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2018 Tuticorin firing: SC stays HC order for DVAC probe

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Chennai: Supreme Court on Friday stayed Madras high court order directing a probe by Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-corruption (DVAC) against IAS and IPS officers who had been posted in Tuticorin in 2018 when 13 anti-Sterlite protesters were gunned down by police. The court said an industrialist was behind the police firing.

Admitting an appeal moved by S Chandran and others on Friday, the first bench comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra passed the interim order.

“Till the next date of listing, the impugned order dated July 15 passed by the Madras high court shall remain stayed,” the bench said.

The issue pertains to an order passed by a division bench which observed that the 2018 police firing was a predetermined act carried out at the behest of an industrialist.

The bench directed the DVAC to investigate the assets of all officers, including IPS and IAS officers, who were posted in Tuticorin at the relevant point of time.

“Assets not just in their name but also in the names of their wives, and close relatives to be collected and produced before this court. From two years prior to the incident and two years after,” the judges had said.

“All these things happened because one particular industrialist wanted it to happen. He wanted to teach the protestors a lesson and the authorities facilitated it,” the bench said.

The court then directed the DVAC to file a preliminary report in two weeks.

The court passed the orders on a plea moved by activist Henri Tiphagne seeking to reopen the probe closed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) into the incident.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/supreme-court-stays-madras-high-court-order-for-dvac-probe-in-2018-tuticorin-firing-case/articleshow/112254965.cms>