



H.C.P.(MD) No.424 of 2025

WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 04.11.2025

CORAM:

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.V. KARTHIKEYAN
AND
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.VIJAYAKUMAR**

H.C.P.(MD) No.424 of 2025

S.Vigneshwari

...Petitioner

vs.

1. The State of Tamilnadu
Rep. by its Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
St. George Fort, Chennai- 600 009.

2. The District Collector/District Magistrate,
Madurai District, Madurai.

3. The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison, Madurai.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of Habeas Corpus to call for the records pertaining to the impugned detention order passed by the 2nd respondent in BCDFGISSSV No.15/2025 dated 09.03.2025 and quash the same as illegal and direct the respondents to produce the body or person of the detenu namely Selvapandiyan @ Selvapandi S/o.Ramaiya aged about 25 years (now detained at Central Prison, Madurai) before this Court and set him at



WEB COPY



H.C.P.(MD) No.424 of 2025

For Petitioner : Mr.T.Indrachithu
For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadi Kumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by C.V.KARTHIKEYAN, J.)

The petitioner is the wife of the detenu Selvapandiyan @ Selvapandi S/o.Ramaiya, aged about 25 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order dated 09.03.2025 in BCDFGISSSV No.15/2025 holding him to be a "Goonda", as contemplated under Section 2(f) 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 detention order is liable to be quashed on the ground that the Accident Register copy has not been



H.C.P.(MD) No.424 of 2025

completely translated.

WEB COPY

4. On a perusal of the Booklet, it is seen that Page No.25 of the Booklet, which is the 'Accident Register' dated 02.02.2025 of the deceased as given by the Medical Officer at GRH, Madurai, furnished to the detenu, had been improperly translated by the sponsoring authority. This improper translation 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



H.C.P.(MD) No.424 of 2025

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.

...

...

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."



H.C.P.(MD) No.424 of 2025

WEB COPY

6. We find that the above cited *Powanammal*'s case applies in all force to the case on hand. The non-furnishing of Tamil Version of accident register has impaired the Constitutional right of the detenu 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 BCDFGISSSV No.15/2025 dated 09.03.2025 passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, Selvapandiyan @ Selvapandi S/o. Ramaiya, aged 25 years, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

[C.V.K., J.] [R.V., J.]

04.11.2025

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No

Page 5 of 7



H.C.P.(MD) No.424 of 2025

WEB COPY

To:

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

2. The District Collector/District Magistrate,
Madurai District, Madurai.

3. The Superintendent of Prison
Central Prison, Madurai.

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



WEB COPY



H.C.P.(MD) No.424 of 2025

C.V. KARTHIKEYAN, J.
AND
R.VIJAYAKUMAR, J.

RR

H.C.P.(MD) No.424 of 2025

04.11.2025