



HCP(MD)No. 31 of 2025

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED : 12.08.2025

CORAM:

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA
and**

THE HONOURABLE MS.JUSTICE R.POORNIMA

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION(MD)No.31 of 2025

Preethika

... Petitioner

vs.

1. State of Tamil Nadu
rep. by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George,
Secretariat, Chennai -600 009.

2. The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Theni District,
Theni.

3. The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Madurai.

4. The Superintendent of Police,
Theni District,
Theni.

5. The Inspector of Police,
Thevaram Police Station,
Theni District.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to
issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, pertaining to the proceedings of the 2nd



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respondent made in his proceedings in Detention Order No.88/2024, dated 11.12.2024 and quash the same and set the petitioner viz., Mathavan, S/o. Rasu aged about 51 years at liberty from Central Prison, Madurai, 3rd respondent.

For Petitioner : Mr.M. Jegadeesh Pandian

For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by **A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA, J.**]

The petitioner is the daughter of the detenu viz., Mathavan, S/o. Rasu aged about 51 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in Detention Order No.88/2024, dated 11.12.2024 holding him to be a "Drug Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(e) of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982. The said order is under challenge in this habeas corpus petition.

2. We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

3. Though several grounds have been raised in the habeas corpus

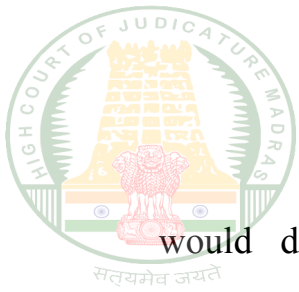


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petition, learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the Detaining Authority, while detaining the detenu, has relied on the documents at Page Nos. 63 to 72, Volume I of the booklet and it is in English version. Though the petitioner asked for translated copy of the same in the vernacular language, the same has not been furnished by the Detaining Authority. It is, therefore, stated that the detenu is deprived of his valuable right to make an effective representation.

4. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents strongly opposed the habeas corpus petition by filing his counter. He Would further submit that though the documents furnished at Page Nos.63 to 72, Volume I of the booklet is in English version, on that score alone, it cannot be quashed. According to the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, no prejudice has been caused to the detenu and therefore prays for dismissal of the habeas corpus petition.

5. On a perusal of the Booklet, this Court finds that the documents relied on by the Detaining Authority at Page Nos.63 to 72, Volume I of the booklet are in English. Therefore, we are of the view that non furnishing of the translated copies of the said documents in the language known to the detenu



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would deprive the detenu of his valuable right to make an effective representation. It is in the said circumstances, this Court finds that the impugned detention order passed by the Detaining Authority is vitiated.

6. In this context, it is useful to refer to the Judgment of the Honourable Supreme Court in the case of ***Powanammal vs. State of Tamil Nadu***, reported in **(1999) 2 SCC 413**, wherein the Apex Court, after discussing the safeguards embodied in Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India, observed that the detenu should be afforded an opportunity of making a 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. The relevant portion of the said decision is extracted hereunder:

"6. The short question that falls for our consideration is whether failure to supply the Tamil version of the order of remand passed in English, a language not known to the detenue, would vitiate her further detention.

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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



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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. 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 nonsupply 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."



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7. We find that the above cited **Powanammal**'s case applies in all force to the case on hand as we find that document Nos.63 to 72, Volume I of the Booklet is in English language, to the detenu, has impaired his constitutional right to make an effective representation against the impugned preventive detention order. To be noted, this constitutional right is ingrained in the form of a safeguard in Clause (5) of Article 22 of the Constitution of India. We, therefore, have no hesitation in quashing the impugned detention order.

8. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in Detention Order No.88/2024,, dated 11.12.2024, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Mathavan, S/o. Rasu aged about 51 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

[A.D.J.C., J.] [R.P., J.]
12.08.2025

Index : Yes / No
Neutral Citation : Yes / No
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 - 4.The Superintendent of Police,
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Thevaram Police Station,
Theni District.
 6. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madars High Court, Madurai.



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**A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA, J.
AND
R.POORNIMA, J.**

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**ORDER MADE IN
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DATED : 12.08.2025