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H.C.P.No.2011 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 05.04.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR

and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.NIRMAL KUMAR

H.C.P.No.2011 of 2022

Mrs.Lakshmi

W/o.Surya @ Manda Surya

..

Petitioner /

Wife of the detenu

Vs.

1. The State of Tamil Nadu representation
By its Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Fort St.George
Chennai – 600 009

2. The Commissioner of Police
Greater Chennai
Vepery, Chennai – 600 007

3. The Superintendent
Puzhal Prison-II, Puzhal
Chennai

4. The Inspector of Police
J9, Thuraipakkam Police Station
Chennai

... Respondents

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Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus to call for the records of the second respondent herein pertaining to the detention order made in BCDFGISSSV No.277 of 2022 dated 01.09.2022 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the body of the detenu, namely Surya @ Manda Surya, aged about 23 years, now detained in Puzhal Prison II, Puzhal, Chennai before this Court and set the detenu at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.P.Veera Narayanan

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Additional Public Prosecutor
Assisted by
Mr.Sylvester John
Advocate

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 the wife of detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 01.09.2022 bearing reference BCDFGISSSV No.277 of 2022' [hereinafter 'impugned detention order' for the sake of convenience and brevity]. To be noted, fourth respondent is the sponsoring authority and second respondent is the detaining authority as the impugned detention order has been made by second respondent.

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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 'Drug Offender' within the meaning of Section 2(e) of Act 14 of 1982.

3. There are three adverse cases. The solitary case which is the sole substratum of the impugned detention order is Crime No.246 of 2022 on the file of J-9 Thuraipakkam Police Station for alleged offence under Section 8(c) read with Section 20(b)(ii)(C) of NDPS Act, 1985. 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. Mr.P.Veera Narayanan, learned counsel on record for petitioner and Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, assisted by Mr.Sylvester John, Advocate, for all respondents are before us.



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5. Learned counsel for petitioner submits that 'live and proximate link' between the grounds of detention and purpose of detention has snapped as petitioner was arrested on 26.07.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 01.09.2022.

6. Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, submits to the contrary by saying that materials had to be collected /collated and time was consumed in this exercise. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case 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 Tirupura, wherein after considering the proposal by the Sponsoring Authority and after noticing the trajectory the matter took, Hon'ble Supreme



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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 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.



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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 detention order dated 01.09.2022 bearing reference BCDFGISSSV No.277 of 2022 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Surya @ Manda Surya, aged 23 years, son of Thiru.Selvam 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.)
05.04.2023

Index : Yes
Speaking
Neutral Citation : Yes
gpa

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



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To

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2. The Commissioner of Police
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5. The Public Prosecutor
Madras High Court, Chennai



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

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