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H.C.P.No.456 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 18.06.2025

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S. RAMESH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN

H.C.P.No.456 of 2025

Rajiyabeek

... Petitioner

Vs.

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

2.The Commissioner of Police,
Greater Chennai Police,
Chennai.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Special Prison for Women, Puzhal,
Chennai - 66.

4.The Inspector of Police,
Anti Vice Squad – 1,
Greater Chennai Police,
Chennai.

... Respondents



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PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records relating to the impugned order No.93/BCDFGISSSV/2025 dated 17.02.2025 on the file of the 2nd respondent herein and set aside the same as illegal and direct the respondents to produce the detainee namely Alima @ Alima Banu, aged about 47 years, W/o.Mohammed Vazeer, now confined at Special Prison for Women, Puzhal, Chennai, before this Court and set her at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.G.Vinodhkumar

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

ORDER

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

The petitioner herein, who is the sister of the detainee namely Alima @ Alima Banu, aged about 47 years, W/o.Mohammed Vazeer, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent dated 17.02.2025 issued against her sister, branding her as "Immoral Traffic Offender" under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand



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Offenders, Sexual Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982

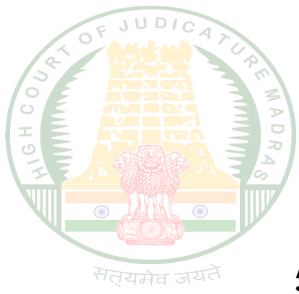
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[Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982].

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner, as well as the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents.

3. Though several points have been raised by the learned counsel for the petitioner, it is stated that the detention order is liable to be quashed on the ground that the detainee was furnished with improper translated copy of arrest intimation. Hence, it is submitted that the detainee was deprived of making effective representation.

4. On a perusal of the Booklet particularly in page Nos.107 & 109, it is seen that the arrest intimation is partially in Tamil and partially in English and its proper translated copy in vernacular language has not been furnished to the detainee. This non-furnishing of the copy of the vital document would deprive the detainee of making effective representation to the authorities against the order of detention.



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5. In this context, it is useful to refer to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of '**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 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.



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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 is liable to be quashed.



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7. Accordingly, the detention order passed by the second respondent on 17.02.2025 in No.93/BCDFGISSSV/2025, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenue viz., Alima @ Alima Banu, aged about 47 years, W/o.Mohammed Vazeer, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, unless her confinement is required in connection with any other case.

[M.S.R, J.]

[V.L.N, J.]

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Index: Yes/No

Speaking order/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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5.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

6.The Joint Secretary, Public (Law & Order),
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