



H.C.P(MD)No.738 of 2023

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: **30.10.2023**

Coram

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE **M.SUNDAR**
and
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE **R.SAKTHIVEL**

H.C.P(MD)No.738 of 2023

Murugeswari

.. Petitioner

VS

1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai – 600 009.

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Office of the Commissioner of Police,
Madurai City, Madurai.

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

.. Respondents

Prayer:- Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the records pertaining to the detention order passed by the second respondent in Order No. 39/BCDFGISSSV/2023 dated 28.04.2023 under section 2(f) of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 as a Goonda and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu namely, Palani, S/o.Thirukannan, male aged about 28 years detained at Central Prison, Madurai before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.



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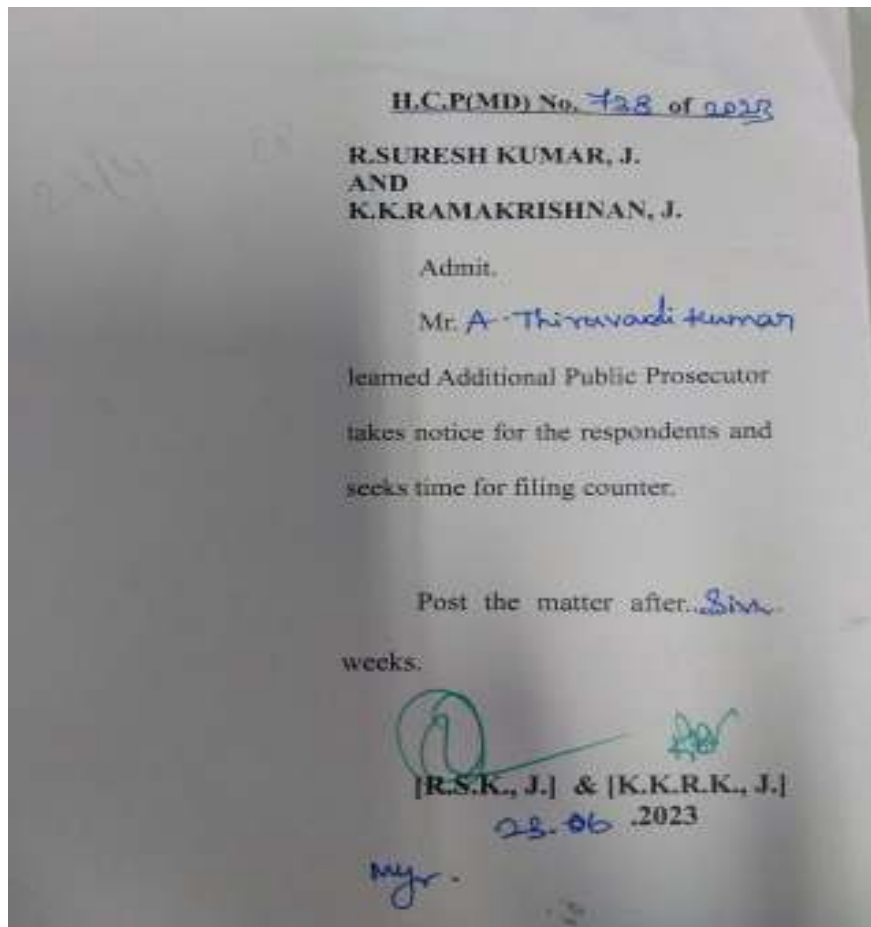
For Petitioner : Mr.S.Sukumar

WEB COPY For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar,
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by M.SUNDAR, J.]

When the captioned 'Habeas Corpus Petition' [hereinafter 'HCP' for the sake of brevity] was listed in the Admission Board on 23.06.2023, a Hon'ble Coordinate Division Bench made the following order in the Admission Board:





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2. It has now become necessary to set out a thumbnail sketch of factual matrix and we do so in the paragraphs infra.

3. Mr.S.Sukumar, learned counsel on record for petitioner and Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor for all respondents are before us.

4. Today, the captioned matter is in the Final Hearing Board.

5. Captioned HCP has been filed by the mother of the detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 28.04.2023 bearing reference No. 39/BCDFGISSSV/2023' [hereinafter 'impugned preventive detention order' for the sake of brevity and convenience]. To be noted, second respondent is the detaining authority as impugned preventive detention order has been made by second respondent. To be noted, sponsoring authority has not been arrayed as a respondent but we find that 'Station House Officer of B5 South Gate Police Station' is the sponsoring authority [hereinafter 'Sponsoring Authority' for the sake of convenience and clarity].

6. Impugned preventive detention order has been made under 'The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber law



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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.

7. There is one adverse case and one ground case. The ground case which constitutes substantial part of substratum of the impugned preventive detention order is Crime No.76 of 2023 on the file of B5 South Gate Police Station for alleged offences under Sections 341, 294(b), 302 and 506(ii) of 'The Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)' [hereinafter 'IPC' for the sake of convenience and clarity]. Considering the nature of the challenge to the impugned detention order, it is not necessary to delve into the factual matrix of the case.

8. Learned counsel for petitioner submitted 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 04.02.2023 but the impugned preventive detention order has been made only on 28.04.2023.



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9. Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar, 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.

10. 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 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 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.



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11. 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 similar orders in HCP cases.

12. To be noted, the adverse case is in Crime No.17 of 2021 on the file of B5 South Gate Police Station (occurrence was on 10.01.2021) for alleged offences under Sections 294(b), 323 and 506(ii)IPC and Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 2002 and therefore time consumed remains unexplained.

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



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14. Ergo, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed. Impugned preventive detention order dated 28.04.2023 bearing reference No.39/BGDFGISSSV/2023 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Palani, aged 28 years, son of Thiru.Thirukannan, 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.) (R.S.V.,J.)
30.10.2023

Index : Yes
Neutral Citation : Yes
vsm

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



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M.SUNDAR, J.,
and
R.SAKTHIVEL, J.,

vsm

To

- 1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
- 2.The Commissioner of Police,
Office of the Commissioner of Police,
Madurai City, Madurai.
- 3.The Superintendent of Prison,
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- 4.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
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