

Plea against Delhi Police Act: HC asks Centre, city govt to respond

Act limits time period to file case against erring police officers

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The Delhi High Court has sought response of the Centre and State government on the plea of a man, who was prosecuted in 20 criminal cases, challenging certain provisions of law that limit the time period to file a case against erring police officers.

A Bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and A.K. Chawla sought a response from the authorities within six weeks and listed the case for further hearing on November 16.

Cases against petitioner

Prempal Singh said 20 FIRs were registered against him for various offences, including murder, rape, drugs and arms, and under the stringent Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act between 1991 and 2007.

Cases against kin

Of the 20 cases, the 65-year-old was convicted in five. Also, 13 cases were lodged against his son and one against his wife, and both of them had to spend some



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time behind the bars.

Singh, a mason by profession, has spent more than six years in jail while fighting the cases against him.

His plea said that no one in his family could file an appeal due to financial constraints and they were allegedly branded as infamous criminals of Delhi, resulting in isolation from the society.

Singh has challenged Section 140 of the Delhi Police Act, which limits three months as the time period for filing a case against pol-

ice officers who have allegedly committed offences under the garb of discharging their duty.

The plea stated that Singh and his family got some relief when a trial court in 2004 acquitted him in a rape case, observing that he was framed in the case and tortured by the police.

The High Court in 2010 had directed that Singh be given a compensation of over ₹5 lakh and had told the Police Commissioner to send a written apology to him and his family members, the plea added.

It also stated that the police chief was asked to withdraw pending cases against Singh, if no merit was found, following which the last two cases against him were withdrawn.

‘Lost 15 years’

In his plea before the High Court, Singh alleged that he has lost more than 15 years of his life contesting cases in which he was falsely implicated, and suffered physical, mental and social harassment.