



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 16.04.2025

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE SUNDER MOHAN

Crl.O.P.No.11225 of 2025

1.Ranjithkumar
2.Punniyamoorthy
3.Muthuraj

...Petitioners/Accused

Vs.

State rep by
The Inspector of Police,
P-2 Otteri Police Station,
Chennai.

(Crime No.385 of 2025)

...

Respondent

PRAYER: This criminal original petition has been filed under Section 483 of BNSS to enlarge the petitioners on bail in Crime No.385 of 2025 pending investigation on the file of the respondent police.

For Petitioners : Mr.V.Karthick

For Respondent : Mr.Leonard Arul Joseph Selvam
Government Advocate (Crl. Side)

ORDER

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed by the petitioners, who were arrested and remanded to judicial custody on 01.04.2025, seeking bail



in Crime No.385 of 2025 registered for the offence under Section 24(1) of COTPA, 2003 and Section 123 of BNS, 2023.

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2.It is the case of the prosecution that the petitioners were found in illegal possession of 2.920 kgs of banned tobacco products. Hence, the case.

3.The learned counsel for the petitioners would submit that the petitioners are innocent; that the petitioners have no bad antecedents; that the contraband has been seized and that the petitioners are in custody from 01.04.2025 and hence, further custody of the petitioners is not required and sought for bail.

4.Per contra, the learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) reiterated the prosecution case and submitted that the contraband has been seized and that the first petitioner has one previous case pending against him and he is on bail in that case and the second and third petitioners have no bad antecedents.



5.Heard the learned counsel on either side and perused the materials available on record.

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6.Considering the nature of allegations, period of incarceration, the fact that the contraband has been seized, the first petitioner is on bail in the previous case, the petitioners 2 and 3 have no bad antecedents and since further custody of the petitioners is not required for the purpose of investigation, this Court is inclined to grant bail to the petitioners with certain conditions.

7.Accordingly, the petitioners are ordered to be released on bail on their executing separate bond for a sum of **Rs.15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only) each** with **two sureties**, each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the **X Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Egmore, Chennai**, and on further conditions that:

[a] the sureties shall affix their photographs and Left Thumb Impression in the surety bond and the Magistrate may obtain a copy of their Aadhar card or Bank pass Book to ensure their identity;



[b] the petitioners shall report before the respondent Police,
everyday at 10.30 a.m., until further orders;

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[c] the petitioners shall not abscond either during investigation or trial;

[d] the petitioners shall not tamper with evidence or witness either during investigation or trial;

[e] On breach of any of the aforesaid conditions, the learned Magistrate/Trial Court is entitled to take appropriate action against the petitioners in accordance with law as if the conditions have been imposed and the petitioners released on bail by the learned Magistrate/Trial Court himself as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***P.K.Shaji vs. State of Kerala [(2005)AIR SCW 5560]***;

[f] If the accused thereafter absconds, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 269 B.N.S.

16.04.2025

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Copy to:

1.The Inspector of Police,
P-2 Otteri Police Station,
Chennai.

2.The X Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Egmore, Chennai.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison, Puzhal – II.

4.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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SUNDER MOHAN, J.

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