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H.C.P.(MD) No.133 of 2021

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 15.03.2021

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.KALYANASUNDARAM

and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.ILANGO VAN

H.C.P. (MD) No.133 of 2021

Mani

... Petitioner/Father of Detenue

-vs-

1.The State of Tamil Nadu

Rep.by the Additional Chief

Secretary to Government

Home, (Prohibition and Excise Department)

Secretariat, Chennai-9

2.The District Collector / District Magistrate

Collectorate

Dindigul, Dindigul District

3.The Superintendent of Central Prison

Madurai Central Prison, Madurai

... Respondents

PRAYER : Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issue of a Writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the entire records in detention order No.71/2020, dated 03.11.2020, passed by the second respondent on petitioner's son namely M.Naveen (24/2020), son of Mani, who is detained in confined at Madurai Central Prison, Madurai District, before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.Lajapathi Roy.T.

For Respondents : Mr.K.Dinesh Babu

Additional Public Prosecutor

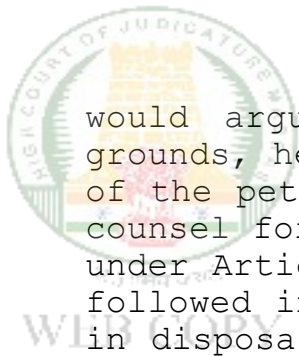
O R D E R

(Order of the Court was made by K.KALYANASUNDARAM, J.)

This habeas corpus petition has been filed by the father of the detenu, namely, M.Naveen, aged about 24 years, challenging the detention order No.71/2020, dated 03.11.2020, passed by the second respondent, branding him as "Sexual Offender" as contemplated under Section 2(ggg) of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982.

2. Mr.T.Lajapathi Roy, learned counsel for the petitioner,

<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/>



would argue that even though the petitioner has raised several grounds, he has confined his arguments only to the delay in disposal of the petitioner's representation. It is submitted by the learned counsel for the petitioner that the procedural safeguards guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India have not been followed in this case and there is unexplained and inordinate delay in disposal of the petitioner's representation, which would vitiate the impugned order of detention.

3. Mr.K.Dinesh Babu, learned Additional Public Prosecutor, while reiterating the counter affidavit filed by the second respondent, submitted that after satisfying with the materials placed by the Sponsoring Authority, the Detaining Authority has passed the detention order and there is no illegality or infirmity in the detention order. It is also stated that even if there is any delay in disposal of the representation, it has not caused any prejudice to the rights of the detenu and hence, prayed for dismissal of the habeas corpus petition.

4. Heard both sides and perused the materials available on record.

5. In the instant case, the proforma furnished by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would indicate that as against the impugned detention order, the petitioner made a representation to the first respondent on 25.11.2020 and it was received on 30.11.2020. Remarks were called for on the same day i.e.30.11.2020 and it was received on 08.12.2020. The Deputy Secretary dealt with the matter on the same day i.e.08.12.2020. The concerned Minister dealt with the matter on 09.01.2021 and the representation came to be rejected on 11.01.2021. It is seen that in between 08.12.2020 and 09.01.2021, there was a delay of 23 days, after excluding the Government Holidays of 08 days, in considering the petitioner's representation.

6. At this juncture, it is useful to refer the decision of the Honourable Apex Court in the case of ***Rajammal vs. State of Tamil Nadu and another***, reported in ***1999 (1) SCC 417***, wherein the Apex Court has 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, as stated supra, the delay of 23 days in considering the representation of the petitioner has not been properly explained by the respondents. 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 Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detention order No.71/2020, dated 03.11.2020, passed by the second respondent, is set aside. Consequently, the detenu, namely, M.Naveen, son of Mani, aged about 24 years, who is now detained at 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)

// True Copy //

/ /2021

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,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
- 2.The Joint Secretary to Government
Public(law & order),
Fort St.George, Chennai-9
- 3.The District Collector / District Magistrate,
Collectorate,
Dindigul, Dindigul District.
- 4.The Superintendent of Central Prison,
Madurai Central Prison,
Madurai.



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

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TP (CO)
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