



HCP(MD)No.1919 of 2021

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

WEB COPY

DATED: 16.09.2022

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MRS JUSTICE J. NISHA BANU
AND
THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

H.C.P.(MD)No.1919 of 2021

M.Deepa

... Petitioner / Wife of the Detenue

Vs.

1.State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George,
Chennai-600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tiruvarur District,
Tiruvarur.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Trichy.

...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 Detention Order passed by the second Respondent in C.O.C.No.22/2021 dated 11.11.2021 and quash the same and direct the Respondents to produce the body or person of the Detenue namely Mahendhran,



HCP(MD)No.1919 of 2021

S/o.Krishnamoorthy, aged 42 years, (now detained at the Central Prison, Trichy) before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.Malaiyendran

For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar

Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

J. NISHA BANU,J.

and

N. ANAND VENKATESH,J.

The petitioner is the wife of the detenu viz., Mahendhran, S/o.Krishnamoorthy, aged 42 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in C.O.C.No.22/2021 dated 11.11.2021 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.

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.



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 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 learned Additional Public Prosecutor, on instructions, submitted that the investigation was completed and the case was taken on



HCP(MD)No.1919 of 2021

file by the Mahila Court, Tiruvarur, in Spl.S.C.No.46 of 2021. It was further submitted that the trial has commenced, 16 witnesses have been examined, the case stands posted for hearing on 14.10.2022. The case is now at the stage of examination of Lws.14 and 15.

6.The Detention Order in question was passed on 11.11.2021. The petitioner made a representation dated 06.12.2021. The remarks were called for by the Government from the Detaining Authority on 10.12.2021. The remarks were duly received on 12.01.2022. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 16.06.2022.

7.It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 32 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority, of which 11 days were Government holidays and hence there was an inordinate delay of 23 days in submitting the remarks. It is the further contention of the petitioner that the remarks were received on 12.01.2022 and there was a delay of 153 days, in considering the representation by the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Department after the Deputy Secretary



HCP(MD)No.1919 of 2021

dealt with it, of which, 50 days were Government Holidays and hence, there was inordinate delay of 103 days in considering the representation.

8.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.

9.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.

10.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.



HCP(MD)No.1919 of 2021

11.In the subject case, admittedly, there is an inordinate and unexplained delay of 23 days in submitting the remarks by the Detaining Authority and unexplained delay of 103 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.

12.In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in C.O.C.No.22/2021 dated 11.11.2021 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Mahendhran, S/o.Krishnamoorthy, aged 42 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(J.N.B.,J.) (N.A.V.,J.)
16.09.2022

Index : Yes/No
Internet : Yes
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HCP(MD)No.1919 of 2021

To:

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3. The Superintendent of Prison,
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4. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
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