



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 15.12.2020

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.KALYANASUNDARAM

and

THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE T.KRISHNAVALLI

H.C.P. (MD) No.525 of 2020

Maruthayee ... Petitioner/Mother-in-law of the detenu

-vs-

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
represented by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise(XVI) Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai.
- 2.The District Magistrate and the District Collector,
Pudukkottai District.
- 3.The Superintendent,
Special Prison for Women,
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 entire records connected with the detention order passed by the second respondent in P.D.O.No.63 of 2020, dated 24.7.2020 and to quash the same as illegal and to direct the respondents to produce the body and person of the Petitioner's daughter in law/detenu by name, Vellaiyammal, wife of Maruthamuthu, aged about 50 years, residing at Idaiyar Theru, Annavasal, Illupur Taluk, Pudukkottai District and now detained as ''Goonda'' at Special Prison for Women, Tiruchirappalli before this Court and set her at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.P.Ganapathi Subramanian

For Respondents : Mr.K.Dinesh Babu,
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 mother-in-law of the detenu, namely, Vellaiyammal, wife of Maruthamuthu, aged about 50 years, challenging the detention order in P.D.O.No.63 of 2020, dated 24.7.2020 passed by the second respondent, branding him as "Goonda" as contemplated under Section 2 (f) of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982.

2. Mr.P.Ganapathi Subramanian, learned counsel for the petitioner, would argue 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.K.Dinesh Babu, learned Additional Public Prosecutor, on instructions, 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 the instant case, the proforma furnished by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would indicate that as against the impugned detention order, the petitioner made a representation to the first respondent on 30.7.2020 and it was received on 10.08.2020. Remarks were called for on the same day i.e. 10.08.2020 and it was received on 26.08.2020. The Deputy Secretary dealt with the matter on 26.08.2020. The concerned Minister dealt with the matter on 03.09.2020 and the representation came to be rejected on 04.09.2020. It is seen that in between 26.08.2020 and 3.9.2020, there was a delay of 7 days, after excluding the Government Holidays of 2 days, there was a delay of 5 days in considering the petitioner's representation.

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 any 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 5 days in considering the representation of the petitioner remains unexplained 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.O.No.63 of 2020, dated 24.7.2020 passed by the second respondent, is set aside. Consequently, the detainee, namely, Vellaiyammal, wife of Maruthamuthu, aged about 50 years, who is now detained at Special Prison for Women, Tiruchirappalli is directed to be released forthwith unless his presence or custody or detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(AE)

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Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

vsn

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 Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise(XVI) Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai.
- 2.The District Magistrate and the District Collector,
Pudukkottai District.
- 3.The Superintendent,
Special Prison for Women,
Trichy.

<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/>



4. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order), Fort Saint George, Chennai

5. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

ORDER MADE IN
H.C.P. (MD) No.525 of 2020
15.12.2020

mj (CO)
TR(29.12.2020) 4P 6C