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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED 08.11.2021

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THE HONOURABLE Mr.JUSTICE P.N.PRAKASH
AND

THE HONOURABLE Mrs.JUSTICE R.HEMALATHA

H.C.P.No.838 of 2021

Rajendran

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1.State of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Secretariat, Chennai-9

2.The District Magistrate and District Collector
Master Plan Complex, Collector's Office
Tiruvallur District, Tiruvallur

3.The Superintendent of Police
Tiruvallur District Police
SP Office, Tiruvallur

4.The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison-II
Puzhal, Chennai-66

5.The Inspector of Police
Sholavaram Police Station
Tiruvallur 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 pertaining to the detention order dated 29.04.2021 passed in BCDFGISSSV No.61/2021 on the file of the 2nd respondent herein and set aside the same and direct the respondents herein to produce the detenu viz. Umapathi, aged about 23 years,



S/o.Rajendiran, who is confined in the Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai, before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.Krishna

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The petitioner is the father of the detenu viz., Umapathi, aged about 23 years, S/o.Rajendiran. The detenu has been detained by the 2nd respondent by his order dated 29.04.2021 in BCDFGISSSV No.61/2021, 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 filed his counter affidavit and 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 29.04.2021. The petitioner made an undated representation which was received by the Government on 17.05.2021. Thereafter,



remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on the same day i.e., on 17.05.2021. The remarks were duly received on 25.06.2021. 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 39 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 9 days were Government Holidays and hence, there was an inordinate delay of 30 days in submitting the remarks. It is the further contention of the petitioner that the remarks were received on 25.06.2021 and there was a delay of 2 days in considering the representation by the Hon'ble Minister for Home, Prohibition and Excise Department after the Deputy Secretary dealt with it, of which there was no Government Holiday, hence, there was an unexplained delay of 2 days in considering the representation.

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 inordinate and unexplained delay of 30 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and an unexplained delay of 2 days in considering the representation by the Hon'ble Minister for Home, Prohibition and Excise Department. 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 BCDFGISSSV No.61/2021, dated 29.04.2021, passed by the 2nd respondent is set aside. The detenu viz., Umapathi, aged about 23 years, S/o.Rajendiran, is directed to be released forthwith, unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS-IX)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

- 1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Secretariat, Chennai-9
- 2.The District Magistrate / District Collector
Master Plan Complex Collector's Office
Tiruvallur District, Tiruvallur.
- 3.The Joint Secretary to Government
Public, Law and Order Department
Secretariat, Chennai-9
- 4.The Superintendent of Police
Tiruvallur District Police
SP Office, Tiruvallur
- 5.The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison-II
Puzhal, Chennai-66
- 6.The Inspector of Police
Sholavaram Police Station
Tiruvallur District
- 7.The Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras

H.C.P.No.838 of 2021

PMK(CO)
SB(09/11/2021)