



HCP(MD)No.386 of 2025

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED : 28.08.2025

CORAM:

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

THE HONOURABLE MS.JUSTICE R.POORNIMA

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION(MD)No.386 of 2025

Velthai

... Petitioner

vs.

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

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

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

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records pertaining to the impugned detention order passed by the 2nd respondent in MHS Confdl.No. 5/2025, dated 26.01.2025 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the detinue namely Lalil Kumar @ Lenin, S/o. Shanmugaiah, aged about 22 years (Now detained at Central Prison,



HCP(MD)No.386 of 2025

Palayamkottai) before this Court and set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr. S. Baskara Marutham

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 mother of detenu viz., Lalil Kumar @ Lenin, S/o. Shanmugaiah, aged about 22 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in MHS Confdl.No.5/2025, dated 26.01.2025, 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 petitioner, it is stated that the detention order is liable to be quashed on the



HCP(MD)No.386 of 2025

ground that the document relied on by the 2nd respondent at Page No.31,

Volume I of the Booklet is in handwritten copy and it is not legible. Further, the document furnished at Page No.61 Volume I of the Booklet is partially in English and the translated version of Tamil has 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 document relied on by the 2nd respondent at Page No.31, Volume I of the Booklet is in handwritten copy and it is not legible. Further, the document furnished at Page No.61 Volume I of the Booklet is partially in English and translated version of the same in Tamil has not been furnished to the detenu.

5. On a perusal of the Booklet, it is found that the document relied on by the 2nd respondent at Page No.31, Volume I of the Booklet is in handwritten copy and it is not legible. Further, the document furnished at Page No.61, Volume I of the Booklet is partially in English and translated version of Tamil has not been furnished to the detenu. This 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.



HCP(MD)No.386 of 2025

WEB COPY

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 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



WEB COPY



HCP(MD)No.386 of 2025

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."

6. We find that the above cited *Powanammal's* case applies in all force to the case on hand as we find that the Page No.31, Volume I of the Booklet is in handwritten copy and it is not legible. Further, the document furnished at Page No.61 Volume I of the Booklet is partially in English and the translated version of Tamil has not been furnished to the detenu. This furnishing of improper translation in the vernacular language, to the detenu, has impaired



HCP(MD)No.386 of 2025

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 MHS Confdl.No.5/2025, dated 26.01.2025, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Lalil Kumar @ Lenin, S/o. Shanmugaiah, aged about 22 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.]
28.08.2025

Index : Yes / No

Neutral Citation : Yes / No

trp

To:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat,
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2. The District Collector and District Magistrate,
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Tenkasi.



HCP(MD)No.386 of 2025

3. The Superintendent of Prison,
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Palayamkottai.

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



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HCP(MD)No.386 of 2025

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

trp

ORDER MADE IN
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