



H.C.P.(MD)No.1470 of 2025

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 18.02.2026

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE G.K. ILANTHIRAIYAN

AND

THE HONOURABLE MS.JUSTICE R. POORNIMA

H.C.P.(MD)No.1470 of 2025

Chellapandi

... Petitioner/Detenu

-VS-

1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep. by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
O/o. the District Magistrate and District Collector
Dindigul District,
Dindigul.

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

... Respondents



H.C.P.(MD)No.1470 of 2025

WEB COPY

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records relating to the Detention order passed by the second respondent in detention order in Detention Order No.37/2025, dated 07.06.2025 and quash the same and direct the respondents to produce the detenu namely Chellapandi, S/o.Periyakaruppan, aged about 36 years (now detained at Central Prison, Madurai) before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani

For Respondents : Mr.T.Senthil Kumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by **G.K. ILANTHIRAIYAN,J.**)

The petitioner is the detenu viz., Chellapandi, S/o.Periyakaruppan, aged about 36 years. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in Detention Order No.37/2025, dated 07.06.2025 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.



H.C.P.(MD)No.1470 of 2025

WEB COPY

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 grounds have been raised in the habeas corpus petition, learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the Page Nos.29 and 34 of the booklet Volume No.I are not legible. It is, therefore, stated that the detenu is deprived of his valuable right to make an effective representation to the authorities concerned to reconsider the detention order.

4. 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



H.C.P.(MD)No.1470 of 2025

can be understood by the detenu, is imperative. The relevant portion of the said decision is extracted hereunder:

"6. The short question that falls for our consideration is whether failure to supply the Tamil version of the order of remand passed in English, a language not known to the detenue, would vitiate her further detention.

...

...

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



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H.C.P.(MD)No.1470 of 2025

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.1470 of 2025

WEB COPY

5. 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 remand report and other documents 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.

6. In fine, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detention order passed in Detention Order No.37/2025, dated 07.06.2025, by the 2nd respondent, is set aside. Consequently, the detenu viz., Chellapandi, S/o.Periyakaruppan, aged about 36 years, who is now detained in Central Prison, Madurai, is directed to be released forthwith, unless his presence or custody or detention is required in connection with any other case.

7. It is also made clear that if any bail application filed by



H.C.P.(MD)No.1470 of 2025

WEB COPY

the detenu, the trial Court is directed to dispose of the bail application on its own merits and in accordance with law, without influencing any of the observation made by this Court.

[G.K.I., J.] [R.P., J.]

18.02.2026

apd

NCC :Yes/No

Index: Yes/No

Internet: Yes/No

To

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Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
O/o. the District Magistrate and District Collector
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Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
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H.C.P.(MD)No.1470 of 2025

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H.C.P.(MD)No.1470 of 2025

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