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HCP.No.1712 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 21.08.2024

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM
AND
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE V.SIVAGNANAM

H.C.P.No.1712 of 2024

Suganthi

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. State of Tamil Nadu,
Represented by the Additional Chief Secretary
to Government,
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department,
Fort St.George,
Chennai - 600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police,
The Greater Chennai City,
Vepery, Chennai - 600 007.
3. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Chennai - 600 066.
4. The Inspector of Police,
M-3, Puzhal Police Station,
Chennai.

... Respondents



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PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records relating to the detention order in Memo No.715/BCDFGISSSV/2024, dated 25.06.2024 passed by the 2nd respondent under the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the petitioner's husband Joseph S/o. Kovilpichai aged about 43 years the detainee, now confined in Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.P.Praveen Kumar
For Respondents : Mr.E.Raj Thilak,
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The preventive detention order dated 25.06.2024 passed by the second respondent is sought to be quashed in the present habeas corpus petition.

2. The learned Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner would mainly contend that there was a delay in considering the representation submitted by the detainee under Act 14 of 1982.

3. Delay in considering the representation is vital, more specifically in preventive detention cases. The detention power conferred



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under Act is extremely powerful and that have the ability to confer arbitrary power to the State. In such circumstances, where there is a possibility of an unfettered discretion of power by the Government, the Court must analyse cases arising from such laws with extreme caution and excruciate detail power to ensure that there are check, and balances on the power of the Government. Every procedural rigidity must be followed in entirety by the Government in cases of preventive detention and every lapse in procedure must give raise to benefit to the cases of detainee. The Courts in such circumstances of preventive detention, are conferred with a duty that has been given the utmost importance by the Constitution of India, which is the protection of individual and civil liberties. Therefore, the adherence of the procedures and the Rules and the opportunities to be afforded to the detainee are of paramount importance and a constitutional mandate. Therefore, every lapse in exercising the power identified are to be viewed seriously.

4. High Court in exercise of powers of Judicial Review under Article 226 in the case of habeas corpus is not expected to assess the nature of the seriousness of the criminal cases registered and pending against the detainee. The cases of preventive detention are to be dealt with in accordance



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with the personal liberty of the detainee granted under Part-III of the constitution. Therefore, the dealing of preventive detention cases are not comparable with reference to the regular criminal cases. The cases under preventive detention stands in different footing than that of the regular criminal cases wherein the procedures are distinct and different. Thus, High Court is expected to exercise its powers meticulously to scrutinise, whether there is any lapses on the part of the detaining Authority and the power has been exercised judiciously by scrupulously following the procedures and application of mind has been made as required under law and the breach of public order likely to be caused by the detainee. It is held that mere law and order cannot be a ground to detain a person. The likelihood of causing disturbance to public order, which must be the subjective satisfaction of the detaining Authority while passing the order of detention.

5. Admittedly, in the present case, there is a delay of four (04) days in considering the representation and that is not disputed by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor. The delay in considering the representation undoubtedly caused infringement of the right of personal liberty of the



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detenue under Article 21 of the constitution of India. Thus, the order of detention do not stand under the scrutiny of law. Further, Some of the relied on cases have no close proximity with the ground case. Therefore, application of mind lacks on the part of the Detaining Authority.

6. Accordingly, the impugned order of detention on the file of the second respondent in proceedings Memo No.715/BCDFGISSSV/2024, dated 25.06.2024 is quashed and the habeas corpus petition stands **allowed**. The detenue viz., Joseph S/o. Kovilpichai, aged about 43 years, confined at Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, unless he is required in connection with any other case.

[S.M.S., J.]

[V.S.G., J.]

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Index : Yes/No
Speaking Order : Yes/No
Neutral Citation : Yes/No
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3. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Chennai - 600 066.
4. The Inspector of Police,
M-3, Puzhal Police Station,
Chennai.
5. The Joint Secretary to Government,
Public (Law and Order) Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai - 9.
6. The Public Prosecutor,
Madras High Court,
Chennai - 104.



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