



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 24.09.2020

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.KALYANASUNDARAM

and

THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE T.KRISHNAVALLI

H.C.P. (MD) No.242 of 2020

R.Meena ... Petitioner/ wife of the detenu
-vs-

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
rep. by Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thoothukudi District, Thoothukudi.
- 3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Palayamkottai,
Tirunelveli District.
- 4.The Inspector of Police,
All Women Police Station,
Pudukottai,
Thoothukudi District.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a writ of habeas corpus calling for the records relating to the proceedings of the second respondent in H.S.(MD) Confdl.No.04/2020, dated 08.01.2020 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the person or body of the detenu, Raju, aged about 50 years, S/o.Baskaran now confined in Central Prison, Palayamkottai before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.J.Ashok

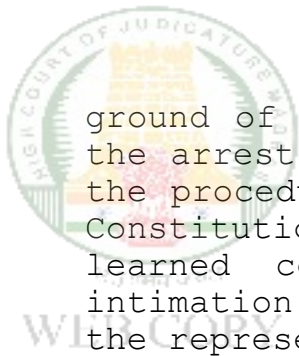
For Respondents : Mr.V.Neelakandan
Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

[Order of the Court was made by K.KALYANASUNDARAM, J.]

Challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent, dated 08.01.2020, made in H.S.(MD)Confdl.No.04/2020, the detenu viz., Raju, S/o.Baskaran, has filed this Habeas Corpus Petition.

2.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner Mr.J.Ashok, would submit that though the detention order has been challenged by the petitioner on several grounds, he confines his argument on the



ground of failure on the part of the detaining authority to inform the arrest of the detenu to his family members or his relatives and the procedural safeguards guaranteed under Article 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India is violated. It is the submission of the learned counsel for the petitioner that there is no proper intimation about the arrest of the detenu to his family members and the representation of the detenu was not considered on time.

3.Per contra, Mr.V.Neelakandan, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents would submit that the detention order came to be passed by the second respondent on satisfying with the cogent and relevant materials furnished by the detaining authority and also taking note of the antecedents of the petitioner. According to the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, there is no illegality or irregularity in the detention order warranting interference of this Court and the delay has caused no prejudice on the detenu and hence prayed for dismissal of this Habeas Corpus Petition.

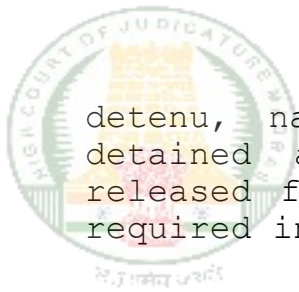
4.In the instant case, a perusal of the booklet at page No.29, it is seen that the arrest of the detenu has been informed to his wife through SMS to her cellphone No.9442051409, but nothing is on record to show that the cellphone belongs to her. Further, the text message is also not found in the booklet.

5.This Court, following the decision of the Honourable Apex Court in the case of ***D.K.Basu vs. State of West Bengal***, reported in ***AIR (1997) SC 610***, in several cases, has consistently held that if there is no proper intimation of arrest of the detenu either to his family members or his relatives, his valuable rights would seriously be prejudiced on the sense that they will not have the opportunity to make effective representation to the Authority concerned in time for revocation of the detention order.

6.The proforma circulated by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would show that aggrieved over the detention order dated 08.01.2020, the first representation dated 28.01.2020 was made and it was received by the first respondent on 03.02.2020. Though remarks were called for on 04.02.2020, it was received only on 26.02.2020 and after consideration by the Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary and the Minister of Electricity and Prohibition and Exercise, it was rejected on 16.03.2020. It is seen that in between 04.02.2020 and 26.02.2020, there was a delay of 22 days and after excluding 06 Government Holidays, 16 days delay in considering the representation was not explained by the respondents.

7.For the forgoing reasons, we are of the considered opinion that the detention order impugned in this habeas corpus petition is liable to be quashed on the ground as stated supra.

8. In fine, the order of detention passed by the second respondent, in H.S.(MD)Confdl.No.04/2020, dated 08.01.2020, is set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. Consequently, the



detenu, namely, Raju, S/o.Baskaran, aged about 50 years, now detained at Central Prison, Palayamkottai, is directed to be released forthwith unless his presence or custody or detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (W)

// True Copy //

/ /2020

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

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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.

To

- 1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thoothukudi District, Thoothukudi.
- 3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Palayamkottai,
Tirunelveli District.
- 4.The Inspector of Police,
All Women Police Station,
Pudukottai,
Thoothukudi District.
- 5.The Joint Secretary to Government
Public(law & order),
Fort St.George, Chennai-9
- 6.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

H.C.P. (MD) No.242 of 2020

24.09.2020

SCR(CO)

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