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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT
DATED: 18.04.2017
CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE T.S.SIVAGNANAM
AND
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.VELMURUGAN
H.C.P (MD) No.1592 of 2016

Selvi Ponnammal

: Petitioner

Vs.

1.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District, Tirunelveli.

2.The State, rep by
Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort.St.George, Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.

3.The Inspector of Police,
Surandai Police Station,
Tirunelveli District.

: Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records in M.H.S.Confdl.No.152/2016, dated 28.10.2016 and issue a Writ, Order Direction more particularly, in the nature of Writ of Habeas Corpus and set aside the same and direct the respondents 1 to 3 herein to produce the detenu, namely, Moses Rajkumar @ Patturose, aged 36 years, S/o.Johnson, who has been termed as "Goönda" and now confined in Central Prison, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District, before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner
For Respondents

: Mrs.T.Kalaiselvi
: Mr.C.Ramesh
Additional Public Prosecutor.

O R D E R

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

The petitioner is the wife of the detenu - Moses Rajkumar @ Patturose, aged 36 years, S/o.Johnson. The detenu has been detained by the first respondent by his order in M.H.S.Confdl.No.152/2016, dated 28.10.2016, holding him to be a "Goönda", 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 for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

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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.

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 28.10.2016. The petitioner made a representation dated 09.11.2016. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 15.11.2016. The remarks were duly received on 17.11.2016. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the representation on 21.12.2016.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 22 days in considering the representation.

7. In **Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu, [2011 (5) SCC 244]**, the Hon'ble 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, [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 22 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 first respondent, in his proceedings in M.H.S.Confdl.No.152/2016, dated 28.10.2016, is quashed. The detenu, namely, Moses Rajkumar @ Patturose, aged 36 years, S/o.Johnson, 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 (CS-I)

/True copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

1.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District, Tirunelveli.

2.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort.St.George, Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.

3.The Inspector of Police,
Surandai Police Station,
Tirunelveli District.

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

5.The Joint Secretary to Government
Public (Law & Order),
Fort.St.George, Chennai-9.

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

+1 CC to M/s.T.KALAISELVI, Advocate, SR No. 53022

NB

PAM/KP/SAR4/27.04.2017/3P/8C