

Statement by Manan Kumar Mishra, Chairman, Bar Council of India

Supreme Court Collegium had rightly ignored the letter making the allegations/remarks made by Mr. Justice A. K. Goel against Mr. Justice Suryakant. There arises a simple question, whether any enquiry had been conducted before the elevation of Justice Goel or any other Judge as Chief Justice of any High Court or to the Supreme Court? Whether any enquiry was conducted in order to verify the reason as to how and why Mr. Justice Goel became the Chairperson of National Green Tribunal within 2-3 days of his retirement.

As per the open deliberations at the joint meeting of all State Bar Councils, the High Court Bar Associations and Co-ordination Committee of Delhi and N. C. R. Bar Associations (held at Delhi last year), Justice Goel had delivered the Judgments in Mahipal Singh Rana's case and some other cases at the behest of some people having bias against the Bar; these Judgments have attempted to curtail the rights and privileges of Advocates under the Advocates Act, 1961. The Joint Meeting had gone to the extent of taking some harsh resolutions also because of such uncalled for Judgments of Mr. Justice Goel. However, the Bar Council of India did not implement those resolutions in order to maintain the dignity and decorum of the Institution. But, we had brought to the notice of our Hon'ble dynamic Chief Justice of India. The anguish of the Bar was writ large and expressed due to such Anti-Lawyer Judgments while Hon'ble Chief Justice of India was in Bar Council of India on 6th October, 2018.

Moreover, the question arises that there were/are several other deserving and competent retired Judges to be appointed as Chairperson of N. G. T.; Mr. Justice Amitabh Roy was also a very deserving candidate; but Mr. Justice Goel was chosen. There cannot be a satisfactory answer to such questions!

The Members of the Bar are of the clear opinion that such letter against Mr. Justice Suryakant has absolutely no substance and is fit to be ignored.

Nowadays, baseless allegations are frequently made against the Judges or Advocates in order to damage his/her career. This has become a fashion and common phenomenon. Since, Mr. Justice Suryakant and Mr. Justice Gawai, both have brilliant carrier and are upright Judges, and they are likely to become the Chief Justices of India, therefore, false, vague baseless and bald allegations are bound to be made.

There are few persons in the corridors of Supreme Court who have vested interests. The credibility of anybody, who is holding the chair of Chief Justice of any High Court or a Judge of a High Court, cannot and should not be doubted on mere vague & bald allegations.

Therefore, without being influenced by any such report/remark of anyone, the Supreme Court Collegium should take its own decisions in every case; otherwise it would be quite difficult, rather impossible, to make any recommendation/appointment. There is on acute dearth of Judges in the country.