



WEB COPY



H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 19.10.2022

Coram

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

H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

V.Sasikala

.. Petitioner

Vs

- 1.State of Tamil Nadu represented by
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Prohibition and Excise Department (Home),
Fort St.George,
Chennai-600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thiruvarur, Thiruvarur District.
- 3.The Superintendent of Police,
Thiruvarur District, Thiruvarur.
- 4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Thiruchirapalli.
- 5.The Inspector of Police,
Thiruthuraipoondi Police Station,
Thiruvarur District.

.. Respondents



H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to

issue a writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the records pertaining to the detention order dated 12.04.2022 in C.O.C. No.06/2022 passed by the second respondent and issue direction to produce the body of the detenu viz. N.Vetrivel, aged 51 years, S/o.Nagarajan, presently confined at the Central Prison, Thiruchirappalli, before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.Swamisubramanian

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

ORDER

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

The petitioner is the wife of the detenu Vetrivel, aged 51 years, S/o.Nagarajan. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in C.O.C. No.06/2022 dated 12.04.2022, holding him to be a "Bootlegger", as contemplated under Section 2(b) of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982. The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.

2. We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the



H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

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 detenu was not considered in time and there was an inordinate and unexplained delay.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor strongly opposed the Habeas Corpus Petition by filing his counter. 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 detenu and thus, there is no violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India.



H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

5. The Detention Order in question was passed on 12.04.2022.

A representation was made on behalf of the detenu on 16.05.2022.

Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority and the same were duly received on 23.05.2022.

Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the representation on 30.07.2022.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that the remarks were received on 23.05.2022 and there was a delay of 68 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, 27 days were Government Holidays, hence, there was an inordinate delay of 41 days in considering the representation.

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 detenu.



H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

WEB COPY

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 detenu 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 41 days in considering the 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 C.O.C. No.06/2022 dated 12.04.2022, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, *viz.* Vetrivel, aged 51



H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

years, S/o.Nagarajan, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(P.N.P., J.) (TKRJ)
19.10.2022

Index: Yes/No
nsd



H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

WEB COPY

To

- 1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Prohibition and Excise Department (Home),
Fort St.George,
Chennai-600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Thiruvarur, Thiruvarur District.
- 3.The Superintendent of Police,
Thiruvarur District, Thiruvarur.
- 4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Thiruchirapalli.
- 5.The Inspector of Police,
Thiruthuraipoondi Police Station,
Thiruvarur 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.



WEB COPY



H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

P.N.PRAKASH, J.
and
RMT.TEEKAA RAMAN, J.

nsd

H.C.P.No.1172 of 2022

19.10.2022