



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 01.10.2020

CORAM:

WEB COPY

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

H.C.P. (MD) No.1311 of 2019

Ganesan (Male/Age 46)

S/o.Rajendran

... Petitioner/ detenu

-vs-

1.State of Tamil Nadu, rep. By

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

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

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Madurai.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a writ of habeas corpus Calling for the entire records, connected with the detention order passed in Cr.M.P.No.37/Goonda/2019, dated 27.11.2019 on the file of the second respondent herein and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu or body of the detenu namely Ganesan, aged about 46 years, S/o.Rajendran, now detained at Central Prison, Madurai, before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner: Mr.N.Pragalathan

For Respondents: Mr.V.Neelakandan
Additional Public Prosecutor



O R D E R

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

The detenu namely Ganesan, S/o.Rajendran, who has been detained under Act 14 of 1982 branding him as 'Goonda' has filed the present Habeas Corpus Petition to set aside the detention order passed by the second respondent in Cr.M.P.No.37/Goonda/2019, dated 27.11.2019.

2.Though the detention order impugned in the Habeas Corpus Petition is assailed on several grounds, the learned counsel for the petitioner mainly contented that the detention order is liable to be aside on the ground of inordinate and unexplained delay in considering the representation of the petitioner. It is the submission of the learned counsel that the procedure of safeguards guaranteed under Article 21 and 22 of the Constitution has been violated and on this sole ground, the detention order is liable to be quashed.

3.Per contra, Mr.V.Neelakandan, learned Additional Public Prosecutor, while reiterating the counter affidavit filed by the second respondent, submitted that the detention order came to be passed based on the cogent materials placed by the sponsoring authority and there is no illegality or irregularity in the detention order warranting interference of this Court. It is further stated that the delay in considering the representation caused no prejudice to the detenu and prayed for dismissal of this Habeas Corpus Petition.

4.We have heard the rival submissions and perused the materials available on records.

5.In the present case, the detenu was detained by the order of the second respondent, dated 27.11.2019. Against the same, the first representation dated 07.12.2019 was given and the same was received by the first respondent on 12.12.2019 and remarks were called for on 12.12..2019 and it was received on 18.12.2019. The Deputy Secretary dealt with the same on 18.12.2019 and by the concerned Minister on 07.01.2019 and it was rejected on 07.01.2019. It is seen that there was delay of 19 days in between 18.12.2019 and 07.01.2019. It is also seen that there are 8 Government holidays and after excluding the same, there is a delay of 11 days in considering the representation of the detenu.

6.In the case of **Rajammal vs. State of Tamil Nadu and another (1999 (1) SCC 417)** the Honourable Apex Court 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, there is absolutely no explanation for the delay of 11 days in considering the representation of the detenu. 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 order of detention passed by the second respondent, in Cr.M.P.No.37/Goonda/2019, dated 27.11.2019, is set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. Consequently, the detenu, namely, Ganesan, S/o.Rajendran, Male, aged about 46 years, who is detained in Central Prison, Madurai, is directed to be released forthwith unless his presence or custody or detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CO)

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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.

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To

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

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



3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Madurai.

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

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

H.C.P. (MD) No.1311 of 2019

01.10.2020

NR (12.10.2020) 4P 6C