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HCP No.52 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 28.06.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR
and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.SAKTHIVEL

H.C.P.No.52 of 2023

C.Anbalagan
S/o.Chinnapaiyan

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1. State rep. by Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Secretariat
Chennai-600 009.
2. The District Collector &
District Magistrate
T.V.Malai District
T.V.Malai.
3. The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison
Thorapadi, Vellore.
4. The Superintendent of Police
T.V.Malai
T.V.Malai District.
5. The Inspector of Police
Polur Police Station
T.V.Malai District.

..Respondents



HCP No.52 of 2023

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus to call for the records in D.O.No.115/2022-C2 passed by the second respondent on 21.12.2022 set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu Dhamodharan @ Saminathan, son of Chinnapaiyan, aged 29 years, who is now detained in Central Prison, Vellore before this Hon'ble Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Ms.S.Nishanthi
For Respondents : Mr.E.Raj Thilak
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by M.SUNDAR, J.,]

Captioned 'Habeas Corpus Petition' ['HCP' for the sake of brevity] has been filed by brother of the detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 21.12.2022 bearing reference D.O.No.115/2022-C2' [hereinafter 'impugned preventive detention order' for the sake of convenience and brevity]. To be noted, fifth respondent is the sponsoring authority and second respondent is the detaining authority as the impugned preventive detention order has been made by second respondent.



HCP No.52 of 2023

2. Impugned preventive detention order has been made under 'The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber law offenders, Drug-offenders, Forest-offenders, Goondas, Immoral traffic offenders, Sand-offenders, Sexual-offenders, Slum-grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act No.14 of 1982)' [hereinafter 'Act 14 of 1982' for the sake of convenience and clarity] on the premise that the detenu is a 'Bootlegger' within the meaning of Section 2(b) of Act 14 of 1982.

3. There is no adverse case. This solitary case which is the sole substratum of the impugned preventive detention order is Crime No.764 of 2022 on the file of Polur Prohibition Enforcement Wing for alleged offences under Sections 4(1)(g), 4(1)(aaa) read with 4(1-A)(ii) of 'the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937' [hereinafter 'TNP Act' for the sake of convenience and clarity]. Owing to the nature of the challenge to the impugned preventive detention order, it is not necessary to delve into the factual matrix or be detained further by facts.

4. Ms.S.Nishanthi, learned counsel on record for petitioner and



HCP No.52 of 2023

Mr.E.Raj Thilak, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor for all respondents are before us.

5. Learned counsel for petitioner submits that 'live and proximate link' between the grounds of detention and purpose of detention has snapped as date of arrest in the ground case is 19.11.2022 but the impugned preventive detention order has been made only on 21.12.2022.

6. Mr.E.Raj Thilak, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, submits to the contrary by saying that materials had to be collected and time was consumed in this exercise. Considering the facts / circumstances of the case on hand and nature of ground case, we find that this explanation of learned Prosecutor is unacceptable.

7. We remind ourselves of ***Sushanta Kumar Banik's*** case [***Sushanta Kumar Banik Vs. State of Tripura & others reported in 2022 LiveLaw (SC) 813 : 2022 SCC OnLine SC 1333***]. To be noted, ***Banik*** case law arose under 'Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988' [hereinafter 'PIT NDPS Act' for the sake of brevity] in



HCP No.52 of 2023

Tirupura, wherein after considering a proposal by a Sponsoring Authority and after noticing the trajectory the matter took, Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the 'live and proximate link between grounds of detention and purpose of detention snapping' point should be examined on a case to case basis. Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in **Banik** case law that this point has two facets. One facet is 'unreasonable delay' and the other facet is 'unexplained delay'. We find that the captioned matter falls under latter facet i.e., unexplained delay.

8. To be noted, **Banik** case has been respectfully followed by this Court in **Gomathi Vs. The Principal Secretary to Government and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023/MHC/334**, **Sadik Basha Yusuf Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023/MHC/733**, **Sangeetha Vs. The Secretary to the Government and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023:MHC:1110**, **N.Anitha Vs. The Secretary to Government and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023:MHC:1159** and a series of other orders in HCP cases.



HCP No.52 of 2023

WEB COPY

9. Before concluding, we also remind ourselves that preventive detention is not a punishment and HCP is a high prerogative writ.

10. Apropos, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed. Impugned preventive detention order dated 21.12.2022 bearing reference D.O.No.115/2022-C2 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Damodharan @ Saminathan, male, aged 29 years, son of Thiru.Chinnapaiyan, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, if not required in connection with any other case / cases. There shall be no order as to costs.

(M.S.,J.) (R.S.V.,J.)
28.06.2023

Index : Yes
Speaking
Neutral Citation : Yes

mk

P.S: Registry to forthwith communicate this order to Jail authorities in Central Prison, Vellore.

To



HCP No.52 of 2023

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Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
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High Court, Madras.

M.SUNDAR, J.,
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