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H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 15.03.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **M.SUNDAR**
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **M.NIRMAL KUMAR**

H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

Sangeetha

.. Petitioner

Vs

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 9.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate
of Tiruvannamalai District,
Tiruvannamalai.
- 3.The Superintendent of Police,
Tiruvannamalai District,
Tiruvannamalai.
- 4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Vellore.
- 5.The Inspector of Police,
Thellar Police Station,
Tiruvannamalai District.

.. Respondents

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 connection with the order of detention passed by second respondent

Page Nos.1/8



H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

dated 13.08.2022 in D.O.No.71/2022-C2 against the petitioner's husband Narayanasamy, male, aged 32 years, S/o. Elumalai, who is confined at Central Prison, Vellore and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner	:	Ms.K.Sathiya for Mr.D.Balaji
For Respondents	:	Mr.R.Muniyapparaj Additional Public Prosecutor assisted by Mr.M.Sylvester John

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 wife of detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 13.08.2022 bearing reference D.O.No.71/2022-C2' [hereinafter 'impugned 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 impugned detention order has been made by second respondent.



H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

2. Impugned 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 'Goonda' within the meaning of Section 2(f) of Act 14 of 1982.

3. The ground case which is the sole substratum of the impugned detention order is Crime No.70 of 2022 on the file of Thellar Police Station for 'man missing' subsequently altered into one under Sections 120B, 302 and 201 of 'The Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)' [hereinafter 'IPC' for the sake of convenience and clarity]. Owing to the nature of the challenge to the impugned detention order, it is not necessary to delve into the factual matrix or be detained further by facts.

4. Ms.K.Sathiya, learned counsel representing Mr.D.Balaji, counsel on record for petitioner and Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State



H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

Additional Public Prosecutor assisted by Mr.M.Sylvester John, learned counsel, 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 remand in the ground case is 20.06.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 13.08.2022.

6. Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, submits to the contrary by saying that materials had to be collected and time was consumed for the same. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and nature of ground case, we find that this explanation of learned State Additional Public 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



H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988' [hereinafter 'PIT NDPS Act' for the sake of brevity] in Tirupura, wherein after considering the proposal by the 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 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 Bench 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** and series of other HCP matters.

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



H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

WEB COPY

10. Apropos, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed. Impugned detention order dated 13.08.2022 bearing reference D.O.No.71/2022-C2 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Narayanasamy, male, aged 32 years, son of Thiru.Elumalai 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.) (M.N.K.,J.)
15.03.2023

Index : Yes / No
Neutral Citation : Yes / No
mmi

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

To

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 9.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate
of Tiruvannamalai District,
Tiruvannamalai.
- 3.The Superintendent of Police,
Tiruvannamalai District,
Tiruvannamalai.

Page Nos.6/8



H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

WEB COPY

4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Vellore.

5.The Inspector of Police,
Thellar Police Station,
Tiruvannamalai District.

6.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



WEB COPY



H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

**M.SUNDAR, J.,
and
M.NIRMAL KUMAR, J.,**

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H.C.P.No.1645 of 2022

15.03.2023

Page Nos.8/8