

THE CANARA BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (REGD) (AFFILIATED TO AIBOC)



CENTRAL OFFICE:
402-406, Himalaya House, PB-262
79, Mata Ramabai Ambedkar Marg,
Fort, MUMBAI – 400 001
Tel: (022) 22617872 / 22705750
Fax : (022) 22618306



GS LTR 58 2016

July 28, 2016

POWER OF UNITY & POWER OF TRADE UNIONS

Dear friends,

The following two episodes will stand as sufficient testimonials to understand the deep rooted and strong presence of trade unionism and its power to turn any impossibles to become possible.

EPISODE 1

ORGANISATION

TELANGANA JUDGES' ASSOCIATION

Hyderabad: Nimma Narayana, district judge, was elected president of the newly formed Telangana Judges' Association with senior civil judges P. Chandrasekhar and Dr Sunnam Srinivasa Reddy as vice-presidents. Senior civil judge V. Vara Prasad will be general secretary cum treasurer.

Mr T. Muralidhar and Mr Radha Krishna Chahavan were elected joint secretaries and E. Ravinder Reddy, Mr R. Tirupathi, Mr D. Ramakanth. Ms Saritha, Mr G Ravinder, Mr P. Raju, Mr G. Venu , Ms Govinda Lakshimi, Mr D. Kiran Kumar, Mr V. Eshwaraiah, Mr G.V. Maheshnath and Mr N. Srikanth Babu were elected executive members.

ISSUE:

In recent weeks, at least 900 judicial officers who were working in various courts in united AP were divided between the two states. In the first week of May 2016 one provisional list of allotment of judges to lower courts was issued.

As per the list, 335 judicial officers were allotted to Telangana while 495 were allocated to AP. However, of the 335 judicial officers allocated to Telangana, at least 130 are natives of AP who opted to work in Telangana, according to the Telangana Judicial Officers Association.

The Association points out that currently 234 district judges are serving in both the states and they needed to be allocated according to 40:60 ratio.

“Accordingly, 94 judges should have been allocated to Telangana and 140 to AP. However, the HC allocated only 84 district judges to AP and left 46 vacancies while appointing 102 district judges instead of 94. Of the 102 district judges allocated to Telangana, 72 are from AP and only 30 are from Telangana. All this was influenced by judges in the HC,”

DEMAND

Telangana judges are demanding that the 130 judges appointed recently to various courts in Telangana be recalled as they are natives of Andhra Pradesh, and therefore their appointment was blatantly illegal and against the rules stated in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. These 130 judicial officers had opted to work in Telangana and were thus posted here by the high court.

Telangana judges say that the High Court did not follow guidelines of allocating in 40:60 ratio between Telangana and AP, as per the population and guidelines under the AP Reorganisation Act 2014. The Telangana Judicial Officers Association even alleges that the 18 high court judges hailing from AP influenced the HC's decision to allocate persons hailing from AP to Telangana judiciary. Of the 21 judges in HC, 18 are from AP and only 3 are from Telangana.

AGITATION

The protest against this provisional allocation soon turned to agitation for a separate high court for Telangana.

Eleven judges—district, senior civil, and junior civil—have been suspended so far for protesting after acting Chief Justice Dilip P Bhosale took a very serious view of the conduct of the judges and their violation of the code.

Those suspended include Telangana Judicial Officers Association president K Ravinder Reddy, IV Metropolitan Magistrate at Nampally Criminal Courts, and general secretary G Varaprasad, Additional Civil Judge at Ranga Reddy courts.

At least 200 judges of Telangana went on mass casual leave for 15 days starting Tuesday as the agitation demanding cancellation of the provisional list of judicial officers appointed in Telangana judiciary took a serious turn.

For the first time, scenes of judges in their robes protesting outside courts were witnessed today morning while outside the High Court some protesting judges were physically lifted and evacuated by police.

The en masse resignation submitted by judges of subordinate courts in Telangana on Sunday took a serious turn on Monday as the High Court at Hyderabad suspended the president and general secretary K. Ravinder Reddy and V. Varaprasad respectively of Telangana Judges' Association on disciplinary grounds.

Mr. Reddy is the IVth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge at the Nampally criminal courts and Mr. Varaprasad XIVth Additional District Judge in Ranga Reddy courts. Protesting the suspension,, the judges belonging to Telangana have decided to apply for mass casual leave on Tuesday.

A meeting of the executive committee of Judges' Association is scheduled for Tuesday where a decision allowing Mr. Reddy and Mr. Varaprasad to go on an indefinite hunger strike is likely.

