



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 04.01.2022

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.VAIDYANATHAN

and

THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE G.JAYACHANDRAN

H.C.P. (MD) No.790 of 2021

K.Vennila ... Petitioner /
Wife of the Detenue

Vs.

1.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,
Nagapattinam District,
Nagapattinam.

3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Tiruchirappalli. ... Respondents

PRAYER: Habeas Corpus Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records connected in detention order passed in C.O.C.No.12 of 2021, dated 12.05.2021, on the file of the 2nd respondent herein and set aside the same as illegal and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the petitioner's husband, namely, Kumaresan, S/o.Ayyar @ Dhanabal, male, aged 32 years, who is detained in Central Prison, Tiruchirappalli, before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.A.S.Prabhu

For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar

Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

S.VAIDYANATHAN, J.

and

DR.G.JAYACHANDRAN, J.

This Habeas Corpus Petition has been filed by the wife of the detenu, challenging the detention order passed in C.O.C.No.12 of 2021, dated 12.05.2021, by the 2nd respondent, branding the detenu as "BOOTLEGGERS", as contemplated under Section 2(b) of Tamil Nadu



Act 14 of 1982.

2. Even though the petitioner has raised several grounds to quash the impugned detention order, the learned counsel for the petitioner would mainly place arguments on the ground of delay in disposal of the petitioner's representation. In this regard, the learned counsel for the petitioner would state that the procedural safeguards guaranteed under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India have not been followed in this case and there is unexplained and inordinate delay in disposal of the petitioner's representation, which would vitiate the impugned order of detention.

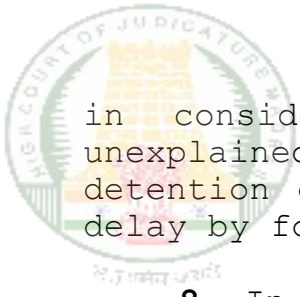
3. Mr. A. Thiruvadi Kumar, learned Additional Public Prosecutor, appearing for the respondents would state that after satisfying with the materials placed by the sponsoring authority, the detaining authority has passed the impugned detention order and therefore, there is no infirmity or illegality in the same. He would produce the proforma regarding the disposal of the petitioner's representation and would state that even if there is any delay in disposal of the petitioner's representation, it has not caused any prejudice to the rights of the detenu. Thus, he would pray for dismissal of this petition.

4. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner as well as the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents.

5. Perusal of the proforma furnished by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents would show that as against the impugned detention order, the petitioner made a representation to the first respondent dated 20.05.2021 and it was received on 24.05.2021. Remarks were called for on 24.05.2021 and it was received on 15.06.2021. The Deputy Secretary dealt with the matter on 17.06.2021. The concerned Minister dealt with the matter on 26.07.2021 and the representation came to be rejected on 09.08.2021. It is seen that in between 17.06.2021 and 26.07.2021, there was a delay of 39 days, after excluding the Government Holidays of 13 days, there was a delay of 26 days in considering the petitioner's representation.

6. At this juncture, it is useful to refer the decision of the Honourable Apex Court in the case of **Rajammal vs. State of Tamil Nadu and another**, reported in **1999 (1) SCC 417**, wherein, the Apex Court has 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 any indifference or lapse in considering the representation, such delay will adversely affect further detention of the prisoner.

7. In the case on hand, as stated supra, the delay of 26 days



in considering the representation of the petitioner remains unexplained by the respondents. Hence, in our considered view, the detention order is liable to be set aside solely on the ground of delay by following the above decision of the Apex Court.

8. In the result, this Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detention order passed by the second respondent, in C.O.C.No.12 of 2021, dated 12.05.2021 is set aside. Consequently, the detenu, namely, Kumaresan, son of Ayyar @ Dhanabal, aged about 32 years, who is now detained in Central Prison, Tiruchirappalli, is directed to be released forthwith, unless his presence or custody or detention is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (P&A)

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/ /2022

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

PJL

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,
Nagapattinam District, Nagapattinam.
- 3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Tiruchirappalli.
4. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law &Order) Fort St.Goerge, Chennai 600 009
- 5.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

H.C.P. (MD) No.790 of 2021
04.01.2022

BK (CO)
KB (20.01.2022) 3P 6C