

News

TVK petitions the Supreme Court to overturn the Madras High Court's condemnation of the Karur stampede and its direction for a SIT investigation.



Justice N. Senthilkumar issued an order on October 3 directing a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into the situation.

The Madras High Court's October 3 ruling, which severely criticized the party's executives for a stampede that occurred at one of its rallies in Karur, has been appealed by the **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam** (TVK) to the Supreme Court.

When throngs gathered to hear TVK founder and actor-turned-politician Vijay speak at a political event in Karur on September 27, a stampede broke out, killing 41 people.

After stating that the State's investigation into the case has not been satisfactory thus far, Justice N. Senthilkumar issued an order on October 3 instructing a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into the situation.

This came when the lone judge pointed out that the State had not yet filed a criminal complaint about two incidents that reportedly involved crashes into Vijay's bus during the crush.

Interestingly, no FIR filed following the stampede included Vijay's name. But according to reports, a criminal case has been brought against the driver of Vijay's campaign car in relation to the two hit-and-run instances that the High Court identified after issuing its judgment on October 3.

In response to a petition seeking the establishment of a standard operating procedure (SOP) to be adhered to during road shows, the High Court issued its ruling on October 3.

When directing the SIT investigation, **Justice Senthilkumar had stated, "This Court cannot close its eyes, remain a mute spectator, and shrink from its constitutional responsibilities."**

The TVK leadership was also harshly criticized by the High Court for their actions following the stampede.

The TVK has now appealed this single-judge ruling to the Supreme Court. Through Advocate Yash S. Vijay, the appeal has been submitted.

Remarkably, the single-judge ruling came soon after a Division Bench of the Madurai-based High Court had declined to direct the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to look into the case.

The Division Bench had reasoned that the State was only beginning its investigation of the case. Additionally, it noted that the stampede had no direct impact on any of the petitioners that came before it.

Since then, the father of a stampede victim has petitioned the Supreme Court to hand over the inquiry to the CBI. Yesterday, the highest court made a suggestion that it would consider this plea on October 10.

Interestingly, one advocate, GS Mani, has now petitioned the Supreme Court for a CBI investigation into the rush. On October 3, the Division Bench of the Madras High Court had previously denied his appeal along with others.