

SECRET

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

File No. 12/7/61-Judl.I

Volume

Ministry of Home Affairs

Department of Judl.I

SECTION

NOTES/CORRESPONDENCE

Subject

Letter from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh (Shri D. Sanjivayya) making certain allegations against Shri Justice P. Chandra Reddy, Chief Justice, and Justices P. Satyanarayan Raju and P.J.Reddy, Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Indexed on

Initials

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हस्तांतरित किया गया
TRANSFERRED TO NATIONAL
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To be noted In Sectional Note Book
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Satyanarayan

Previous References

Later References

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CHIEF MINISTER.

SECRET:

HYDERABAD.

DATED 4-11-1961.



My dear Shri Lal Bahadurji,

I discussed with you about the transfer of Mr. P. Chandra Reddy, the present Chief Justice of our High Court, for the reasons mentioned to you. In continuation of my personal talk I am addressing this D.O. to you for taking necessary and urgent action in that regard.

After Mr. Justice K. Subba Rao, the previous Chief Justice, left our High Court on promotion as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, the affairs of our High Court had fallen on evil days. The sad degeneration in every respect is beyond description and unless people like you effectively deal with the situation, there is no salvation, for this big State. Politics have crept into the High Court where also groupism on communal and other lines has been predominant. Unless the present Chief Justice is changed immediately, it will be disastrous for this already communal ridden State.

Mr. P. Chandra Reddy is thoroughly communal-minded and he displays this quality openly without any regard to public opinion. He has strong likes and dislikes which badly interfere with his work. He got closely attached to some puisne Judges of the High Court who have been exercising strong influence over him, namely, Mr. Justice P. Satyanarayana Raju and Mr. Justice Jagan Mohan Reddi. The entire administration is run by them. The former of the two, particularly, is of very scheming and intriguing type and Mr. Justice Chandra Reddy is completely in his hands. They go to the High Court together everyday and even in the open parties in the public, this association

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C. Balakrishna
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is demonstrated much to the chagrin of their other colleagues who have insignificant existence in the High Court. Except two or three Judges, the rest are not at all independent, and they can be said to be 'Yes Men' of Mr. Chandra Reddi, Mr. Raju or Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddi. Only such people are chosen for Benches and the Full Benches of our High Court have become a farce and a mockery. The seniormost Judge next to the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Umamaheswaran, who is an independent and saintly type of person, is completely ignored and sometimes insulted in a sly fashion by keeping Mr. Justice Satyanarayana Raju in charge of the work of the Chief Justice in his absence. Such personal considerations are not conducive to the harmony or reputation of the High Court. I understand that important files are not even circulated to Mr. Justice Umamaheswaran or some other senior Judges. I learn that there is also manipulation in the posting of cases before the Judges.

It came to my notice now that Sri E. Venkatesam, though he is an average type of lawyer, has been recommended by the Chief Justice for appointment as High Court Judge, because he was a junior under Mr. P. Satyanarayana Raju when he was an Advocate and because Mr. Justice Raju influenced the Chief Justice. The Bar has a grievance against this. Mr. Justice Raju got Mr. Ramachandra Raju, another ex-junior of his, appointed as a directly-recruited District Judge and got him almost immediately posted to Visakhapatnam which is a coveted place by disturbing a more senior Judge. Mr. Chandrashekara Reddi who was also recruited directly as a District Judge at the same time was posted to Chittoor, another coveted station, by disturbing another senior Judge there. It is unfortunate that these things were done on personal considerations which

demoralise the Judicial service. Another instance of favouritism is the transfer of Sri S. Obul Reddy and his promotion as the Selection Grade District Judge. While Mr. Obul Reddy had put up only five years service as a District Judge, Mr. Chandra Reddi took up his case strongly and out of the way for promotion to the selection grade and got it done. The Chief Justice also went out of the way in having the seniority of the aforesaid Mr. Ramachandra Raju and Mr. Chandrasekhara Reddi fixed up in a particular manner. If you kindly see the personal file of Mr. Nandagiri Venkata Rao (which was sent to you along with others) you will notice that inspite of his very bad record the Chief Justice got him appointed as another selection grade District Judge. He never bothers about merit or honesty and his actions are guided either by influence or personal considerations. The whole service and the State are groaning under his regime.

It is a matter of public knowledge that Sri S. Obul Reddi, a District Judge in this City, goes to the Chief Justice very frequently and creates an impression to others that he is all in all with him. The Chief Justice singles out and for every function either in the High Court or at his residence invites only Mr. Obul Reddi openly and no other District Judge in the City. Mr. Obul Reddi is a strong favourtie of Mr. Justice Raju and every morning and evening he goes to his house. It is surprising how these things are allowed and they give a very bad impression to others. In short, the whole atmosphere is stinking and requires radical toning up in the interests of the people of this State. It is said that in all appointments or even transfers Mr. Chandra Reddi is guided by considerations of communalism and favouritism. Mr. Obul Reddi is a very ordinary

type of officer. I know him for years. If you see his personal file which is with you, you will see how at one place he is boosted suddenly. The personal files are written only by some Judges, the groupists. The senior-most portfolio Judge Mr. Justice Umamaheswaram, or another senior I.C.S. Judge Mr. N.D. Krishna Rao are not allowed to write them. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddi, Mr. Raju and Mr. Chandra Reddi write them. If things go on like this, there is no safety for any person. In fact, some people who are not liked by them live in constant fear. What a sad state of affairs! I can cite to you the case of Mr. Ramayya Chowdary, a District Judge, who was relentlessly pursued.

