



HCP(MD)No.253 of 2025

WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 29.07.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA

and

THE HONOURABLE MS.JUSTICE R.POORNIMA

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION(MD)No. 253 of 2025

Mahalakshmi

... Petitioner

VS.

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George,
Secretariat, Chennai -600 009.

2. The Commissioner of Police,
Tirunelveli District,
Tirunelveli.

3.The Superintendent of Prison,
Palayamkottai Central Prison,
Tirunelveli District.

... 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 of the respondent No.2 in M.H.S.Confdl No.190/2024, dated 11.11.2024 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu by name Ashok Rathinaraja alias Ashok Rathinaraja, Son of



HCP(MD)No.253 of 2025

Velayuthanadar aged about 35 years, now detained in Palayamkottai Central Prison before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

WEB COPY

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Vinoth Bharathi
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 wife of detenu viz., Ashok Rathinaraj alias Ashok Rathinaraja, Son of Velayuthanadar aged about 35 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in No.M.H.S.Confdl No. 190 / 2024, dated 11.11.2024, holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under Section 2(f) 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 points have been raised by the learned counsel for the



HCP(MD)No.253 of 2025

petitioner, it is stated that the contents on the top of the Page No.55, Part I of

the Booklet is in English and illegible. Hence, it is submitted that the detenu was deprived of making effective representation.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor fairly submitted that the contents on the top of the Page No.55, Part I of the Booklet is in English and illegible.

5. On a perusal of the Booklet, it is seen that the contents on the upper portion of Page No.55, Part I of the Booklet is in English and not legible. Non furnishing of translated and legible copies of the vital documents would deprive the detenu of making effective representation to the authorities against the order of detention.

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



HCP(MD)No.253 of 2025

material in the language which can be understood by the detenu, is imperative.

WEB COPY 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 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.

...



WEB COPY



HCP(MD)No.253 of 2025

...

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 detenu be set free forthwith unless she is required to be detained in any other case. The appeal is accordingly allowed."

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 legible copy of the document relied on by the Detaining Authority at Page No.55, Part I of the booklet. This furnishing of illegible copy 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.

7. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in M.H.S.Confdl No.190 / 2024, dated 11.11.2024, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Ashok Rathinaraj alias Ashok Rathinaraja, Son of Velayuthanadar aged about 35 years, is directed to be



HCP(MD)No.253 of 2025

released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other

WEB COPY

[A.D.J.C., J.] [R.P., J.]
29.07.2025

Index : Yes / No
Neutral Citation : Yes / No
trp

To:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George,
Secretariat, Chennai -600 009.

2. The Commissioner of Police,
Tirunelveli District,
Tirunelveli.

3. The Superintendent of Prison,
Palayamkottai Central Prison,
Tirunelveli District.

4. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madars High Court, Madurai.



WEB COPY



HCP(MD)No.253 of 2025

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

trp

ORDER MADE IN
HCP(MD)No.253 of 2025

DATED : 29.07.2025