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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 23.12.2021

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE Mr.JUSTICE P.N.PRAKASH
AND
THE HONOURABLE Mrs.JUSTICE R.HEMALATHA

H.C.P.No. 833 of 2021

Mookan @ Rajasekar

...Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Fort St.George, Chennai - 600 009.
2. District Collector and District Magistrate of
Ranipet District, Ranipet.
3. The Superintendent of Police,
Ranipet District, Ranipet.
4. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Vellore.
5. The Inspector of Police, (L & O)
Arakkonam Taluk Police Station,
Ranipet District.

...Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS to call for the records in connection with the order of Detention passed by the second respondent dated 06.05.2021 in B3/D.O.No.22/2021 against the petitioner Mookkan @ Rajasekar, Male, aged 28 years, S/o. Rajavel, who is confined at Central Prison, Vellore, and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu before this Hon'ble Court and set him at liberty.

For petitioner : Mr.S. Senthil Vel

For respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj,
Additional Public Prosecutor.



O R D E R
[Made by R.HEMALATHA, J.]

The detenu himself is the petitioner herein. He has been detained by the 2nd respondent by his order dated 06.05.2021 in B3/D.O.No.22/2021, holding him to be a "GOONDA", as contemplated under Section 2(f) of 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 Additional Public Prosecutor 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 Additional Public Prosecutor 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 Additional Public Prosecutor, 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 06.05.2021. The petitioner made a representation on 07.06.2021. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 09.06.2021. The remarks were duly received on 24.06.2021. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 09.08.2021.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 15 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 4 days were Government Holidays and hence, there was a delay of 11 days in submitting the remarks.

7. In *Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu* [2011 (5) SCC 244], the Hon'ble 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 Hon'ble 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 unexplained delay of 11 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority. 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 B3/D.O.No.22/2021, dated 06.05.2021, passed by the 2nd respondent is set aside. The detenu Mookkan @ Rajasekar, Male, aged 28 years, S/o. Rajavel, is directed to be released forthwith, unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

s/d-
Assistant Registrar

True Copy

Sub-Assistant Registrar

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To

1. The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Fort St.George, Chennai - 600 009.
2. District Collector and District Magistrate of
Ranipet District, Ranipet.
3. The Superintendent of Police,
Ranipet District, Ranipet.
4. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Vellore.



5. The Inspector of Police,
Arakkonam Taluk Police Station,
Ranipet District.
6. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public, Law and Order Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 600 009.
7. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

H.C.P.No.833 of 2021

SMI (CO)
SP(23/12/2021)