



HCP(MD)No.393 of 2025

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED : 17.07.2025

CORAM:

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

THE HONOURABLE MS.JUSTICE R.POORNIMA

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION(MD)No.393 of 2025

Pavithra

... Petitioner

vs.

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

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

4.The Inspector of Police,
Bodi Town Police Station,
Bodi, Theni District.

Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to
issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, directing the respondents to produce the body or



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detenu namely Jothi W/o. Kasi aged about 45 years before this Court, who is now detained in the Central Prison for Women, Madurai in pursuant to the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent in detention order No.71/2024, dated 22.10.2024 and call for the record and quash the same and release the detenu at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr. C. Prabakaran

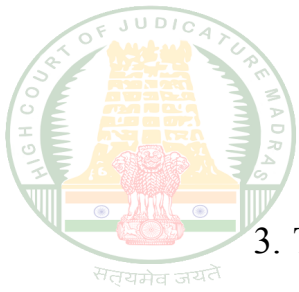
For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

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

The petitioner is the daughter of detenu viz., Jothi, wife of Kasi aged about 45 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in Detention order No.71/2024, dated 22.10.2024, 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.



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3. Though several points have been raised by the learned counsel for the petitioner, it is stated that the detention order is liable to be quashed on the ground that the documents relied on by the 2nd respondent at Page Nos.93 to 96, Volume I of the Booklet are in English version and the translated copies have not been furnished to the detenu. Hence, it is submitted that the detenu was deprived of making effective representation.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor fairly submitted that the translated copies of Page Nos.93 to 96, Volume I of the Booklet were not furnished to the detenu.

5. On a perusal of the Booklet, it is seen that the documents relied on by the 2nd respondent at page Nos.93 to 96, Volume I of the booklet were in English version. Non furnishing of translated 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



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the safeguards embodied in Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India, observed

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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 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



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the detenu, should the document be in a different language.

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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."

6. We find that the above cited **Powanammal**'s case applies in all force to the case on hand as we find that the documents relied on by the 2nd respondent at Page Nos.93 to 96, Volume I of the booklet were in English Version. This non furnishing of translated copies 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 Detention order No.71/2024, dated 22.10.2024, passed by the



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second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Jothi, wife of Kasi aged about 45 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.]
17.07.2025

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

To:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
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Secretariat, Chennai -600 009.
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AND
R.POORNIMA, J.

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ORDER MADE IN
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