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H.C.P.No.2445 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 24.04.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR
and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.NIRMAL KUMAR

H.C.P.No.2445 of 2022

Asha
W/o.Illaiyakumar

.. Petitioner

Vs.

State rep. by

1. The Principal Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Secretariat, Government of Tamil Nadu
Fort St.George, Chennai-600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police
Greater Chennai City.
3. The Superintendent
Central Prison
Puzhal-II, Chennai.
4. The Inspector of Police (L&O)
P-2, Otteri Police Station
Chennai.

..Respondents

Page Nos.1/8



H.C.P.No.2445 of 2022

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus to call for the records pertaining to the order of detention dated on 31.10.2022 passed by the 2nd respondent in No.393/BCDFGISSSV/2022 and quash the same as illegal and direct the respondent to produce the detenu Ilaiyakumar Son of Mahendran, male, aged about 31 years, now confined at Central Prison-II, Puzhal, Chennai produce before this Hon'ble Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Senthil Kumar
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 wife of the detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 31.10.2022 bearing reference No.393/BCDFGISSSV/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.



H.C.P.No.2445 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. There are two adverse cases and one ground case. This solitary case which is the sole substratum of the impugned detention order is Crime No.724 of 2022 on the file of P-2 Otteri Police Station for alleged offences under Sections 341, 294(b), 323, 397, 506(ii) read with 34 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. Mr.S.Senthil Kumar, learned counsel on record for petitioner and



H.C.P.No.2445 of 2022

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 23.08.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 31.10.2022.

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



H.C.P.No.2445 of 2022

Substances Act, 1988' [hereinafter 'PIT NDPS Act' for the sake of brevity] in 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**



H.C.P.No.2445 of 2022

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 31.10.2022 bearing reference No.393/BCDFGISSSV/2022 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Ilaiyakumar, aged 31 years, son of Thiru.Mahendran, 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.)

24.04.2023

Index : Yes

Speaking

Neutral Citation : Yes

mk

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

Page Nos.6/8



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H.C.P.No.2445 of 2022

To

1. The Principal Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Secretariat, Government of Tamil Nadu
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5. The Public Prosecutor
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H.C.P.No.2445 of 2022

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

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H.C.P.No.2445 of 2022

24.04.2023

Page Nos.8/8