



H.C.P(MD)No.344 of 2024

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 21.08.2024

CORAM:

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.V.KARTHIKEYAN
and
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE J.SATHYA NARAYANA PRASAD**

H.C.P.(MD) No.344 of 2024

Naina Mohamed

... Petitioner

Vs

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai-600 009.

2. The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Tiruchirappalli District,
Tiruchirappalli.

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

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the entire records connected with the Detention order No. Cr. M.P no. 03/2024 dt. 12.02.2024 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the detenu by name Naina Mohamed son of Sulaiman aged about 50 yrs now detained as Drug Offender at in Trichy Central Prison before this



H.C.P(MD)No.344 of 2024

WEB COPY

Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani

For Respondents : Mr.S.Ravi

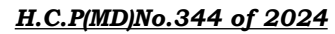
Additional Public Prosecutor.

ORDER

The petitioner is the detenu viz., Naina Mohamed, aged about 50 years, Son of Sulaiman. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in Detention Order MHS Confdl No. 33/2024, dated 10.02.2024 holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under Section 2(f) 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. Though several grounds have been raised in the habeas corpus petition, learned counsel for the petitioner focused mainly on the ground that there is an unexplained delay in considering the



4. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor, on instructions, that after satisfying with the materials placed by the Authority, the Detaining Authority has passed the impugned order and there is no illegality or infirmity in the detention also stated that even if there is any delay in disposal of the on, it has not caused any prejudice to the rights of the detenu prayed for dismissal of the habeas corpus petition.



H.C.P(MD)No.344 of 2024

WEB COPY

5. As per the submission of the learned counsel for the petitioner and on perusal of the records, we find that the representation of the petitioner is dated 12.03.2024, which was received by the Government on 18.03.2024 and the rejection letter was sent to the detenu on 05.04.2024. As per the proforma submitted by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, there is a delay of 7 days in Column Nos.6 to 9A and 10 to 12 in considering the representation of the petitioner and we find that the said delay remains unexplained.

6. It is trite law that the representation should be very expeditiously considered and disposed of with a sense of urgency and without avoidable delay. Any unexplained delay in the disposal of the representation would be a breach of the constitutional imperative and it would render the continued detention impermissible and illegal. From the records produced, we find that no acceptable explanation has been offered for the delay of 7 days. Therefore, we have to hold that the delay has vitiated further detention of the detenu.

7. In the above cited decision of the Honourable Supreme



H.C.P(MD)No.344 of 2024

WEB COPY

Court in **Rajammal's** case, it has been held as follows:

"It is a constitutional obligation of the Government to consider the representation forwarded by the detenu without any delay. Though no period is prescribed by Article 22 of the Constitution for the decision to be taken on the representation, the words "as soon as may be " in clause (5) of Article 22 convey the message that the representation should be considered and disposed of at the earliest."

8. As per the dictum laid down by the Supreme Court in above cited **Rajammal's** case, number of days of delay is immaterial and what is to be considered is whether the delay caused has been properly explained by the authorities concerned. But, in the instant case, the inordinate delay of 5 days has not been properly explained.

9. Further, in a recent decision in **Ummu Sabeena vs. State of Kerala-2011 STPL (Web) 999 SC**, the Honourable Supreme Court has held that the history of personal liberty, as is well known, is a history of insistence on procedural safeguards. The expression 'as soon as may be',



H.C.P(MD)No.344 of 2024

WEB COPY

in Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India clearly shows the concern of the makers of the Constitution that the representation made on behalf of the detenu, should be considered and disposed of with a sense of urgency and without any avoidable delay.

10. In the light of the above discussion, we have no hesitation in quashing the order of detention on the ground of delay on the part of the Government in disposing of the representation of the petitioner.

11. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in Detention Order MHS Confdl No.33/2024, dated 10.02.2024, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Naina Mohamed, aged about 50 years, Son of Sulaiman, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(C.V.K., J.) (J.S.N.P, J.)
21.08.2024

Index : Yes / No
Internet : Yes / No



H.C.P(MD)No.344 of 2024

NCC : Yes / No
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PNM

To

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Fort St. George, Chennai-600 009.
2. The District Collector and District Magistrate,
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Tiruchirappalli.
3. The Superintendent of Prison,
Trichy Central Prison, Trichy District.
4. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.



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H.C.P(MD)No.344 of 2024

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and
J.SATHYA NARAYANA PRASAD, J.

PNM

ORDER MADE IN
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H.C.P(MD)No.344 of 2024

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