



H.C.P.No.960 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 03.01.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE Mr.JUSTICE P.N.PRAKASH
AND
THE HONOURABLE Mr.JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

H.C.P.No.960 of 2022

Sumithra

Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Secretary to Government,
Home Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 600 009.
2. District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tirupathur District, Tirupathur 635 601
3. The Superintendent of Police,
Tirupathur District, Tirupathur.
4. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Vellore – 2
5. The Inspector of Police,
Vaniyambadi Taluk Police,
Tirupathur District.

Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS in Connection with the order of detention passed



H.C.P.No.960 of 2022

by the second respondent dated 22.05.2022 in C3/D.O.No.31/2022 against the petitioner Father Srinivasan, Male aged 45 years S/o.Shanmugam, who is confined at Central Prison, Vellore and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenue before the Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.D.Balaji

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj

Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[Made by P.N.PRAKASH, J.]

The petitioner is the daughter of the detenue *viz.*, Srinivasan, Male aged 45 years S/o.Shanmugam. The detenue has been detained by the 2nd respondent by his order dated 22.05.2022 in C3/D.O.No.31/2022, holding him to be a "Bootlegger", as contemplated under Section 2(b) 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.No.960 of 2022

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 opposed the Habeas Corpus Petition. 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 detinue 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 22.05.2022. The petitioner made a representation dated 21.06.2022. Thereafter, the Government considered the matter and passed the order rejecting the petitioner's representation on 01.08.2022.



H.C.P.No.960 of 2022

6. It is the contention of the petitioner that there was a delay of 39 days in considering the representation by the Hon'ble Minister concerned, after the Deputy Secretary dealt with it, of which 12 days were Government holidays. Hence, there was inordinate delay of 27 days in considering the representation.

7. In **Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu [2011 (5) SCC 244]**, the Hon'ble 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 Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that any inordinate and



H.C.P.No.960 of 2022

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 27 days in considering the representation by the Hon'ble Minister concerned. 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 C3/D.O.No.31/2022 dated 22.05.2022, passed by the 2nd respondent is set aside. The detainee *viz.*, Srinivasan, Male aged 45 years S/o.Shanmugam, is directed to be released forthwith, unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

[P.N.P., J.] [N.A.V., J.]
03.01.2023

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H.C.P.No.960 of 2022

P.N.PRAKASH, J.
AND
N. ANAND VENKATESH, J.

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To

1. The Secretary to Government,
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- 6 The Public Prosecutor
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H.C.P.No.960 of 2022

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