



H.C.P.(MD) No.1832 of 2021

WEB COPY BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 07.07.2022

CORAM:

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.N.PRAKASH
and
THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE R.HEMALATHA**

H.C.P.(MD) No.1832 of 2021

Thiruppathikumar

... Petitioner

-vs-

- 1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Fort St.George, Chennai-600 009
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate
Ramanathapuram District
- 3.The Superintendent of Prison
Madurai Central Prison
Madurai District

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the entire records in detention order in S.R.No.104/D.O/2021, dated 26.10.2021, on the file of the second respondent and quash the same and direct the respondents herein to produce



H.C.P.(MD) No.1832 of 2021

the body of the detenu Thiruppathikumar, aged about 36 years, son of Rajamanickam, now confined in Central Prison, Madurai, before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.Alagumani.R.

For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The petitioner is the detenu viz.,Thiruppathikumar, aged about 36 years, son of Rajamanickam. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in S.R.No.104/D.O/2021, dated 26.10.2021, holding him to be a "Drug Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(e) 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 petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.



H.C.P.(MD) No.1832 of 2021

WEB COPY

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 a 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 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 26.10.2021. The petitioner made a representation on 04.11.2021. Thereafter, the representation was received on 09.12.2021 and remarks were called for by the



H.C.P.(MD) No.1832 of 2021

Government from the Detaining Authority on the same day i.e. 09.12.2021.

The remarks were duly received on 21.12.2021. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 03.01.2022.

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 11 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 06 days were Government holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 05 days in submitting the remarks. It is the further contention of the petitioner that the remarks were received on 21.12.2021 and there was a delay of 11 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 05 days were Government holidays, hence, there was inordinate delay of 06 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.(MD) No.1832 of 2021

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 [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 five days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and unexplained delay of six 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.

In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in S.R.No.104/D.O/2021, dated 26.10.2021, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Thiruppathikumar, aged



H.C.P.(MD) No.1832 of 2021

WEB COPY

about 36 years, son of Rajamanickam, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

[P.N.P., J.]

[R.H., J.]

07.07.2022

Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes / No

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To:

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Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
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H.C.P.(MD) No.1832 of 2021

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H.C.P.(MD) No.1832 of 2021

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