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H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 28.03.2023

CORAM

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

H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

Premkumar

.. Petitioner

Vs

1. The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai – 9.
2. The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Tiruppur District, Tiruppur.
3. The Superintendent of Police,
Tiruppur, Tiruppur District.
4. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison – Coimbatore,
Coimbatore District.
5. State Rep. By its
The Inspector of Police,
Avinashi Police Station,
Tiruppur 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 entire

Page Nos.1/8



H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

records relating to the petitioner's uncle detention under Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 vide detention order, dated 20.09.2022 on the file of the second respondent herein made in proceedings Memo Cr.M.P.No.67/Drug Offender/2022, quash the same as illegal and consequently direct the respondents herein to produce the petitioner's uncle namely Murugesan, S/o.Gopal, aged 49 years, before this Court and set the petitioner's uncle at liberty from detention, now the petitioner's uncle detained at Central Prison, Coimbatore.

For Petitioner : Mr.W.Camyles Gandhi
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 son-in-law of detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 20.09.2022 bearing reference Cr.M.P.No.67/DRUG OFFENDER/2022' [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

Page Nos.2/8



H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

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 two adverse cases. The ground case which is the sole substratum of the impugned detention order is Crime No.221 of 2022 on the file of Avinashi Police Station for alleged offences under Section 8(c) read with 20(b)(ii)(C), 20(b)(ii)(B) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 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.W.Camyles Gandhi, learned counsel for petitioner and



H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State 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 24.04.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 20.09.2022.

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



H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

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 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**



H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

Government and others reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023:MHC:1159** and a series of other orders in HCP cases.

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 20.09.2022 bearing reference Cr.M.P.No.67/DRUG OFFENDER/2022 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Murugesan, male, aged 49 years, son of Thiru.Gopal 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.)
28.03.2023

Index : Yes
Neutral Citation : Yes
mmi

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

Page Nos.6/8



H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

To

WEB COPY

1. The Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George, Chennai – 9.
2. The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Tiruppur District, Tiruppur.
3. The Superintendent of Police,
Tiruppur, Tiruppur District.
4. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison – Coimbatore,
Coimbatore District.
5. The Inspector of Police,
Avinashi Police Station,
Tiruppur District.
6. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

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

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H.C.P.No.2005 of 2022

28.03.2023

Page Nos.8/8