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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 14.09.2021

Coram

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P.N.PRAKASH
and
THE HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE R.N.MANJULA

H.C.P.No.625 of 2021

Meharuniza
W/o.Nazeer

.. Petitioner/Detenue's Wife

Vs.

State represented by:-

1.State of Tamil Nadu
represented by Secretary of State
Prohibition & Excise Department,
St.George Fort,
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Greater Chennai,
Chennai - 600 007.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Puzhal,
Chennai - 600 066.

4.The Inspector of Police,
NIBCID Wing,
Chennai.

.. Respondents

Habeas Corpus Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus calling upon the production of records relating to the detention order dated 26.02.2021 made in detention order Memo No.58/BCDFGISSSV/2021 passed by the second respondent herein, quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the petitioner's husband Nazeer S/o.Ghouse, aged about 35 years, branded as Drug Offender and now confined at Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai, before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.Mohan Raj

For Respondents: Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Government Advocate [crl.side]



ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by R.N.MANJULA, J]

The petitioner is the wife of the detenu viz., Nazeer S/o.Ghouse, aged about 35 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in Memo No.58/BCDFGISSSV/2021 dated 26.02.2021, holding him to be a "Drug Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(e) of the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982. The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.

2. We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate [Crl.side] appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

3. Though several grounds have been raised in the Habeas Corpus Petition, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would mainly focus his argument on the ground that there is gross violation of procedural safeguards, which would vitiate the detention. The learned counsel, by placing authorities, submitted that the representation made by the petitioner was not considered on time and there was an inordinate and unexplained delay.

4. The learned Government Advocate [Crl.side] strongly opposed the Habeas Corpus Petition. He would submit that though there was delay in considering the representation, on that score alone, the impugned detention order cannot be quashed. According to the learned Government Advocate [Crl.side], no prejudice has been caused to the detenu and thus, there is no violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India.

5. The Detention Order in question was passed on 26.02.2021. The petitioner made a representation on 07.06.2021. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 14.06.2021. The remarks were duly received on 18.06.2021. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 26.07.2021.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 3 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority. It is the further contention of the petitioner that the remarks were received on 18.06.2021 and there was a delay of 34 days in considering the representation by the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, P&E, after the Deputy Secretary dealt with it, of which 11 days were Government holidays. Hence, there was inordinate delay of 26 days in considering the



representation.

7. In *Rekha vs. State of Tamil Nadu* (2011 (5) SCC 244), the Honourable Supreme Court has held that the procedural safeguards are required to be zealously watched and enforced by the Courts of law and their rigour cannot be allowed to be diluted on the basis of the nature of the alleged activities undertaken by the detenu.

8. In *Sumaiya vs. The Secretary to Government* (2007 (2) MWN (Cr.) 145), a Division Bench of this Court has held that the unexplained delay of three days in disposal of the representation made on behalf of the detenu would be sufficient to set aside the order of detention.

9. In *Tara Chand vs. State of Rajasthan and others*, reported in 1980 (2) SCC 321, the Honourable Supreme Court has held that any inordinate and unexplained delay on the part of the Government in considering the representation renders the very detention illegal.

10. In the subject case, admittedly, there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of 3 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and unexplained delay of 23 days in considering the representation by the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, P&E. The impugned detention order is, therefore, liable to be quashed.

In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in Memo No.58/BCDFGISSSV/2021 dated 26.02.2021 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Nazeer S/o.Ghouse, aged about 35 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CS-II)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

gm

To

1.The Secretary, State of Tamilnadu,
Prohibition & Excise Department,
St.George Fort,
Chennai - 600 009.



2.The Commissioner of Police,
Greater Chennai,
Chennai - 600 007.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Puzhal,
Chennai - 600 066.

4.The Inspector of Police,
NIBCID Wing,
Chennai.

5.The Joint Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Public, Law and Order Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 9.

6.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

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BS (CO)
GN(20/09/2021)