



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 05.01.2018

WEB COPY

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE DR. JUSTICE S.VIMALA
AND
THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE T.KRISHNAVALLI

HCP [MD].No.1350 of 2017

B.Menaka

: Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Government of Tamilnadu, Home,
Prohibition & Excise Department IX,
Secretariat, Goerge Fort,
Chennai-600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Tiruchirappalli City,
Tiruchirappalli.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Tiruchirappalli Central Prison,
Tiruchirappalli

: Respondents

PRAYER: Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issue of a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records on the file of the 2nd respondent in Detention Order No.C.No.36/Detention/C.P.O./T.C./2017 and set aside the order of detention passed therein dated 06.09.2017 direct the respondents to produce the detenu by name Thangadurai son of Balamurugan, male aged 22 years before this Court, now detained at Central Prison, Tiruchirappalli, and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.J.William Christopher
For Respondents : Mr.C.Ramesh,
Additional Public Prosecutor



6. In this case, the Detention Order was passed on 06.09.2017. As against the same, the petitioner made a representation on 08.09.2017. The remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 11.09.2017. The remarks were received on 20.09.2017. Thereafter, the Government considered the issue and passed the order rejecting the representation on 03.10.2017. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was delay of 6 days on the part of the Government in considering the same.

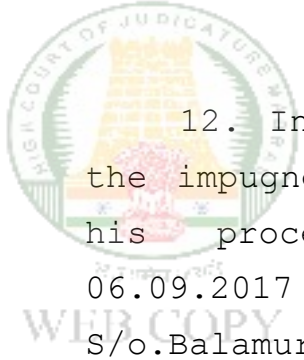
7. Now, the question is as to whether on that score, the impugned order can be quashed.

8. In *Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, [2011 (5) SCC 244], the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the right to life and liberty of a person is protected, under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further 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 of the detenu.

9. 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/detenu would be sufficient to set aside the detention order.

10. 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 detention illegal. This dictum has been followed in several Judgments consistently by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as this Court.

11. Applying the said dictum laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, if we look into the facts of the present case, undoubtedly, there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of 6 (six) working days and therefore, the impugned detention order is liable to be quashed.



12. In the result, this Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the impugned Detention Order, passed by the second respondent, in his proceedings in C.No.36/Detention/C.P.O./T.C./2017 dated 06.09.2017 is quashed. The detenu, namely Thangadurai, S/o.Balamurugan, aged about 22 years, is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith, if he is not required for detention in connection with any other case.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (CS-II)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

- 1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Government of Tamilnadu, Home,
Prohibition & Excise Department,
Secretariat, Goerge Fort,
Chennai-600 009.
- 2.The District Collector,
Tiruchirappalli.
- 3.The Commissioner of Police,
Tiruchirappalli City,
Tiruchirappalli.
- 4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Tiruchirappalli Central Prison,
Tiruchirappalli.
- 5.The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order),
St.George Fort, Chennai-09.
- 6.The Additional Public Prosecutor
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

ORDER MADE IN
HCP [MD].No.1350 of 2017
05.01.2018