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HCP.No.1378 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 28.08.2024

CORAM :

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

H.C.P.No.1378 of 2024

Yasmeen

... Petitioner

Vs.

- 1 The Secretary To Government
Ministry Of Consumer Affairs And Food And
Public Distribution (department Of Consumer
Affairs) Room No.270, “ Krishi Bhavan”,
New Delhi-110001.
- 2 The Additional Secretary To Government
Ministry Of Consumer Affairs,
Food And Public Distribution
(department Of Consumer Affairs)
Room No.27 Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi-11000
- 3 The Principal Secretary To Government,
Food And Consumer Protection Department,
2nd Floor Namakkal Kavignr Maaligai,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
- 4 The District Collector And District
Magistrate Vellore District
Vellore-9.



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5 The Superintendent Of Police
Vellore District Vellore.

6 The Superintendent
Central Prison Vellore Vellore District.

7 The Inspector Of Police
Civil Supplies CID,
Vellore Unit, Vellore District

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records relating to the impugned order C3/D.O.No.26/2024 dated 25.05.2024 on the file of the 4th respondent herein and set aside the same as illegal and direct the respondents to produce namely Afzal son of Chand Basha aged about 37 years, now confined at Central prison, Vellore before this Court set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.G.Vinodhkumar

For Respondents : Mr.E.Raj Thilak
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The order of detention passed by the 4th respondent in proceedings C3/D.O.No.26/2024 dated 25.05.2024 is sought to be quashed in the present Habeas Corpus Petition.



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2.The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the translation copies of Pg Nos.30 and 31 have not been furnished to the detenue. The detenue has no knowledge in reading English and non translation of the Government Order caused prejudice to the detenue from submitting effective representation, which is a valuable right under the Act.

3. In this context, it is useful to refer to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in '*Powanammal Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*'.¹ The Hon'ble Supreme Court, after discussing the safeguards embodied in Article 22[5] of the Constitution, observed that the detenue should be afforded an opportunity of making representation effectively against the Detention Order and that, the failure to supply every material in the language which can be understood by the detenue, is imperative. In the said context, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in Paragraphs 9 and 16 {as in SCC journal} as follows:

¹1999 2 SCC 413



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“9.However, this Court has maintained a distinction between a document which has been relied upon by the detaining authority in the grounds of detention and a document which finds a mere reference in the grounds of detention. Whereas the non-supply of a copy of the document relied upon in the grounds of detention has been held to be fatal to continued detention, the detenu need not show that any prejudice is caused to him. This is because the non-supply of such a document would amount to denial of the right of being communicated the grounds and of being afforded the opportunity of making an effective representation against the order. But it would not be so where the document merely finds a reference in the order of detention or among the grounds thereof. In such a case, the detenu's complaint of non-supply of document has to be supported by prejudice caused to him in making an effective representation. What applies to a document would equally apply to furnishing a translated copy of the document in the language known to and understood by the detenu, should the document be in a different language.

..... 16.For the above reasons, in our view, the non-supply of the Tamil version of the English document, on the facts and in the circumstances,



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renders her continued detention illegal. We, therefore, direct that the detenue be set free forthwith unless she is required to be detained in any other case. The appeal is accordingly allowed.”

4. In view of the ratio laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and in view of the aforesaid facts, this Court is of the view that the detention order is liable to be quashed.

5. Hence, for the aforesaid reason, the detention order passed by the fourth respondent in proceedings C3/D.O.No.26/2024 dated 25.05.2024 is quashed and the Habeas Corpus Petition is **allowed**. The detenue viz., Afzal son of Chand Basha aged about 37 years, now confined at Central prison, Vellore, 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

Internet: Yes/No

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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AND
V.SIVAGNANAM, J.

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