

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 18.09.2020

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.KIRUBAKARAN
AND
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.VELMURUGAN

H.C.P.No.533 of 2020

Sangeetha

... Petitioner

Vs

1.The Government of Tamilnadu
Rep by Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Fort St George
Chennai.

2.The Commissioner of Police
Salem City
O/o Commissioner of Police
Linemedu
Salem - 636 006.

... Respondents

PRAYER : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of Writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the records in connection with the order of detention passed by the 2nd respondent dated 29.02.2020 in C.M.P.No.10/Goonda/Salem City/2020 against the petitioner's husband, Babu @ Dog Babu, S/o Vijayakumar, aged 30 years, who is confined at Central Prison, Salem, and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu before the Hon'ble Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.W.Camyles Gandhi

For Respondents: Mr.R.Prathap Kumar

Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

(Order of the court was made by N.KIRUBAKARAN.J.,)

The matter was heard through "Video Conference".

2.The Wife of the Detenu has filed this Petition challenging the Detention Order passed by the Second Respondent in

C.M.P.No.10/Goonda/Salem City/2020 dated 29.02.2020 as the detenu has got three adverse cases apart from the ground case registered as against him.

3.Heard Mr.W.Camyles Gandhi, learned Counsel appearing for the Petitioner and Mr.R.Prathap Kumar, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the Respondents.

4. It is seen from the records that the representation sent on behalf of the detenu has not been considered within time frame and there is a delay of 21 days in considering and disposing of the representation.

5.In the decision in "C.Muthuvali Vs. The Principal Secretary to Government, Home Prohibition and Excise Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009" reported in "[(2017) (1) MWN (Cr.) 270 (DB)]" it has been held that an unexplained delay of nine working days on the part of the Government in considering the representation rendered the detention illegal. Another Division Bench of this Court in "Samaiah Vs.The Secretary to Government" reported in "[(2007) (4) MWN (Cr.) 145]" has held that an unexplained delay of three days in disposal of the representation made by the detenu would be sufficient to set aside the detention order.

6.Further, a larger Bench of the Supreme Court in "Rekha Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu" reported in "2011 5 SCC 244" has held that "Preventive detention is by nature repugnant to democratic ideas and an anathema to the rule of law. No such law exists in the USA and in England (except during war time). However, Article 22(3)(b) of the Constitution of India permits preventive detention, we cannot hold it illegal but we must confine the power of preventive detention within very narrow limits, otherwise we will be taking away the great right to liberty guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India which was won after long, arduous, historic struggles".

7.Since there is an unexplained delay in considering the representation submitted by the detenu, the detention order passed by the second respondent is liable to be set aside.

8.Accordingly, the detention order passed by the Second Respondent in C.M.P.No.10/Goonda/Salem City/2020 dated 29.02.2020 is quashed. The detenu viz., Babu @ Dog Babu, S/o Vijayakumar, aged 30 years, who is confined at Central Prison, Salem, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith unless his presence is required in connection with any other case.

9.On technical grounds only, the detention order has been quashed by this Court. The very purpose of detention is to

prevent the detenu from repeating offences and that public safety is ensured. Since this Court has quashed the detention order, in the interest of public and in the interest of justice, this Court is justified in directing the detenu to appear before the jurisdictional Police Station, every Monday at 11.00 A.M., till 28.02.2021. The very purpose of this direction is to ensure that the detenu does not repeat the commission of offence and that the police can also have a watch over the movement of the detenu, even if he is outside the prison. Accordingly, this petition is allowed.

s/d-

Assistant Registrar (CO)

True Copy

Sub-Assistant Registrar

To

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

2.The Commissioner of Police
Salem City
O/o Commissioner of Police
Linemedu
Salem - 636 006.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Salem.

4.The Public Prosecutor, सत्यमेव जयते
High Court of Madras,
Chennai.

5.The Joint Secretary
Public (Law and Order) Department
Secretariat
Fort St. George
Chennai - 600 009.

H.C.P.No.533 of 2020

RLD (CO)
SP(05/10/2020)