



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 08.03.2021

CORAM:

WEB COPY

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

H.C.P. (MD) No.1231 of 2020

Pandiyammal

... Petitioner/Detenu

-vs-

1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
O/o The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Ramanathapuram District.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Special Prison for Women,
Madurai District.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a writ of habeas corpus calling for the entire records connected with the detention order of the respondent No.2 in TN.P.D.A.B.C.D.F.G.I.S.S.S.V.No.17/D.O/2020 dated 23.12.2020 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the detainee by name Pandiyammal, wife of Uruvatti, aged about 58 years, now detained as "Drug Offender" at Madurai Special Prison for Women before this Court and set her at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani

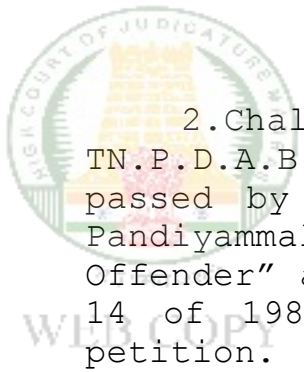
For Respondents : Mr.K.Dinesh Babu

Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

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

Heard Mr.R.Alagumani, learned counsel for the petitioner and Mr.K.Dinesh Babu, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondents and perused the materials available on record.



2.Challenging the order of detention in TN.P.D.A.B.C.D.F.G.I.S.S.S.V.No. 17/D.O/2020 dated 23.12.2020 passed by the second respondent, branding the detainee, namely, Pandiyammal, wife of Uruvatti, aged about 58 years, as "Drug Offender" as contemplated under Section 2(e) of the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982, the detainee herself has filed this habeas corpus petition.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the detention order impugned in this habeas corpus petition is liable to be set aside, since there was no proper intimation of arrest of the detainee in the ground case. He would further submit that no details have been furnished particularly the cell number mentioned at page No.55 of the booklet, whether it belongs to the family members of the detenu or her relatives. It is also stated that the text of the SMS also not found in the booklet. In this regard, the learned counsel has placed reliance upon the decision of the Honourable Apex Court in the case of **D.K.Basu vs. State of West Bengal**, reported in **AIR (1997) SC 610**.

4.Per contra, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the Detaining Authority has arrived at the subjective satisfaction based on the cogent and relevant materials placed by the Sponsoring Authority and there is no infirmity or irregularity in the impugned order of detention passed by the second respondent and hence, prayed for dismissal of the habeas corpus petition.

5. Perusal of the arrest intimation form available at Page No.55 of the booklet shows that the arrest of the detainee in the ground case was intimated through SMS to the Cell No.8610827284. However, there is no material to show that the said Cell Number belongs to the family members of the detainee or her relatives and the text of the message is also not found place in the booklet.

6.This Court, following the decision of the Honourable Apex Court in the case of **D.K.Basu** (cited supra), in several cases, has consistently held that if there is no proper intimation of arrest of the detenu either to his family members or his relatives, his valuable rights would seriously prejudiced on the sense that they will not have the opportunity to make effective representation to the Authority concerned in time for revocation of the detention order.

7. In view of that, the order of detention passed by the second respondent, in TN.P.D.A.B.C.D.F.G.I.S.S.S.V.No.17/D.O/2020 dated 23.12.2020 is set aside and the habeas corpus petition is allowed. Consequently, the detainee, namely, Pandiyammal, wife of



Uruvatti, aged about 58 years, who is detained at Madurai Special Prison for Women is directed to be released forthwith unless her presence or custody or detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CO)

// 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 Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
O/o The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Ramanathapuram District.
- 3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Special Prison for Women,
Madurai District.
4. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order), Fort Saint George, Chennai
- 5.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.

H.C.P. (MD) No.1231 of 2020

08.03.2021

SSS(CO)

TR(26.04.2021) 3P 6C