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HCP.No.237 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 10.06.2025

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S. RAMESH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN

H.C.P.No.237 of 2025

S.Mahalakshmi

Petitioner(s) /sister of the detenue

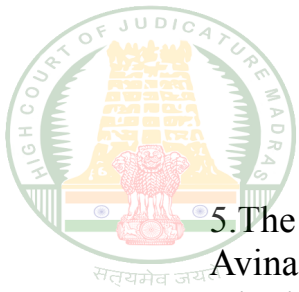
Vs

1. The State Of Tamil Nadu,
Rep By Its Secretary To Government,
Home Prohibition And Excise Department,
Fort St George, Chennai 600 009

2.The District Magistrate And District Collector
Office Of District Collector,
Tiruppur District.

3.The Superintendent Of Police
Tiruppur,
Tiruppur District

4.The Superintendent Of Central
Prison,
Central Prison, Coimbatore District.



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5. The Inspector Of Police
Avinashi Police Station, Tiruppur
District

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...Respondent(s)

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus, direction to produce the body of the detenue by name Vijayalakshmi w/o. late Ramesh, sister of petitioner herein aged 34 years, confined at Central Prison, Coimbatore before this court and set her at liberty forthwith after calling for the records pertaining to the detention order dated 28.12.2024 in CR.MP. NO. 110/ GOONDA/2024 passed by the 2nd respondent and quash the same.

For Petitioner : Mr.B.Mohan

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

ORDER

M.S.RAMESH, J.
and
V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN, J.

The petitioner herein, who is the sister of the detenu, Vijayalakshmi w/o. late Ramesh, aged 34 years, confined at Central Prison, Coimbatore, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent dated 28.12.2024 issued against her sister, branding her as "Goonda" under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous



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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 the order of Detention passed by the Detaining Authority is vitiated for material irregularities, as the copy of the seizure mahazar, has not been properly translated. It is therefore stated that the detenu is deprived of his valuable right to make effective representation.

4. On a perusal of the Booklet, particularly page No.137, this Court finds that a copy of the seizure mahazar is available in both Tamil and English. However, certain portions of the English version have not been translated into the vernacular language. Therefore, this Court is of the view that the improper translation of the copy of the vital document relied upon



by the Detaining Authority to arrive at a subjective satisfaction, would deprive the detenu of his valuable right to make effective representation. It is in the said circumstances, this Court finds that the Detention Order passed by the Detaining Authority is vitiated.

5. In this context, it is useful to refer to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in '**Powanammal Vs. State of Tamil Nadu**' reported in '**(1999) 2 SCC 413**'. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, after discussing the safeguards embodied in Article 22[5] of the Constitution, observed that the detenu 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 detenu, is imperative. In the said context, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in Paragraphs 9 and 16 {as in SCC journal} as follows:

“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



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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, 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.”*

6. 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



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is liable to be quashed.

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7. Hence, for the aforesaid reasons, the detention order passed by the second respondent on 28.12.2024 in CR.MP. NO. 110/ GOONDA/2024, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Vijayalakshmi w/o. late Ramesh, aged 34 years, confined at Central Prison, Coimbatore, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, unless he is required in connection with any other case.

[M.S.R., J] [V.L.N., J]
10.06.2025

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Internet: Yes/No
Neutral Citation: Yes/No
Anu

To

1. The Secretary To Government,
Home Prohibition And Excise Department,
Fort St George, Chennai 600 009

2. The District Magistrate And District Collector
Office Of District Collector,
Tiruppur District.

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3.The Superintendent Of Police
Tiruppur,
Tiruppur District

4.The Superintendent Of Central
Prison,
Central Prison, Coimbatore District.

5.The Inspector Of Police
Avinashi Police Station, Tiruppur
District

6.The Joint Secretary,
Law and Order Department,
Secretariat, Chennai

7.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

M.S.RAMESH, J.
and
V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN, J.
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