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SUMMONS DKS AFTER HC'S SNUB

NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

Minister and Congress leader Shivakumar suffered a setback on Friday with the Karnataka High Court rejecting the petitions filed by him and his supporters questioning the summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case. The ED had taken up investigation after huge cash was found hidden in Shivakumar's flat in New Delhi during a search conducted by the Income Tax Department years ago. Hours after the judgment, the ED asked Shivakumar to appear in New Delhi on Friday.

The court said that the court cannot interfere in the investigation as it is still in the initial stages. Justice Aravind Kumar dismissed the petitions saying they lack merit. The other petitioners are Shivakumar's aides Sunil Sachin Narayan, Anjaneya Hanu and Rajendra. In its judgment, the court observed that only the full investigation to establish whether criminal conspiracy under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) is made out or not. It is up to the ED to come to a conclusion whether there is any money to take the case to trial or not, based on the investigation, the court said.

Regarding the summons issued by the ED in January this year, the court said that the suspicion that proceeds of a crime are being channelled into the mainstream economy through the tainted money is sufficient to examine the persons involved. The authorities must collect information and record statements from those summoned even if they have denied committing an offence, it said.



Sibal argued for DKS

The I-T department had conducted a search on the premises of Shivakumar and others in Bengaluru and Delhi on August 2, 2017. Based on this, the ED had taken up a case of money laundering. During the hearing in February, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for Shivakumar, had argued that there are flaws in the proceedings initiated by the ED.