



HCP(MD)No.153 of 2023

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED: 13.07.2023

CORAM

**THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH
AND
THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE M.NIRMAL KUMAR**

H.C.P.(MD)No.153 of 2023

Kanagaraj

.. Petitioner / Detenu

Vs.

1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai – 600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate,
Dindigul District,
Dindigul.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Madurai Central Prison,
Madurai District.

.. Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records, connected with the detention order of the Respondent No.2 in Detention Order No.94/2022 dated 03.10.2022 and quash the same and to



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direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the detenu by name Kanagaraj, son of Rajendran, aged about 32 years, now confining as “Goonda” at Madurai Central Prison before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Prakash

For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadikumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by M.S.RAMESH,J.)

The petitioner is the detenu viz., Kanagaraj, aged about 32 years, S/o.Rajendran. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in Detention Order No.94/2022 dated 03.10.2022 holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under Section 2(f) 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.



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3. Among other grounds, the detention order is mainly attacked on the ground that there is a delay in passing the order of detention. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner strongly contended that though the detenu was arrested on 27.07.2022, the detention order was passed only on 03.10.2022, i.e., after a considerable delay of 68 days. Therefore, the detention order has to be set aside.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor strongly opposed the Habeas Corpus Petition by filing his counter. It is further submitted that investigation has been completed in this case and final report has been filed in P.R.C.No.1/2023 and the same is pending before the Judicial Magistrate Court, Palani.

5. As seen from the grounds of detention, it is clear that though the detenu was arrested on 27.07.2022, the order of detention came to be passed only on 03.10.2022 and hence, there is an abnormal delay in passing the order of detention, which caused prejudice to the interest of the detenu.



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6. We have gone through the entire materials placed on record. There is no satisfactory explanation offered by the Detaining Authority for the delay in passing the order of detention. Hence the impugned order of detention is liable to be set aside.

7. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in Detention Order No.94/2022 dated 03.10.2022 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Kanagaraj, S/o.Rajendran, aged about 32 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(M.S.R.,J.) (M.N.K.,J.)
13.07.2023

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
Lm/mbi



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Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
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and
M.NIRMAL KUMAR,J.

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