

Thoothukudi firing case: Madras High Court seeks fresh report in 3 months

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The Madras High Court on Monday ordered the Vigilance and anti-Corruption Department (DVAC) to submit a fresh report on the assets the police and revenue department had on the day the Thoothukudi firing happened in 2018.



The Madras High Court on Monday ordered Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Department (DVAC) to submit a report detailing the assets of police officers and revenue department officials during the 2018 firing incident in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi that killed at least 13 people.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) report that was submitted earlier, a two-judge bench of Justice SS Sundar and Justice Senthil Kumar, granted DVAC three months to submit a fresh report.

The court also noted that the government secretary and the DGP should cooperate with DVAC in preparing the report.

"The people were targeted. We are unable to digest these kinds of things happen. The police will go to any extent. We haven't heard of this," the bench noted.

Judges also questioned how it is fair to close the case by providing compensation to the families.

"The factory was running without permit from 2009 to 2014. The government machinery going under the control of a private person is bad for society and is the concern of the court. Even now, no action can be taken against those private people. Even after knowing that the factory was running without permission, why didn't the government take any action?", questioned the court.

The case will be heard after three months.

In May 2018, police opened fire on protesters in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district after the anti-sterlite agitation turned violent. The protesters were demanding the closure of the copper smelter unit due to pollution concerns. The firing resulted in the deaths of 13 people.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/law/story/madras-high-court-vigilance-dvac-team-fresh-report-3-months-2018-thoothukudi-firing-case-2573438-2024-07-29>