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HCP.No.987 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 24.06.2025

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S. RAMESH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN

H.C.P.No.987 of 2025

MADHAVAN

Presently at
Central Prison II,
Puzhal, Chennai

Petitioner(s)/ the detainee

Vs

1. The State of Tamil Nadu,
The Additional Chief Secretary,
Home, Prohibition and Excise
Department, Fort St Geroge, Chennai
- 600 009.

2. The Commissioner Of Police,
Greater Chennai, Vepery, Chennai -
600 007

3. The Inspector Of Police
Prohibition Enforcement Wing,
Washermenpet, Chennai.

4. The Superintendent Of Prison,
Central Prison, II, Puzhal Chennai -
600 066

...Respondent(s)



HCP.No.987 of 2025

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 detention order in Memo No.109/BCDFGISSSV/2025 dated 20.02.2025 passed by the 2nd respondent under the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982 and set aside the same and direct the respondent to produce the petitioner, Thiru Madhavan S/o.Prabhakaran, aged about 22 years, the detainee, now confined in Central Prison II, Puzhal, Chennai before this Honble Court and set the petitioner THIRU MADHAVAN, S/O.PRABHAKARAN AGED ABOUT 22 Years the detainee herein at Liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Muthukumar
For Respondents : Mr.E.Raj Thilak
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The petitioner herein, who is the detenu, Madhavan S/o.Prabhakaran, aged about 22 years, now confined at Central Prison II, Puzhal, Chennai, has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the second respondent dated 20.02.2025 issued against him, branding him as "Drug Offender" under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law Offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders,



HCP.No.987 of 2025

Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Sexual Offenders,
Slum Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 [Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982].

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2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents.

3. Though several grounds have been raised by the learned counsel for the petitioner, the detention order is liable to be quashed on the sole ground that the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority regarding the possibility of the detenu coming out on bail by relying upon the bail order granted to the accused in a similar case, suffers from non-application of mind.

4. On a perusal, it is seen that in the Grounds of Detention, the Detaining Authority has stated that there is a possibility of the detenu coming out on bail in the ground case since in a similar case in Cr.M.P.No.5272 of 2023 dated 27.07.2023, bail was granted to the accused therein. On a perusal of the said order, in page No.90 of the Booklet, this Court finds that the said order relates to release of the accused on bail



u/s.167[2] of Cr.P.C. and the bail was granted to the accused therein since he had been in prison for 63 days and not on merits. Therefore, it is not a similar case and the subjective satisfaction of the Detaining Authority, regarding the possibility of the detenu coming out on bail suffers from non-application of mind, which vitiates the detention order. Hence, on this ground, the detention order is liable to be quashed.

5. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the case of '***Rekha Vs. State of Tamil Nadu through Secretary to Government and Another***' reported in '***2011 [5] SCC 244***', has dealt with a situation where the Detention Order is passed without an application of mind. In case, any of the reasons stated in the order of detention is non-existent or a material information is wrongly assumed, that will vitiate the Detention Order. When the subjective satisfaction was irrational or there was non-application of mind, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the order of detention is liable to be quashed. It is relevant to extract paragraphs 10 and 11 of the said judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court:-

“10. In our opinion, if details are given by the respondent authority about the alleged bail orders in similar cases mentioning the date of the orders, the



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HCP.No.987 of 2025

bail application number; whether the bail order was passed in respect of the co-accused in the same case, and whether the case of the co-accused was on the same footing as the case of the petitioner, then, of course, it could be argued that there is likelihood of the accused being released on bail, because it is the normal practice of most courts that if a co-accused has been granted bail and his case is on the same footing as that of the petitioner, then the petitioner is ordinarily granted bail. However, the respondent authority should have given details about the alleged bail order in similar cases, which has not been done in the present case. A mere ipse dixit statement in the grounds of detention cannot sustain the detention order and has to be ignored.

11. In our opinion, the detention order in question only contains ipse dixit regarding the alleged imminent possibility of the accused coming out on bail and there was no reliable material to this effect. Hence, the detention order in question cannot be sustained.”

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



HCP.No.987 of 2025

is liable to be quashed.

WEB COPY

7. Hence, for the aforesaid reasons, the detention order passed by the second respondent on 20.02.2025 in Memo No.109/BCDFGISSSV/2025, is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Madhavan S/o.Prabhakaran, aged about 22 years, now confined at Central Prison II, Puzhal, Chennai, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, unless he is required in connection with any other case.

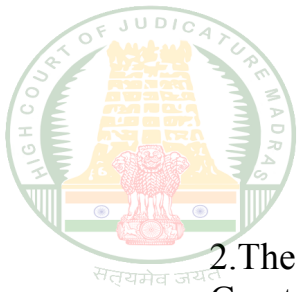
[M.S.R., J] [V.L.N., J]
24.06.2025

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

To

1.The Additional Chief Secretary,
Home, Prohibition and Excise
Department, Fort St Geroge, Chennai
- 600 009.

Page 6 of 8



HCP.No.987 of 2025

2.The Commissioner Of Police,
Greater Chennai, Vepery, Chennai -
600 007

3.The Inspector Of Police
Prohibition Enforcement Wing,
Washermenpet, Chennai.

4.The Superintendent Of Prison,
Central Prison, II, Puzhal Chennai -
600 066

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

6.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

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



WEB COPY



HCP.No.987 of 2025

H.C.P.No.987 of 2025

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