



HCP.No.791 of 2025

WEB COPY

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 08.07.2025

CORAM :

**THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S. RAMESH**  
**AND**  
**THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN**

H.C.P.No.791 of 2025

SRIDEVI

... Petitioner/wife of the detainee

***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 Collector,  
Kallakurichi District, Kallakurichi.

3.The Superintendent Of Police,  
Kallakurichi District, Kallakurichi.

4.The Superintendent Of Prison,  
Central Prison, Cuddalore.

5.The Inspector Of Police,  
Chinnasalem Police Station,  
Chinnasalem, Kallakurichi District.

... Respondents



HCP.No.791 of 2025

WEB COPY

**PRAYER:** Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, to call for the records pertaining to the order of detention passed by the 2nd respondent viz. the District Magistrate and District Collector, Kallakurichi District made in D.O.No.C2/11/2025 dated 24.03.2025 under the provisions of the Act 14 of 1982 and quash the same and direct the respondent police to produce the petitioner's husband Gnanavel, aged about 55 years, residing at No.585, North Kattukottai, Kallanatham Villagem, Chinnasalam, Kallakurichi District, now confined in Central Prison, Cuddalore before the Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.Parthiban

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

### **ORDER**

**M.S.RAMESH, J.**

**AND**

**V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN, J.**

The petitioner herein, who is the wife of the detenu namely Gnanavel, aged about 55 years, now confined in Central Prison, Cuddalore has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent dated 24.03.2025 issued against her husband, branding him as "Bootlegger" under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of



HCP.No.791 of 2025

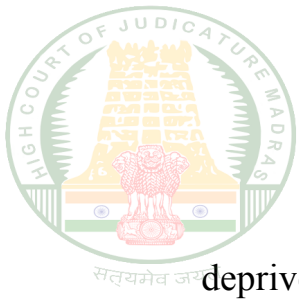
WEB COPY

Dangerous 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, as well as the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents.

3. Though the learned counsel for the petitioner has raised several other grounds to assail the order of detention, he has mainly focused his argument on the ground that the bail dismissal order of the detenu has not been translated in vernacular language. This deprived the detenu from making effective representation. Therefore, on the sole ground, the detention order is liable to be quashed.

4. On perusal of the documents available on record, particularly in Page Nos.56 and 57 of the booklet, a copy of the bail dismissal order of the detenu is available and the translated copy in vernacular version of the same has not been furnished to the detenu. Therefore, the detenu is



HCP.No.791 of 2025

WEB COPY

deprived from making effective representation and 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 detention, the detenu need not show that any prejudice is caused to him. This is because the*



WEB COPY



HCP.No.791 of 2025

*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



HCP.No.791 of 2025

WEB COPY

order is liable to be quashed.

7. Hence, for the aforesaid reasons, the detention order passed by the second respondent on 24.03.2025 in D.O.No.C2/11/2025, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Gnanavel, aged about 55 years, now confined in Central Prison, Cuddalore, 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]

08.07.2025

Index: Yes/No  
Internet: Yes/No  
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

**Anu**  
To

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 Collector,  
Kallakurichi District, Kallakurichi.



*HCP.No.791 of 2025*

WEB COPY

3.The Superintendent Of Police,  
Kallakurichi District, Kallakurichi.

4.The Superintendent Of Prison,  
Central Prison, Cuddalore.

5.The Inspector Of Police,  
Chinnasalem Police Station,  
Chinnasalem, Kallakurichi District.

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

7.The Public Prosecutor,  
High Court, Madras.



WEB COPY



*HCP.No.791 of 2025*

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

*Anu*

H.C.P.No.791 of 2025

08.07.2025