



H.C.P(MD)No.1072 of 2023

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED: **06.11.2023**

Coram

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

H.C.P(MD)No.1072 of 2023

Sekar

.. Petitioner

VS

1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise (XVI) 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,
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 entire records connected with the detention order of the respondent No.2 in No. 58/BCDFGISSSV/2023 dated 13.07.2023 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu by name Dhanasekara Pandian @ Poonai, son of Sekar aged about 23 years, who is detained in District Prison, Dindigul before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.



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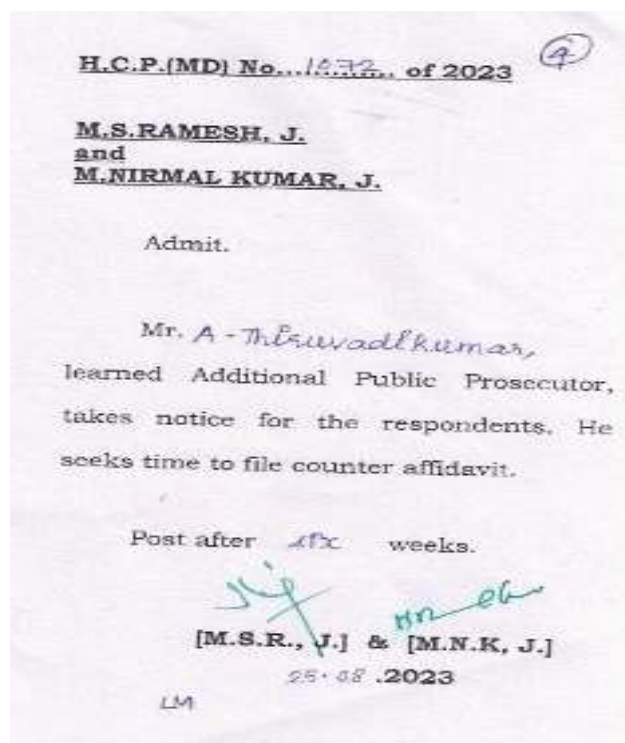
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For Petitioner : Mr.S.Maya Perumal
For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

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 25.08.2023, a Hon'ble Coordinate Division Bench made the following order in the Admission Board:





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

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

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

5. Captioned HCP has been filed by the father of the detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 13.07.2023 bearing No. 58/BCDFGISSSV/2023' [hereinafter 'impugned preventive detention order' for the sake of brevity and convenience]. To be noted, sponsoring authority has not been arrayed as a respondent but we find that Station House Officer of 'B3 Teppakulam Police Station' is the sponsoring authority [hereinafter 'Sponsoring Authority' for the sake of convenience and clarity] and second respondent is the detaining authority as impugned preventive detention order has been made by second respondent.



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6. Impugned preventive 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.

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.211 of 2023 on the file of B3 Teppakulam Police Station for the alleged offences under Sections 147, 148, 341, 294(b), 324, 307, 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 preventive detention order, it is not necessary to delve into the factual matrix of the case.

8. In the final hearing today, learned counsel predicated his campaign against the impugned preventive detention order on the point that the detenu was arrested on 20.05.2023 but the impugned preventive detention order has been made only on 13.07.2023 resulting in live and proximate link between



grounds and purpose of detention getting snapped.

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9. Mr.Thiruvadi Kumar, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, submits that materials had to be collected and time was consumed in this exercise.

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.604 of 2021 on the file of B4 Keeraithurai Police Station for alleged offences under Sections 294(b), 324 and 506(ii) of IPC and Section 25(1B)(b) of Arms Act, 1959 [alleged occurrence on 23.08.2021], ground case is Crime No.211 of 2023 on the file of B3 Teppakulam Police Station, for alleged offences under Sections 147, 148, 341, 294(b), 324, 307, 302 and 506(ii) of of IPC [alleged occurrence on 19.05.2023] and therefore time consumed remains unexplained.



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

14. Ergo, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed. Impugned preventive detention order dated 13.07.2023 bearing No. 58/BCDFGISSSV/2023 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Dhanasekara Pandian @ Poonai, aged 23 years, son of Sekar, 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.)
06.11.2023

Index : Yes/No
Internet: Yes/No
Neutral Citation : Yes/No
PKN

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



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- To
- 1.The Principal Secretary to Government,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise (XVI) 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,
Central Prison, Madurai.
 - 4.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.
 5. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law and Order) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai.



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and
R.SAKTHIVEL, J.

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