



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT
DATED:11.04.2018
CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE Mr. JUSTICE C.T.SELVAM
and
THE HONOURABLE Mr. JUSTICE A.M.BASHEER AHAMED

H.C.P.(MD)No.229 of 2018

N.Santhanamari ... Petitioner
Vs.

- 1.The State rep. by
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District, Tirunelveli-9.
- 3.The Inspector of Police,
Pathamadai Police Station, Tirunelveli District.
- 4.The Superintendent,
Borstal School,
District Jail, Pudukottai. ... Respondents

PRAYER: The petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, directing the respondents herein to produce the detenu Ayyappan alias Manikandan, aged about 19 years, S/o.Nambi, who has been termed as "Goonda" who is now detained at the Borstal School, District Jail, Pudukottai and to call for records relating to the detention order in No.M.H.S.Confdl No.04/2018 dated 11.01.2018, passed by the 2nd respondent herein and to set aside the same and to set the detenu at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.S.Jeyakarthik

For Respondents : Mr.V.Neelakandan
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by C.T.SELVAM, J.)

The petitioner is the mother of the detenu herein, viz., Ayyappan alias Manikandan S/o.Nambi, aged about 19 years. The detenu has been detained by order in M.H.S.Confdl No.04/2018 dated 11.01.2018, holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under 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.

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 11.01.2018. The petitioner made a representation dated 25.01.2018. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 25.01.2018. The remarks were duly received on 05.02.2018. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the representation on 07.02.2018.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of six days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority.

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 in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority in considering the representation. The impugned detention order is, therefore, liable to be quashed.



11. In the result, the Detention Order, passed by the second respondent, in his proceedings in No.M.H.S.Confdl No.04/2018 dated 11.01.2018 is quashed. The detenu, namely, Ayyappan alias Manikandan S/o.Nambi, is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith, if his detention is not required in connection with any other case.

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

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(Crl.Side)

/True Copy/

Sub-Assistant Registrar

To

- 1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District, Tirunelveli-9.
- 3.The Inspector of Police,
Pathamada Police Station, Tirunelveli District.
- 4.The Superintendent, Borstal School,
District Jail, Pudukottai.
(In Dupllicate for communication to Detenu)
- 5.The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law and Order), Fort Saint George, Chennai-9
- 6.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai

+1cc to M/s.Jeyakarthik, Advocate, SR.No.60758

dss/nbj

RL/9C/3P/KK/SAR1/26/4/2018

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