



HCP(MD)No.1449 of 2024

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED : 23.07.2025

CORAM:

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

THE HONOURABLE MS.JUSTICE R.POORNIMA

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION(MD)No.1449 of 2024

Marimuthu

... Petitioner

vs.

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

2. The Commissioner of Police,
Madurai City,
Madurai.

3. The Inspector of Police,
Thirunagar Police Station,
Madurai.

4. The Superintendent of Central Prison,
Central Prison,
Madurai.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records, relating to the impugned order of detention made in No.53/BCDFGISSV/2024, dated 03.09.2024 on the file of the Commissioner of Police, Madurai City, the 2nd respondent herein, branding the petitioner's son / detenu by name Ajay, S/o. Marimuthu, aged



HCP(MD)No.1449 of 2024

about 25 years as “Goonda” who is now confined in Central Prison, Madurai and quash the impugned order of detention and set him at liberty by producing him before this Court.

For Petitioner : Mr. K. Sankar

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 father of detenu viz., Ajay, S/o. Marimuthu, aged about 25 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in No.53/BCDFGISSV/2024, dated 03.09.2024, 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 petitioner, it is stated that the detention order is liable to be quashed on the



HCP(MD)No.1449 of 2024

ground that the endorsement made in Page No.90, Part I of the booklet is illegible. Though the clear typed version of Page No.90 provided at Page No.92, the petitioner is unable to understand, whether the clear copy is exact translation of the endorsement made at Page No.90. Hence, it is submitted that the detenu was deprived of making effective representation.

4. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents strongly opposed the habeas corpus petition by filing his counter. He Would further submit that the petitioner is unable to understand whether the clear copy is exact translation of the endorsement made in Page No.90 at Page No.92, Part I of the Booklet, on that score alone, it cannot be quashed. According to the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, no prejudice has been caused to the detenu and therefore prays for dismissal of the habeas corpus petition.

5. On a perusal of the Booklet, it is seen that the endorsement made at Page No.90, Part I of the Booklet is illegible and the clear typed version of Page No.90 furnished to the detenu at Page No.92, is unable to understand by the petitioner. Non furnishing of legible and clear translation copy of the vital documents would deprive the detenu of making effective representation to



HCP(MD)No.1449 of 2024

the authorities against the order of detention.

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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 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



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HCP(MD)No.1449 of 2024

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 endorsement made in Page No.90, Part I of the Booklet is illegible and the clear typed version of Page No.90 furnished to the detenu at Page No.92, is unable to understand by the petitioner. This furnishing of illegible copy to the detenu, has impaired his constitutional right to make an effective representation against the impugned preventive



HCP(MD)No.1449 of 2024

detention order. To be noted, this constitutional right is ingrained in the form of

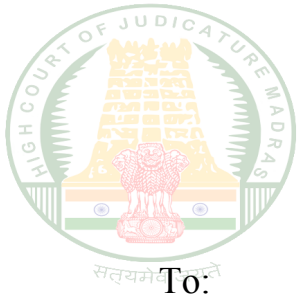
WEB a safeguard in Clause (5) of Article 22 of the Constitution of India. We,

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 No.53/BCDFGISSV/2024, dated 03.09.2024, passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Ajay, S/o. Marimuthu, aged about 25 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.]
23.07.2025

Index : Yes / No
Neutral Citation : Yes / No
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HCP(MD)No.1449 of 2024

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5. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
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ANDR.POORNIMA, J.

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ORDER MADE IN
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