



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED :20.10.2021

CORAM:

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V. BHARATHIDASAN
and
THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE S.ANANTHI**

H.C.P. (MD) .No.579 of 2021

Dharmakani

... Petitioner/Detenu

-vs-

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise (xiv) Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.
 2. The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District, Tirunelveli - 9.
 3. The Superintendent of Prison,
Special Prison for Women,
Madurai District.
- ... Respondents

PRAYER : Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records, connected with the detention order of the Respondent No.2 in M.H.S.Confdl No:33/2021, dated 30.03.2021 and quash the same and direct the Respondents to produce the body or person of the detenu by name Dharmakani, daughter of Perumal Nadar, aged about 47 years, now detained as "Goonda" at Special Prison for Women, Madurai before this Court and set her at liberty forthwith.

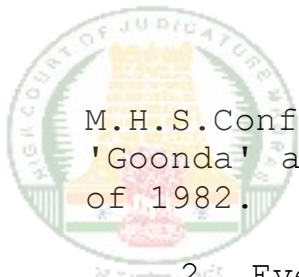
For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani

For Respondents : Mr.S.Ravi
Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

(Order of the Court was made by V. BHARATHIDASAN, J.)

This habeas corpus petition has been filed by the detenu, namely, Dharmakani, D/o.Perumal Nadar, aged about 47 years, against the detention order passed by the second respondent, in



M.H.S.Confdl No.33/2021, dated 30.03.2021, branding him as 'Goonda' as contemplated under Section 2(f) of Tamil Nadu Act, 14 of 1982.

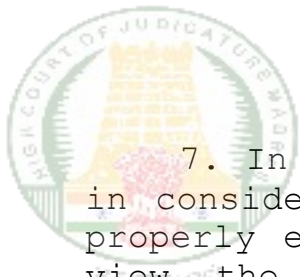
2. Even though the petitioner has raised several grounds to quash the impugned detention order, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would mainly place arguments on the ground of delay in disposal of the petitioner's representation. In this regard, the learned counsel for the petitioner would state 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.S.Ravi, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents, 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 the learned counsel appearing on either side 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 05.04.2021 and it was received on 13.05.2021. Remarks were called for on the same day i.e., on 13.05.2021 and it was received on 25.05.2021. The Deputy Secretary dealt with the matter on 25.05.2021. The concerned Minister dealt with the matter on 30.05.2021 and the representation came to be rejected on 26.07.2021. It is seen that in between 13.05.2021 and 25.05.2021 and in between 30.05.2021 and 26.07.2021, there was a delay of 43 days, after excluding the Government Holidays of 24 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



7. In the case on hand, as stated supra, the delay of 43 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 made in M.H.S.Confdl No.33/2021, dated 30.03.2021, passed by the second respondent, is set aside. Consequently, the detenu, namely, Dharmakani, D/o. Perumal Nadar, aged about 47 years, who is now detained at Special Prison for Women, 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 (AD-I)

// 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.

To

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise (xiv) Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.
2. The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District, Tirunelveli - 9.
3. The Superintendent of Prison,
Special Prison for Women,
Madurai District.



4.The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public(Law & Order),
Fort St. George,
Chennai 600 009.

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

H.C.P. (MD) No.579 of 2021
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RK/JGB(17/11/2021) 4P 6C