



H.C.P.No.2435 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 02.01.2024

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SUNDER MOHAN

H.C.P.No.2435 of 2023

Latha

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Secretary to the Government,
Home Prohibition & Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai 600 009.

2.District Magistrate and District Collector,
Tiruppur,
Tiruppur District.

3.The Superintendent of Police,
Tiruppur,
Tiruppur District.

4.The Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Coimbatore.

... Respondents



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Prayer : Habeas Corpus Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records in connection with the order of Detention passed by the second respondent dated 20.07.2023 in Cr.M.P.No.29/DRUG OFFENDER/2023 against the petitioner son Ranjithkumar, M/23 years, Son of Thirumalraj, who is confined at Central Prison, Coimbatore and set aside the same and consequently direct the respondents to produce the detenue before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner	:	Mr.A.Saranraj
For Respondents	:	Mr.E.Raj Thilak Additional Public Prosecutor assisted by Mr.C.Aravind

ORDER

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

The petitioner, mother of the detenu Ranjithkumar S/o Thirumalraj, aged about 23 years, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 20.07.2023 slapped on



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her son, branding him as "Drug Offender" 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 14 of 1982].

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents.

3. Though several grounds are raised in the petition, the learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that there is a delay in passing the order of detention. In the present case, though the detenu was arrested on 09.05.2023, the Detention Order was passed only on 20.07.2023.

4. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of ***Sushantha Kumar Banik Vs. State of Tripura and Others*** reported in ***AIR 2022 SC 4715***, has dealt with similar situation and has held in paragraph No.14 as follows:-



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"In view of the above subject of the preventive detention, it becomes very imperative on the part of the detaining authority as well as the executing authorities to remain vigilant and keep their eyes skinned but to turn a blind eye in passing the detention order at the earliest from the date of the proposal and executing the detention order because any indifferent attitude on the part of the detaining authority or executing authority would defeat the very purpose of the preventive action and turn the detention order as a dead letter and frustrate the entire proceedings."

5. The Hon'ble Supreme Court was persuaded to allow the Appeal filed before it mainly on the ground that delay in passing the Order of Detention from the date of the proposal would snap the "live and proximate link" between prejudicial activities and the purpose of detention. Therefore, failure on the part of the Detaining Authority in explaining such delay as in the present case also is a valid ground for quashing the Detention Order.

6. In view of the aforesaid reason, the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 20.07.2023 in Cr.M.P.No.29/DRUG OFFENDER/2023, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The



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detenu viz., Ranjithkumar S/o Thirumalraj, aged about 23 years, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith unless he is required in connection with any other case.

[M.S.R., J] [S.M., J]
02.01.2024

pvs

Internet : Yes

Index : Yes / No

Neutral Citation : Yes / No

To

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- 5.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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