



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 03.04.2017

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE T.S.SIVAGNANAM
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.VELMURUGAN

H.C.P. (MD) No.1370 of 2016

Sumathi

... Petitioner

-vs-

1.State of Tamil Nadu
rep.by the Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Fort St.George, Chennai-9

2.The District Magistrate and
District Collector
O/o.The District Magistrate and
District Collector
Karur District, Karur

3.The Superintendent
Central Prison
Tiruchirappalli

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition 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 second respondent, in Cr.M.P.No.08/2016, dated 16.09.2016 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu, by name, Andavar, son of Mokkaiyathevar, aged about 40 years, detained in Central Prion, Tiruchirappalli before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.A.S.Prabhu

For Respondents : Mr.C.Ramesh
Addl. Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

[Order of the Court by T.S.SIVAGNANAM, J.]

The petitioner is the wife of the detenu - Andavar, aged about 40 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in Cr.M.P.No.08/2016, dated 16.09.2016, holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under Section 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 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 16.09.2016. The petitioner made a representation on 27.09.2016. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 03.10.2016. The remarks were duly received on 28.10.2016. The Secretary dealt with the matter on 03.11.2016 and it is stated to be under circulation to the Minister for Electricity and Prohibition and Excise.

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 08 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 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 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 Cr.M.P.No.08/2016, dated 16.09.2016, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Andavar, son of Mokkaiyathevar, aged about 40 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(AS)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To:

1.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai-9.

2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
O/o.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Karur District, Karur.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,

<https://hcservices.accounts.gov.in/hcservices/>
Tiruchirappalli.



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

Krk/skn

AE/KP/SAR3/17.04.2017/4P/5C

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