



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

WEB COPY

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 26.07.2023

CORAM :

THE HON'BLE MR.SANJAY V.GANGAPURWALA, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE P.D.AUDIKEVALU

W.P.No.7776 of 2018

G.Sampath Kumar

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1. Union of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Rep. by Home Secretary
North Block Central Secretariat
New Delhi.
2. Board of Control for Cricket in India
Rep. by the Supreme Court-appointed
Committee of Administrators
4th Floor, Cricket Centre
Wankhede Stadium
D Road, Churchgate
Mumbai 400 020.
3. Indian Premier League
BCCI-IPL
4th Floor, Cricket Centre
Wankhede Stadium
D Road, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020.
Rep. by its Governing Council Chairman.



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

WEB COPY

4. Chennai Super Kings
Owned and Controlled by -
Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited
Dhun Building, No.827, 3rd Floor
Mount Road, Anna Salai
Chennai 600 002, Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Managing Director.
5. Delhi Daredevils
Owned and Controlled by -
GMR Group
New Udaan Bhawan
Opp. Terminal 3, IGI Airport
New Delhi 110 037, India
Rep. by its Managing Director.
6. Kings XI Punjab
Owned and Controlled by -
KPH Dream Cricket Private Limited
S15/S16, Centra Mall
Industrial Area, Phase I
Chandigarh CH 160 002
Rep. by its Managing Director.
7. Kolkata Knight Riders
Owned and Controlled by -
 - i. Red Chillies Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.
Backstage Plot No.612
Junction of Ramakrishna Mission Road & 15th Road
Santa Cruz (West), Mumbai 400 045
Rep. by its Managing Director.
 - ii. The Mehta Group
N K Mehta International House
178 Backbay Reclamation
Mumbai 400 020
Rep. by its Managing Director.



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

WEB COPY

8. Mumbai Indians
Owned and Controlled by -
Reliance Industries Limited
Maker Chambers-IV, Nariman Point
Mumbai 400 021
Rep. by its Managing Director
(Through) Indiawin Sports Private Limited
3rd Floor, Court House
Lokmaniya Tilak Marg
Dhobi Talao, Mumbai 400 002
Rep. by its Managing Director.
9. Rajasthan Royals
Owned and Controlled by -
Royal Multisport Private Limited
(Formerly known as Jaipur IPL Cricket Private Limited)
906, Windfall, Sahar Plaza Complex
Mathurdas Vasanji Road
J B Nagar, Andheri (East)
Mumbai 400 059
Rep. by its Managing Director.
10. Royal Challengers Bangalore
Owned and Controlled by -
United Spirits Limited
UB Tower, No.24, Vittal Mallya Road
Bangalore 560 001, Karnataka
Rep. by its Managing Director.
11. Sunrisers Hyderabad
Owned and Controlled by -
Sun TV Network Limited
Murasoli Maran Towers
73, MRC Nagar Main Road, MRC Nagar
Chennai 600 028, Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Managing Director.
12. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Room No.3, C-Wing, Shastri Bhawan



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

WEB COPY New Delhi 110 001 Rep. by its Secretary. .. Respondents

Prayer: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking a writ of Mandamus restraining the respondents No.1, 2, 3 and 12, their agents, men, representatives, Franchisees and assigns from in any manner conducting the Indian Premier League cricket matches in the absence of precautionary, preventive and reformatory rules and infrastructure to prevent and ensure that sport fraud/illegal betting/spot fixing/match fixing/gambling/tampering and/or other forms of competitive financial exercise is carried to the Public/Players so as to degrade sports/cricket and as to tarnish the image of the Chennai Super Kings and/or such other teams.

For the Petitioner : Mr.Perumbulavil Radhakrishnan

For the Respondents : Mr.T.L.Thirumalaisamy
for Respondent-1

Mr.Adithya Reddy
for Respondent-2

Mr.P.R.Raman
Senior Counsel
For Mr.C.Seetharaman
for Respondent-4

Mr.Rahul Balaji
for Respondent-11

Not ready in notice –
Respondents 3,5,6,8,10 to 12

No appearance -
for Respondents 7 & 9



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

WEB COPY

ORDER
(Made by the Hon'ble Chief Justice)

We have heard Mr.Perumbulavil Radhakrishnan, learned counsel for the petitioner, Mr.T.L.Thirumalaisamy, learned counsel for the first respondent, Mr.Adithya Reddy, learned counsel for the second respondent , Mr.P.R.Raman, learned Senior Counsel, assisted by Mr.C.Seetharaman, learned counsel for the fourth respondent and Mr.Rahul Balaji, learned counsel for the eleventh respondent.

