



HCP(MD)No.1286 of 2023

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 20.11.2023

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **M.SUNDAR**
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **R.SAKTHIVEL**

HCP(MD)No.1286 of 2023

Ajith @ Ajithkumar

... Petitioner

vs.

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600009.

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

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

... Respondents

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 Cr.M.P.No. 14/2023 (Goonda) dated 29.08.2023 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the detenu by name Ajith @ Ajithkumar son of Arokiyaraj aged about 26 years, now detained at Madurai Central Prison before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Ramesh Kumar



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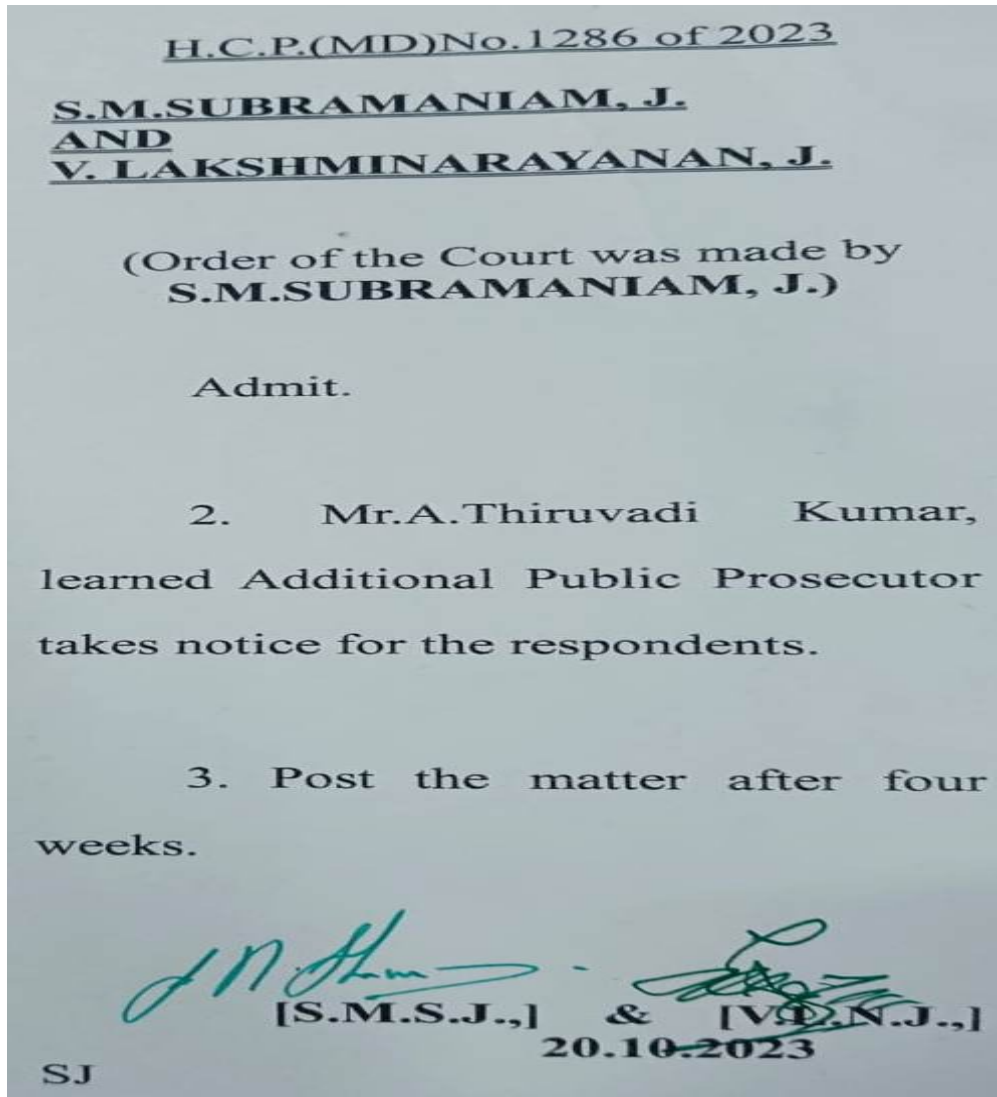
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For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

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 20.10.2023, a Hon'ble Coordinate Division Bench made the following order in the Admission Board:





6. 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.

7. There are two adverse cases and one ground case. The ground case which constitutes substantial part of substratum of the impugned preventive detention order is Crime No.123 of 2023 on the file of Virudhunagar Rural Police Station, for alleged offence under Section 302 of 'Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Act 45 of 1860)' ['IPC' for brevity] and subsequently altered into Sections 302 and 201 of IPC. 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. 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 21.06.2023 but the impugned preventive detention order has been made only on 29.08.2023 resulting in live and proximate link between grounds and purpose of detention getting snapped.

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.

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 first adverse case is in Crime No.37 of 2023 on the file of Virudhunagar Rural Police Station for alleged offence under Section 379 of IPC [alleged occurrence on 18.03.2023], second adverse case is Crime No.97 of 2023 on the file of Virudhunagar Rural Police Station for alleged offences under Sections 341, 365, 511, 506(i) of IPC and subsequently altered into Sections 341, 365, 511, 506(i) and



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109 of IPC [alleged occurrence on 01.06.2023], ground case is Crime No.123 of 2023 on the file of Virudhunagar Rural Police Station, for alleged offence under Section 302 of IPC and subsequently altered into Sections 302 and 201 of IPC [alleged occurrence on 20.06.2023] 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.

14. Ergo, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed. Impugned preventive detention order dated 29.08.2023 bearing reference Cr.M.P.No.14/2023 (GOONDA) made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Ajith @ Ajithkumar, aged about 26 years, son of Thiru.Arokiyaraj, 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.)
20.11.2023

Index : Yes / No
Neutral Citation : Yes / No
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P.S: Registry to forthwith communicate this order to Jail authorities in Central Prison, Madurai. All concerned to act on this order being uploaded in official website of this Court without insisting on certified copies. To be noted, this order when uploaded in official website of this Court will be watermarked and will also have a QR code.

To

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600009.
2. The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Office of the District Magistrate and District Collector,
Virudhunagar.
3. The Superintendent of Prison,
Madurai Central Prison,
Madurai District.
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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M.SUNDAR, J.
and
R.SAKTHIVEL, J.

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ORDER MADE IN
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DATED : 20.11.2023