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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 12.11.2021

CORAM

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

H.C.P.No.927 of 2021

Surya

(now at Central Prison, Coimbatore)

...Petitioner/Detenue

Vs.

- 1 The Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department
Secretariat
Fort St. George, Chennai 600 009
- 2 The Commissioner of Police/Detaining Authority
Tiruppur City
Tiruppur District
- 3 The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison - Coimbatore
Coimbatore District
- 4 State represented by
the Inspector of Police
Anuppapalayam Police Station
Tiruppur District

...Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS to call for the entire records, relating to the petitioner's detention in the Central Prison, Coimbatore, under Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 vide detention order dated 26.04.2021 on the file of the second respondent herein made in proceedings Memo C.No.18/G/IS/Tiruppur City/2021, quash the same as illegal and consequently, direct the respondents herein to produce the petitioner, viz., Surya, S/o Saravanakumar, aged 23 years, before this Court and set him at liberty from detention now the Petitioner detained at Central Prison, Coimbatore.

For petitioner: Mr. W. Camyles Gandhi
For respondents: Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Additional Public Prosecutor



O R D E R

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

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The detenu himself is the petitioner herein. He has been detained by the 2nd respondent by his order dated 26.04.2021 in C.No.18/G/IS/Tiruppur City/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 26.04.2021. The petitioner made a representation on 10.06.2021. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 14.06.2021. The remarks were duly received on 29.06.2021. 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 an inordinate delay of 11 days in submitting the remarks. It is the further contention of the petitioner that the remarks were received on 29.06.2021 and there was a delay of 41



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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 13 days were Government Holidays, hence, there was a delay of 28 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 delay of 11 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and an inordinate and unexplained delay of 28 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 C.No.18/G/IS/Tiruppur City/2021, dated 26.04.2021, passed by the 2nd respondent is set aside. The detenu Surya, S/o Saravanakumar, aged 23 years, 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 & Excise Department
Secretariat
Fort St. George, Chennai 600 009
- 2 The Commissioner of Police/Detaining Authority
Tiruppur City
Tiruppur District
- 3 The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison - Coimbatore
Coimbatore District
- 4 The Inspector of Police
Anupparpalayam Police Station
Tiruppur District
- 5 The Joint Secretary to Government
Public, Law and Order Department
Secretariat, Chennai 600 009
- 6 The Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras

H.C.P.No.927 of 2021

MG(CO)
SP(16/11/2021)