When the Government requested the High Court to send the personal files of the District Judges for being forwarded to you, they were sent only after a fortnight. They could have been sent in a day or two at best and that delay is being talked about badly. It is not clear whether the case of Sri Suryanarayanadaswamy is sought to be fought against on added material in between. There is room for suspicion because of the delay and because only the groupist Judges made those remarks - please see particularly the personal files of Sri Obul Reddi and Sri A.D.V. Reddi.

The cliques in the High Court are openly talked about and they are worse than our politics. The Government sanctioned some air-conditioners to the High Court. The Chief Justice, it seems, got them fixed up in his chamber and the chambers of his fast allies, Mr. Justice Raju and Mr. Justice Jagan Mohan Reddi. Mr. Justice Umamaheswaram or Mr. Justice Krishna Rao or other senior Judges were not given this facility. It seems that the entire court hall of Mr. Justice Jagan Mohan Reddi was air-conditioned.

Instead of that every Judge could have been given this comfort. This is a matter of public comment.

How can there be real National Integration if such high placed dignitaries behave in such unbecoming manner and if they are allowed to continue like that? The confidence of the public will be shaken if the Judiciary favours one group or community. The recommendation of the Chief Justice for the appointment of Sri Gopal Rao Ekbote, a staunch group politician, is a clear instance of it. The income tax return to show the income of Mr. Ekbote was taken from a private practitioner of income-tax but not from the income-tax department. The Chief Justice gave misleading facts in his letter which are not correct. Why should a Chief Justice do all these things? He got his castemen appointed as Registrar of the High Court previously, as State Public Prosecutor and as Government Pleader and they are Mr. A.D.V. Reddi, Mr. Chinnapa Reddi and Mr. Ramachandra Reddi. I had already written to you how wrongly the seniority of Sri A.D.V. Reddi was fixed and how manipulation was done to give him seniority over large number of people who were regularly working as Sub-Judges already. This was done while Mr. Chandra Reddi was in Madras High Court along with the help of Mr. O. Pulla Reddi, I.C.S., who was then Home Secretary in charge of Courts. I learn that Mr. Justice Sanjeeva-Rao Naidu openly expresses that any independent Judgment of a Judge is so disliked by the Chief Justice that in hearing an appeal from it he reverses it even without looking into it. It is understood that the Chief Justice Mr. Chandra Reddi openly encourages his castemen at the Bar much to the heartburn of other members of the Bar. I have cited only some of the instances that came to my knowledge and there may be several other instances

which may be responsible for the sad reputation of our High Court today.

I do not propose to cite any instances on the Judicial aspect of his work. It is not good for the Institution or the State or even for himself if people lose faith on some account or other. I can assertively state that the confidence of public is badly shaken in his regime as Chief Justice. If he is not transferred from this High Court immediately, the reputation thereof will be damaged beyond repair. I, therefore, strongly, press for his transfer at once in the interests of the State and its people and the reputation of the High Court itself.

I request you to kindly keep this very confidential B.O. in your personal custody. If you want to satisfy yourself through your own agency about the state of affairs in this High Court, it may be done most confidentially and at the highest possible level. If it leaks out, it becomes impossible to get confirmation of these facts by your agency as nothing is meant to some of these people if their purpose is to be achieved. They are very influential here and they will misuse their position. If my proposal of this transfer is agreed to, Mr. P. Chandra-Reddy may be transferred and in his place Mr. Justice Uma-maheswaram, the next senior-most Judge, may be appointed as the Chief Justice of this High Court. That will be fair to him. If for any reason it is not possible to do so, an outsider with known capability and strength may be posted here as the Chief Justice of this High Court. He must be unapproachable even to his colleagues; otherwise the cliques can never be wiped out. They are already taking firm roots and it will be a happy day for this State and the High Court if Mr. Justice Raju and Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddi are also transferred so that the vicious circle

will be broken in full. The least that could be done is to transfer Mr. Chandra Reddi immediately. This will be also in pursuance of the recommendations of the States Re-organisation Committee to effect such transfers, particularly of pernicious elements in such high judiciary. It may be noted that Mr. Chandra Reddi, Mr. Raju and Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddi have vested interests in this State and that a large number of their relations will be going to the Courts as litigants. These are predominant communities in the State. Mr. Justice Jagan Mohan Reddi has large properties even in this City. Recently he sold his house for Rs.4½ lakhs or so to the Life Insurance Corporation. He has been selling large number of sites to others and he has a number of relations here. There was also some litigation, I understand, with regard to some properties purchased here by Mr. Justice P. Satyanarayana Raju and some of his relations. On the whole, I hear sickening reports about these persons. I only look to a gentleman like you, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the Prime Minister of India to give relief to this State and its people.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


(D. SANJIVAYYA).

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastriji,
Home Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi.