



HCP(MD)No.438 of 2022

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED: 13.07.2022

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.N.PRAKASH

and

THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE R.HEMALATHA

H.C.P.(MD)No.438 of 2022

Vasanthi

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
rep. by 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,
Tiruvarur,
Tiruvarur District.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Tiruchirappalli.

.. Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to
issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records relating to the



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impugned order of detention made in C.O.C.No.31/2021 dated 24.12.2021 on the file of the The District Collector and District Magistrate, Tiruvarur, Tiruvarur District, the second respondent herein, branding the detenu by name vignesh Kannan, son of Magesh Kannan, aged about 24 years, as "Sexual Offender" who is now confined in Central Prison, Tiruchirappalli and quash the impugned order of detention and set him at liberty by producing him before this Court.

For Petitioner : Mr.P.Banuprasath

For Respondents : Mr.S.Ravi,
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by ***P.N.PRAKASH, J.***]

The petitioner is the mother of the detenu viz., vignesh Kannan, son of Magesh Kannan, aged about 24 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in C.O.C.No.31/2021 dated 24.12.2021, holding him to be a "Sexual Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(ggg) 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 his argument 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 by the petitioner was not considered on 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



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detenu and thus, there is no violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India.

5. The Detention Order in question was passed on 24.12.2021. The petitioner made a representation on 12.02.2022. Thereafter, remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 15.02.2022. The remarks were duly received on 14.03.2022. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 18.04.2022.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 26 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 8 days was a Government Holiday and hence there was an inordinate delay of 18 days in submitting the remarks. It is the further contention of the petitioner that the remarks were received on 14.03.2022 and there was a delay of 34 days in considering the representation by the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Department after the Deputy Secretary dealt with it, of which 12 days were Government Holidays, hence, there was inordinate delay of 22 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 detenu.

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 18 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining



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Authority and unexplained delay of 22 days in considering the representation by the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Department. The impugned detention order is, therefore, liable to be quashed.

11. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in C.O.C.No.31/2021 dated 24.12.2021, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., vignesh Kannan, son of Magesh Kannan, aged about 24 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(P.N.P.,J.) (R.H.,J.)
13.07.2022

Index: Yes/No
Internet : Yes / No
RM



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