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H.C.P.No.544 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 28.10.2022

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The Honourable Mr. Justice **P.N.PRAKASH**
and
The Honourable Mr. Justice **RMT.TEEKAA RAMAN**

H.C.P.No.544 of 2022

Arunkumar

.. Petitioner

Vs

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep. By Secretary to Government,
Prohibition & Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai 600 009.
- 2.The Collector and District Magistrate,
Kallakurichi District,
Kallakurichi.
- 3.The Superintendent of Police,
Kallakurichi District,
Kallakurichi.
- 4.The Superintendent,
Central Prison (Women),
Vellore.
- 5.The Inspector of Police,
Rishivandiyam Police Station,
Kallakurichi District.

.. Respondents



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Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the records pertaining to the order of detention dated 18.03.2022 passed by the second respondent in D.O.No.C2/11/2022 and quash the same and produce detainee Kavitha, female, aged about 35 years, W/o Arunkumar, now detained at the Central Prison (Women), Vellore, before this Court and set her at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.Selvam

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Addl. Public Prosecutor

ORDER

(Made by *P.N.PRAKASH, J.*)

The petitioner is the husband of the detainee Kavitha, female, aged about 35 years, W/o Arunkumar. The detainee has been detained by the second respondent by his order in D.No.C2/11/2022 dated 18.03.2022, holding her 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.



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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 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 on behalf of the detainee was not considered in time and there was an inordinate and unexplained delay.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor 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 detainee and thus, there is no violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India.



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5. The Detention Order in question was passed on 18.03.2022. A representation was made on behalf of the detainee dated 29.03.2022 which was actually received on 07.04.2022. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 07.04.2022. The remarks were duly received on 28.04.2022. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the representation on 05.05.2022.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 21 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which, 8 days were Government Holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 13 days in submitting the remarks. It is the further contention of the petitioner that the remarks were received on 28.04.2022 and there was a delay of 7 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, 3 days were Government Holidays, hence, there was an inordinate delay of 4 days in considering the representation.



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7. In **Rekha vs. State of Tamil Nadu (2011 (5) SCC 244)**,

the Honourable 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 detainee.

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 detainee 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 Honourable 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 unexplained delay of 13 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and unexplained delay of 4 days in considering the



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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 D.No.C2/11/2022 dated 18.03.2022, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenue viz., Kavitha, female, aged about 35 years, W/o Arunkumar, is directed to be released forthwith unless her detention is required in connection with any other case.

(P.N.P., J.) (TKRJ)
28.10.2022

Index: Yes/No
nsd



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To

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Prohibition & Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai 600 009.
- 2.The Collector and District Magistrate,
Kallakurichi District,
Kallakurichi.
- 3.The Superintendent of Police,
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Kallakurichi.
- 4.The Superintendent,
Central Prison (Women),
Vellore.
- 5.The Inspector of Police,
Rishivandiyam Police Station,
Kallakurichi District.
- 6.The Joint Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Public, Law and Order Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 9.
- 7.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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