the detenu.

7. Now, the question is as to whether on that score, the impugned order can be quashed.

8. In ***Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu***, [2011 (5) SCC 244], the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the right to life and liberty of a person is protected, under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further 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 of the detenu.

9. 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/detenu would be sufficient to set aside the detention order.



10. 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 detention illegal. This dictum has been followed in several Judgments consistently by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as this Court.

11. Applying the said dictum laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, if we look into the facts of the present case, undoubtedly, there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of 29 working days and therefore, the impugned detention order is liable to be quashed.

12. In the result, this Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the impugned Detention Order, passed by the second respondent, in his proceedings in No.56/BCDFGISSSV/ 2016 dated 06.08.2016, is quashed. The detenu, namely "Mookuthi" @ Sugapriyan, S/o.Masanam, aged about 19 years, is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith, if he is not required for detention in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(RTI)

/TRUE COPY/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

1. The District Collector and District Magistrate, Pudukkottai, Pudukkottai District.
2. The Secretary to Government Home, Prohibition and Excise Department, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.
3. The Commissioner of Police, O/O The Commissioner of Police, Madurai city, Madurai.
4. The Superintendent, District prison and Borstal School, Pudukkottai District.
5. The Joint Secretary to Government, Public (Law & Order), Fort Saint George, Chennai-9.
6. The Additional Public Prosecutor, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.

HCP(MD) .No.1090 of 2016
06.02.2017