

A

FENDAN NAHA

v.

STATE OF WEST BENGAL

May 3, 1974

[A. N. RAY C.J., K. K. MATHEW, A. ALAGIRISWAMI, P. K. GOSWAMI
AND R. S. SARKARIA, JJ.]

B

The Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971—Ss. 3(1), 13—Constitution of India, Art. 22(7)(b)—Detention for maximum period—Validity of detention—Application of mind as to the period of detention.

The petitioner challenged the order of detention on the ground that the authorities fixed the maximum period of detention without applying their mind as to the period of detention.

C

HELD : (i) The order of detention does not suffer from any constitutional infirmity. The authorities have applied their mind while detaining for the maximum period mentioned in the statute. This Court has held in *Fagu Shaw v. State of West Bengal* that the maximum period mentioned in section 13 of the Act as amended by section 6(d) of the Defence of India Act, 1971, is a constitutionally valid provision. [484B; 483G]

Fagu Shaw v. The State of West Bengal, A.I.R. 1974 S.C. 613 followed.

D

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION : Writ Petition No. 2053 of 1973.

Petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India.

Shiv Pujan Singh, for the petitioner.

The Judgment of the Court was delivered by

E

RAY, C.J. The petitioner in a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution challenges the order of detention dated 15 March, 1973.

The order is : 'in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) read with sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act "hereinafter referred to as the Act" directing the petitioner to be detained".

F

The petitioner challenges the order on the ground that it is the duty of the authority to fix the period of detention after carefully examining the circumstances requiring detention. The petitioner submits that the authorities have bodily lifted the section fixing the maximum period without applying their mind as to the period of detention.

G

This Court in *Fagu Shaw etc. v. The State of West Bengal* A.I.R. 1974 S.C. 613 held that the maximum period mentioned in section 13 of the Act as amended by section 6(d) of the Defence of India Act, 1971 is a constitutionally valid provision.

H

That section states that the maximum period for which any person can be detained in pursuance of any detention which has been confirmed under section 12 shall be 12 months from the date of detention or until the expiry of the Defence of India Act whichever is later.

This Court construed section 13 of the Act to be valid with reference to Article 22(7)(b) of the Constitution. The maximum period under Article 22(7)(b) can be fixed with reference to the duration of an emergency. The expiry of the Defence of India Act is dependent upon the revocation of emergency. The duration of maximum period of detention with reference to an event like the cessation of the period of emergency is not indefinite.

The order of detention in the present case does not suffer from any constitutional infirmity. The authorities have applied their mind. The authorities have detained for the maximum period mentioned in the statute.

The petition is dismissed.

K.B.N.

Petition dismissed.