



HCP(MD)No.117 of 2025

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED : 04.07.2025

CORAM:

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G. ARUL MURUGAN**

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION(MD)No. 117 of 2025

P.Ajithkumar

... Petitioner

VS.

1. State of Tamil Nadu
rep. by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai -9.

2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
O/o. the District Magistrate and District Collector,
Theni District,
Theni.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Special Prison for Women,
Madurai.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the entire records connected with the detention order passed in Detention Order No.67 /2024, dated 14.10.2024 on the file of the 2nd respondent herein and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu or body of the detenu ie., the petitioner's mother namely Jeyamani, aged about 44 years, S/o. late Perumal now detained at the Special Prison for Women, Madurai before this Court and set him at



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For Petitioner : Mr.N. Pragalathan

For Respondents : Mr. A. Thiruvadikumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

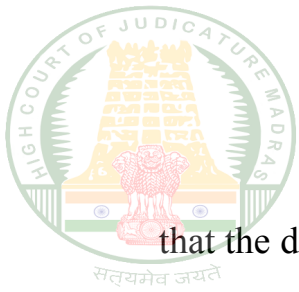
ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by **G. ARUL MURUGAN, J.**]

The petitioner is the son of detenu viz., Jeyamani, aged about 44 years, W/o. late Perumal. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in Detention Order No.67 /2024, dated 14.10.2024, holding him to be a "Drug Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(e) of the 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 points have been raised by the learned counsel for the petitioner, it is stated that the judicial order of initial remand was neither placed before the detaining authority nor furnished to the detenu. Hence, it is submitted



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that the detenu was deprived of making effective representation.

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4. On a perusal of the Booklet, it is seen that the order of initial remand was neither placed before the detaining authority nor furnished to the detenu. The non furnishing of initial order of remand would deprive the detenu of making effective representation to the authorities against the order of detention.

5. 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:

"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



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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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6. We find that the above cited **Powanammal**'s case applies in all

force to the case on hand as we find that non-furnishing of the initial order of remand to the detenu, has impaired her 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.

7. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in Detention Order No.67 of 2024, dated 14.10.2024, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Jeyamani, aged about 44 years, W/o. (late) Perumal, is directed to be released forthwith unless her detention is required in connection with any other case.

[A.D.J.C., J.]

[G.A.M., J.]

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Index : Yes / No
Neutral Citation : Yes / No
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O/o. the District Magistrate and District Collector,
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Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.



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A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA, J.

AND

G. ARUL MURUGAN, J.

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ORDER MADE IN
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