

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 25.01.2019

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.T.SELVAM  
and  
THE HONOURABLE Mrs.JUSTICE S.RAMATHILAGAM

H.C.P.No.2225 of 2018

S.Kider Mohammed

.. Petitioner

Vs.

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

2. The Commissioner of Police,  
Detaining Authority,  
City Police Office, Huzur Road,  
Coimbatore City,  
Coimbatore - 18.

3.The Secretary to Government of India,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
(Department of Internal Security),  
North Block, New Delhi 110 001.

.. Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, call for the entire records, relating to the petitioner detention under Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 vide detention order, dated 26.08.2018 on the file of the second respondent herein made in proceedings Memo C.No.02/NSA/IS/2018, quash the same as illegal and consequently direct the respondents herein to produce the petitioner namely, S.Kider Mohammed, S/o.Sulaiman, aged 65 years before this Hon'ble Court and set the petitioner at liberty from detention, now the petitioner detained at Central Prison, Coimbatore.

For Petitioner : Mr.Camyles Gandhi.W

For Respondents : Mr.R.Prathap Kumar  
Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R  
[Order of the Court was made by C.T.SELVAM, J.]

Challenge is made to the order of detention passed by the second respondent vide Proceedings in C.No.02/NSA/IS/2018 dated 26.08.2018, whereby the detenu, by name, S.Kider Mohammed, son of Sulaiman, aged about 65 years, was ordered to be detained under Sub-Section(2) of Section 3 of the National Security Act, 1980 (Central Act 65 of 1980) r/w the orders issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu in G.O.Ms.No.530, Public (Law and Order.F) Department dated 18.07.2018 under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the said Act.

2.The ground case has been registered against the detenu based on the Special Report of the Inspector of Police, Crime, C-2 Race Course Police Station, Coimbatore City, a case in Coimbatore City, C-3 Saibaba Colony Police Station Cr.No.449/2018 for offences u/s. 489 (A)(B)(C)(D) IPC. The detention order has been passed by Second respondent in C.No.02/NSA/IS/2018 on 26.08.2018.

3. Though many grounds have been raised in the petition, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, confines his argument only in respect of non-application of mind on the part of the detaining authority in passing the order of detention.

4. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that the detenu was arrested in the ground case in Cr.No.448/2018 on 06.06.2018; whereas the detention order was passed on 26.08.2018, i.e. Nearly after a lapse of 84 days. This inordinate delay in passing of detention order would vitiate the same. In support of his contention, learned counsel for the petitioner placed reliance on the judgment of a Division Bench of this Court reported in 2005 MLJ (Cr1.) 752 (Ramesh v. District Collector and District Magistrate, Tiruchirapalli District and another). सत्यमेव जयते

5. Per contra, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the order of detention has been passed on cogent and sufficient materials and the same cannot be interfered with at the instance of the petitioner. Therefore, he submits that the Habeas Corpus Petition does not merit any consideration and the same is liable to be dismissed.

6. We have heard the learned counsel for both sides with regard to the facts.

7. A perusal of the grounds of detention as well as the detention order passed by the detaining authority would show

that the Detention Order was passed on 26.08.2018. Further, the detenu was arrested in the ground case as early as on 06.06.2018. This shows an inordinate delay of nearly 84 days in passing the detention order. There is no explanation forthcoming on the side of the respondents for this inordinate delay in passing the detention order. Learned counsel for the petitioner has rightly placed reliance on the decision in Ramesh's case (cited supra) wherein this Court has held as follows:

"....

3.It is brought to our notice by the learned Government advocate that the analyst report was received on 06.12.2014 and the doctor has issued certificate on 07.12.2014. Even in the counter affidavit filed by the first respondent, it is stated that the sponsoring authority has submitted his affidavit only on 15.01.2015. When the sponsoring authority is in possession of the analyst report and the doctor's report even on 06.12.2014 and 07.12.2014, there is no proper explanation for submitting his affidavit till 15.01.2015 for invoking the provisions of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982. Even thereafter, the impugned detention order was passed only on 27.02.2015, i.e. After five weeks of receipt of the affidavit from the sponsoring authority. Though the detaining authority has filed a counter affidavit, there is no explanation for the undue delay in passing the impugned order.

4.In this regard, learned counsel for the petitioner relied on unreported decision of this Court rendered in H.C.P. No.1149 of 1995, dated 13.12.1995. In similar circumstances, after pointing out the unexplained delay between the date of submission of the affidavit by the sponsoring authority and the detention order, the Division Bench of this Court has concluded thus:

"Such delays tend to have an affect of snapping the link between prejudicial activity and passing of preventive orders....."

8. In view of the above decision rendered by the Division Bench of this Court, this Court is of the view that the detention order is unsustainable in law on the ground of inordinate and unexplained delay in passing the detention order and the same is liable to be set aside.

9. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in C.No.02/NSA/IS/2018 dated 26.08.2018, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, namely, S.Kider Mohammed, Son of Sulaiman, aged about 65 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-  
Deputy Registrar

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To:

- 1.The Secretary to Government,  
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,  
Secretariat, Fort St.George,  
Chennai - 600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police,  
Detaining Authority,  
City Police Office, Huzur Road,  
Coimbatore City,  
Coimbatore - 18.
- 3.The Secretary to Government of India,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
(Department of Internal Security),  
North Block, New Delhi 110 001.
4. The Superintendent of Prison,  
Central Prison,  
Coimbatore.
- 5.The Joint Secretary,  
Public (Law and order) Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.
- 6.The Public Prosecutor  
High Court, Madras.

H.C.P.No.2225 of 2018

GN(14/02/2019)