



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 17.09.2020

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.KALYANASUNDARAM
and
THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE T.KRISHNAVALLI

H.C.P. (MD) No.5 of 2020

Natarajan ... Petitioner

-vs-

1.The Principal Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Secretariat, Chennai-9

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate
Thanjavur, Thanjavur District

3.The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison, Trichy

... Respondents

PRAYER : Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issue of a Writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the records in pursuant to the proceedings of the second respondent in Detention Order in P.D.No.39/2019, dated 14.12.2019 quash the same and consequently direct the respondents to produce the detenu, namely, Surya, son of Natarajan, aged 20 years, who is now detained in Central Prison, Trichy, before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Kathiresaperumal

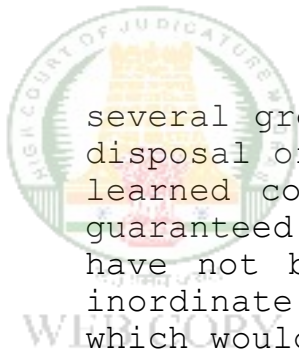
For Respondents : Mr.V.Neelakandan
Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

(Order of the Court was made by K.KALYANASUNDARAM, J.)

This habeas corpus petition has been filed by the father of the detenu, namely, Surya, aged 20 years, challenging the detention order in P.D.No.39/2019, dated 14.12.2019, passed by the second respondent, branding him as "Goonda" as contemplated under Section 2 (f) of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982.

2. Mr.R.Kathiresaperumal, learned counsel for the petitioner, argued that even though the petitioner has raised



several grounds, he has confined his arguments only to the delay in disposal of the petitioner's representation. It is submitted by the learned counsel for the petitioner that the procedural safeguards guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India have not been followed in this case and there is unexplained and inordinate delay in disposal of the petitioner's representation, which would vitiate the impugned order of detention.

3. Mr.V.Neelakandan, learned Additional Public Prosecutor, while reiterating the counter affidavit filed by the second respondent, submitted that after satisfying with the materials placed by the Sponsoring Authority, the Detaining Authority has passed the detention order and there is no illegality or infirmity in the detention order. It is also stated that even if there is any delay in disposal of the representation, it has not caused any prejudice to the rights of the detenu and hence, prayed for dismissal of the habeas corpus petition.

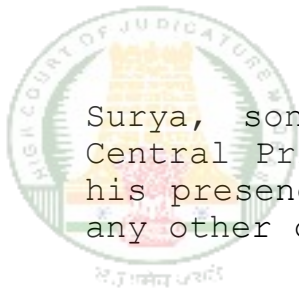
4. Heard both sides and perused the materials available on record.

5. In this case, the Detention Order was passed on 14.12.2019. As against the same, the petitioner made a representation and the same was received by the Collectorate from the Central Prison on 18.12.2019. The Parawar remarks were called for from the Sponsoring Authority on 02.01.2020. The remarks were received on 22.01.2020 and the report was sent to the Government on the same day i.e.22.01.2020. In between 02.01.2020 and 22.01.2020, there is a delay of eleven days, after excluding the Government Holidays of nine days, in receiving remarks from the Sponsoring Authority.

6. At this juncture, it is useful to refer the decision of the Honourable Apex Court in the case of **Rajammal vs. State of Tamil Nadu and another**, reported in **1999 (1) SCC 417**, wherein the Apex Court has observed and held that it is for the Authority concerned to explain the delay, if any, in disposal of the representation and if any delay was caused on account of nay indifference or lapse in considering the representation, such delay will adversely affect further detention of the prisoner.

7. In the case on hand, as stated supra, the delay of eleven days in considering the representation of the petitioner has not been properly explained by the respondents. Hence, in our considered view, the detention order is liable to be set aside solely on the ground of delay by following the decision of the Honourable Apex Court referred supra.

8. In fine, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detention order in P.D.No.39/2019, dated 14.12.2019, passed by the second respondent, is set aside. Consequently, the detenu, namely,



Surya, son of Natarajan, aged 20 years, who is now detained at Central Prison, Trichy, is directed to be released forthwith unless his presence or custody or detention is required in connection with any other case.

WEB COPY

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (AD-II)

// True Copy //

/ /2020

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

Note : In view of the present lock down owing to COVID-19 pandemic, a web copy of the order may be utilized for official purposes, but, ensuring that the copy of the order that is presented is the correct copy, shall be the responsibility of the advocate / litigant concerned.

krk

To:

- 1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
2. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order)
Fort St. George, Chennai-9
- 3.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thanjavur, Thanjavur District.
- 4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Trichy.
- 5.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

+1 CC to Mr.R. MAHESWARAN, Advocate (SR-17335[F] dated 17/09/2020)

H.C.P. (MD) No.5 of 2020

17.09.2020

(2/2)

VB (24.09.2020) 3P 7C