



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 21.04.2017

CORAM:

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

H.C.P (MD) No.1671 of 2016

Suresh

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.State of Tamil Nadu, represented by
The Principal Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
O/o The Commissioner Of Police,
Madurai City,
Madurai.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Madurai.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the entire records in detention order passed in No.89/BCDFGISSSV/2016, dated 30.11.2016 on the file of the second respondent herein and set aside the same as illegal and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the petitioner's son, namely, Mahalingam, son of Suresh, male, aged 23 years, who is detained in Central Prison, Madurai, before this Court and set him at liberty.

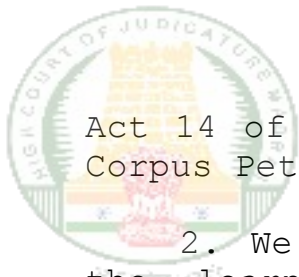
For Petitioner : Mr.K.A.S.Prabhu

For Respondents : Mr.C.Ramesh,
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by **T.S.SIVAGNANAM, J.**)

The petitioner is the father of the detenu, aged about 23 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in No.89/BCDFGISSSV/2016, dated 30.11.2016, 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 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 appearing for the respondents 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 30.11.2016. The petitioner made a representation dated 14.12.2016. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 22.12.2016. The remarks were duly received on 26.12.2016. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the representation on 30.01.2017.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 2 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and thereafter, there was again a delay of 20 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, though there is a delay of 2 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of 20 days in considering the representation. 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 No.89/BCDFGISSSV/2016, dated 30.11.2016, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, Mahalingam, son of Suresh, male, aged about 23 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

12. In the upshot, we allow the Habeas Corpus Petition.

Sd/-

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR(writs)

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SUB ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

To

1.The Principal Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
O/o The Commissioner Of Police,
Madurai City,
Madurai.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Madurai.

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

Rsb

MAS/SKN-RSK:03.05.2017:3P-5C

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