



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED :11.02.2021

CORAM:

WEB COPY

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.KALYANASUNDARAM
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.ILANGO VAN

H.C.P. (MD) No.982 of 2020

J.Thamayanti

... Petitioner

-vs-

1.State represented by
The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District,
Tirunelveli - 9.

2.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise (xiv) Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.

3.State represented by
The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Palayamkottai,
Tirunelveli District.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a writ of habeas corpus calling for the records from the first respondent in M.H.S.Confdl.No.83/2020 dated 22.10.2020 by setting aside the said order of detention passed by the first respondent and setting the detenu Joel S/o Devapriyam, at liberty now detained in the Central Prison, Palayamkottai.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.Kathirvel
Senior Counsel for
Mr.K.Prabhu

For Respondents : Mr.K.Dinesh Babu
Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

[Order of the Court was made by K.KALYANASUNDARAM, J.]

The Habeas Corpus Petition has been filed by the wife of the detenu, namely, Joel, S/o Devapriyam, Male aged about 55 years, who
<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/>



has been branded as "Sand Offender" by the first respondent in M.H.S.Confdl.No.83/2020 dated 22.10.2020, as contemplated under Section 2(gg) of the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982.

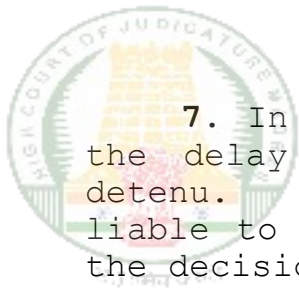
2.Though several grounds have been raised challenging the impugned order of detention passed by the first respondent, dated 22.10.2020, Mr.V.Kathirvel, learned senior counsel for the petitioner would contend that the procedural safeguards guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India has been violated and there is an inordinate and unexplained delay in considering the representation of the petitioner and on this sole ground, the detention order is liable to be set aside.

3.Per contra, Mr.K.Dinesh Babu, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents would argue that the detaining authority, namely, the first respondent herein, after being satisfied with the materials produced by the sponsoring authority, has passed the detention order only to prevent the detenu from indulging in similar offence in future, which would prejudice to the maintenance of the public order. He would further state that the delay, if any, in considering the representation would not cause any prejudice to the detenu and there is no infirmity or irregularity in the order of detention passed by the first respondent. Hence, he prayed for dismissal of the Habeas Corpus Petition.

4.We have heard the rival submissions and perused the materials available on records.

5.In the instant case, it is not in dispute that the detenu was detained by the order of the first respondent dated 22.10.2020. Aggrieved over the same, a representation dated 24.11.2020 has been sent to the second respondent and the same was received on 01.12.2020 and on the same day, remarks were called for and the same were received on 10.12.2020. The Deputy Secretary dealt with the matter on 10.12.2020. The concerned Minister dealt with the matter on 09.01.2021 and thereafter, the detenu's representation was rejected on 12.01.2021. It is seen that there was delay of 29 days between 10.12.2020 and 09.01.2021. It is also seen that there are 8 Government holidays and after excluding the same, there is a delay of 21 days in considering the representation of the detenu.

6.In the case of **Rajammal vs. State of Tamil Nadu and another (1999 (1) SCC 417)** the Honourable Apex Court 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, there is absolutely no explanation for the delay of 21 days in considering the representation of the detenu. 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 order of detention passed by the first respondent, in M.H.S.Confdl.No.83/2020 dated 22.10.2020 is set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. Consequently, the detenu, namely, Joel, S/o Devapriyam, Male aged about 55 years, now detained at Palayamkottai Central Prison 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-II)

// True Copy //

/ /2021

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

Skn

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 District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirunelveli District,
Tirunelveli - 9.
- 2.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise (xiv) Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.
- 3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Palayamkottai,
Tirunelveli District



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

5. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order)
Fort St. George, Chennai-9

+1 CC to MR.K.PRABHU, Advocate (SR-4715[F] dated 12/02/2021)

H.C.P. (MD) No.982 of 2020

11.02.2021

VB (05.03.2021) 4P 7C