

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 28.03.2018

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.T.SELVAM
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.SATHISH KUMAR

H.C.P.No.190 of 2018

Azhagu Petitioner

-Vs-

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu
represented by its Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.
- 2.Commissioner of Police,
Detaining Authority,
Tiruppur City. Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records relating to petitioner brother daughter's detention under Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 vide detention order, dated 18.12.2017 on the file of the second respondent herein made in proceedings C.No.10/G/IS/2017 and quash the same as illegal and consequently direct the respondents herein to produce the said petitioner brother's daughter namely Saradha, W/o.Boominathan, aged 29 years before this Hon'ble Court and set the petitioner brother's daughter at liberty from detention, now petitioner brother's daughter detained at Special Prison for Women, Coimbatore.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.C.Chellappan
For Respondents: Mr.R.Prathap Kumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by C.T.SELVAM, J.]

The petitioner is the aunty of the detainee herein, viz., Saradha, wife of Boominathan, aged 29 years. The detainee has been detained by the second respondent by his order in C.No.10/G/IS/2017, dated 18.12.2017, holding her to be a "IMMORAL TRAFFIC OFFENDER", as contemplated under Section

2(g) of Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Sexual Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982). The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.

2. The ground case has been registered against the detinue in Cr.No.09 of 2017 on the file of All Women Police Station South, Tiruppur City for offences u/s 3(1), 4(2) ©, 5 (1) (a) and 6(2) (a) of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956. The detention order has been passed by second respondent in C.No.10/G/IS/2017.

3. We have heard learned counsel for the petitioner and learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

4. 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.

5. 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 detinue and thus, there is no violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India.

6. The Detention Order in question was passed on 18.12.2017. The petitioner made a representation, dated 23.01.2018 and the same was received on 25.01.2018. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on the same day. The remarks were duly received on 01.02.2018. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 07.02.2018.

7. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 7 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 3 days were Saturdays and Sundays and Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 4 days in submitting remarks. Thereafter, there was yet another delay of 5 days, of which 2 days were Saturdays and Sundays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 3 days in considering the representation.

8. 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 detainee.

9. 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 detainee would be sufficient to set aside the order of detention.

10. 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.

11. In the subject case, admittedly, there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of 4 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and 3 days in considering the representation. The impugned detention order is, therefore, liable to be quashed.

12. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in C.No.10/G/IS/2017, dated 18.12.2017, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detainee, namely, Saradha, wife of Boominathan, aged about 29 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless her detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS IX)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

To:

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

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Detaining Authority,
Tiruppur City.

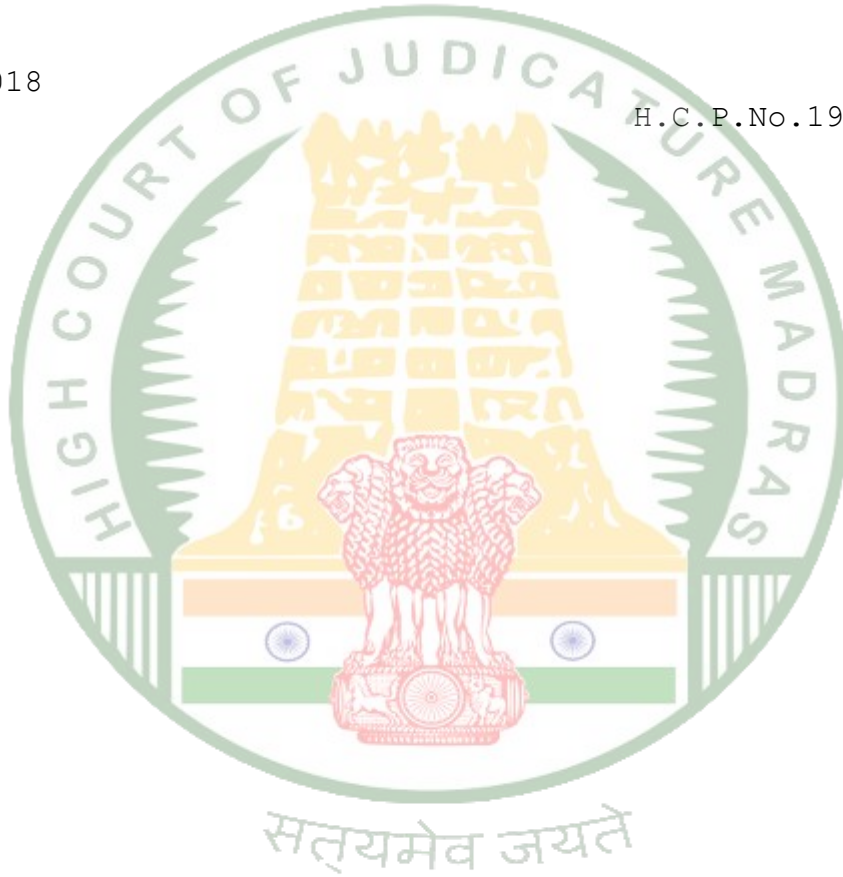
3.The Superintendent,
Special Prison for women,
Coimbatore.

4.The Joint Secretary,
Public (Law and order) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

5.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

EV(CO)
sm:26.4.2018

H.C.P.No.190 of 2018



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