



H.C.P(MD)No.2121 of 2022

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 13.07.2023

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH
AND
THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE M.NIRMAL KUMAR

H.C.P(MD)No.2121 of 2022

Seenivasan

.. Petitioner

vs.

1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise (XVI) Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai - 600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
District Collector and District Magistrate's Office,
Thanjavur District.

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

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a writ of habeas corpus calling for the entire records pertaining to the detention order passed by the second respondent in P.D.No.142/2022, dated 03.10.2022 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the detenu namely Vasan, S/o.Seenivasan, aged about 19



years, who is detained as 'Drug Offender' at Trichy Central Prison before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani

For respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar,
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The petitioner is the father of the detenu viz., Vasan, S/o.Seenivasan, aged about 19 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by order in P.D.No.142/2022, dated 03.10.2022, holding him to be a 'Drug Offender', as contemplated under Section 2(e) 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.



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 05.08.2022, the detention order was passed only on 03.10.2022 i.e., after a considerable delay of nearly two months. Therefore, the detention order has to be set aside.

4. As seen from the grounds of detention, it is clear that though the detenu was arrested on 05.08.2022, 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.

5. 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.



H.C.P(MD)No.2121 of 2022

6. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in P.D.No.142/2022, dated 03.10.2022, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Vasan, S/o.Seenivasan, aged about 19 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
Speaking/Non-speaking order

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To

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- 4.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.



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and
M.NIRMAL KUMAR, J.

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