2. The present petition is filed seeking a direction restraining the respondents No.1, 2, 3 and 12, their agents, men, representatives, Franchisees and assigns from in any manner conducting the Indian Premier League cricket matches in the absence of precautionary, preventive and reformatory rules and infrastructure to prevent and ensure that sport fraud/illegal betting/spot fixing/match fixing/gambling/tampering and/or other forms of competitive financial exercise is carried to the Public/Players so as to degrade sports/cricket and as to tarnish the image of the Chennai Super Kings and/or such other teams.



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

WEB COPY

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner herein is aware of the facts as he was an Investigating Officer who exposed IPL betting and spot fixing. He had also deposed before Justice Mudgal Committee constituted by the Supreme Court to probe into the allegation of betting and spot fixing.

3. Learned counsel further submits that the conflict of interest exists between the players and the teams. The players who are involved in conflict of interest should not be permitted to play the matches. According to him, the respondents 1 to 3 do not have a mechanism to prevent the sport fraud and/or illegal betting, spot fixing, gambling. The same is necessary for maintaining the purity of the game. As no precautionary measure and effective measures are undertaken by these respondents, the public image of the teams is tarnished and the same also is not conducive for the play of the game. The respondents 2 and 12 have failed to ensure a fool proof system to prevent the citizens from being hoodwinked.



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

WEB COPY

4. Learned Senior Counsel for the fourth respondent submits that the Supreme Court had directed amendments to be made to the bye laws/constitution of the BCCI or the State Associations and the same have been carried out. The Ethics Committee and the Ombudsman are also appointed by every State Association and the BCCI to consider the grievances. The Supreme Court has also appointed three Member Committee to examine and make suitable recommendation to the BCCI for such reforms in its practice and procedure and such amendments in the Memorandum of Association, Rules and Regulations as may be considered necessary and proper. The said Rules and Regulations deal with the conditions of eligibility and disqualifications, if any, for candidates wanting to contest elections, mechanism for resolving conflict of interest, to carry out the probe and the same is in place.

5. There cannot be any dispute with regard to the proposition that the purity of game has to be maintained and the game is to be played in a right spirit.



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

WEB COPY

6. In the instant writ petition, there cannot be a blanket direction. If the petitioner comes across individual instances of match fixing, betting, then, he can make the grievance to the Apex Body, such as BCCI, for necessary action against the erring person on a case-to-case basis. The reforms are already directed by the Apex Court to be carried out in each Association. The bye laws and constitution of State Association are also required to be amended and they have been amended as per the contention of learned Senior Counsel for the fourth respondent.

7. It would not be appropriate, on the basis of some bald statements, to direct the respondents to refrain from conducting any tournament.

8. As observed above, if specific instances are noticed by the petitioner with regard to sport fraud, illegal betting, spot fixing, gambling or otherwise, then, it is for him to invoke the relevant provisions, Rules or Regulations.

9. With the aforesaid observation, the writ petition stands



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

WEB COPY

disposed of. There will be no order as to costs. Consequently,
W.M.P.No.9686 of 2018 is closed.

(S.V.G., CJ.)

(P.D.A., J.)

26.07.2023

Index : Yes/No
Neutral Citation : Yes/No

kpl

To

1. The Home Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block Central Secretariat
New Delhi.
2. The Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators
Board of Control for Cricket in India
4th Floor, Cricket Centre
Wankhede Stadium
D Road, Churchgate
Mumbai 400 020.
3. The Secretary
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Room No.3, C-Wing, Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi 110 001.



WEB COPY



W.P.No.7776 of 2018

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE
AND
P.D.AUDIKESSAVALU, J.

(kpl)

W.P.No.7776 of 2018

26.07.2023