The deputation of a lower court judge M. Radhakrishna Chauhan to the High Court, who is an office bearer of the association, has been cancelled.

Meanwhile, the extra general body meeting of Telangana High Court Advocates Association while condemning the suspension orders passed a resolution requesting the Chief Justice of India and President to recall the Acting Chief Justice of High Court Dilip B. Bhosale.

The advocates of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were requested to abstain from cases in Court I, presided by Justice Bhosale, till the suspension was revoked.

About 120 judges of Telangana courts met at a hotel here on Sunday and resolved to resign in protest against allocation of judges of Andhra Pradesh nativity to posts in Telangana.

They decried the delay in bifurcation of the High Court between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The resignations were handed over to Mr. Reddy as the president of their association and he was authorized to submit them to Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan, who was the appointing authority, on July 2.

The advocates across Telangana have been boycotting courts and holding relay hunger strike in the premises since June 6. They have decided to stage a mass dharna here on July 1. The judicial employees will also join the agitation on Tuesday.

PRESENT POSITION

TJA held an 'extraordinary general body meeting' in Hyderabad.

"It is unanimously resolved...that honouring the appeal of the Chief Justice of India, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Governor and the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad, the judges who are on leave have decided to join the duty along with 11 suspended judicial officers forthwith on the day the suspension is revoked," the association said.

"It is also unanimously resolved to request the High Court to treat the leave period of the judicial officers (who are on mass leave) which is rejected, as sanctioned and drop all further proceedings," TJA said.

EPISODE 2

ORGANISATION

JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE AGITATING ADVOCATES OF TAMILNADU, WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, CHENNAI

ISSUE

The amendments made to the 46-year-old statutory Rules of the High Court, Chennai. The new provisions included to Rule 14 empower judges to debar advocates who browbeat or abuse judges, lay siege to court halls, tamper with court records, appear in

court under the influence of liquor, spread unsubstantiated allegations against judges or accept money either in the name of a judge or on the pretext of influencing him.

So far, a court could debar advocates only on the grounds of contempt of court. But the recent amendment empowers the High Court and the Principal District Judges (PDJ) in every district to debar lawyers indulging in misconduct, such as sending representations to superior courts with unfounded allegations against judges.

DEMAND

Immediate withdrawal of the rule

AGITATION

the advocates demanded the immediate withdrawal of the rules and abstained from court proceedings, due to which almost all subordinate court proceedings were stalled for over a month.

In a bid to intensify their struggle, various Bar associations, including the High Court associations, gave a call to lay siege to the High Court. In view of this, the entire High Court was turned into a fortress, and entry was restricted even for advocates.

Advocate P. Thirumalairajan, chief coordinator of the Joint Action Committee, said: "Today's protest against the draconian law is a great success,

REACTION

Chief Justice S.K. Kaul assured the lawyers that no precipitate action would be taken against them under the new rules.

The Chief Justice then constituted a five-judge committee to look into the issue and called upon the protesting lawyers to withdraw court boycotts and attend deliberations with the committee.

keeping the new disciplinary rules in abeyance for the time being,

OTHER DEMANDS

Bar Council of TN and Puducherry, has requested the Bar Council of India to withdraw the suspension of 126 advocates, office-bearers of joint action committee, which was spearheading the agitation for nearly two months and various lawyers associations across the TN. the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry has decided to approach the Bar Council of India to revoke the suspension of 126 advocates.

TODAYS DEVELOPMENT

The Advocates decided to continue the agitation.

Not ready to appear in front of the five Judges committee as the committee consists of three judges who framed the rules.

Further intensifying the agitation will be taken during the General body meeting JAC scheduled on today (28th July 2016) at Thanjavur.

Dear friends, in both the cases which are currently going on, it might have been observed that even the Judges and Advocates have to

- ✓ UNITE AND FIGHT TO THE EXTENT OF STRIKING THE WORK AND EVEN LAY SIEGE ON THE HIGH COURTS.
- ✓ REJECT THE INVITATION OF THE HIGHER UPS TO APPEAR IN FRONT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR NEGOTIATION ON THE GROUND THAT THE COMMITTEE CONSIST OF THE PERSONS WHO PROVOKED SUCH AGITATIONS.
- ✓ INTENSIFYING THE AGITATION DESPITE SUSPENSIONS.
- ✓ CLOSED THE COURTS BOYCOTTING AND EVEN AVAILING MASS CASUAL LEAVE BY THE DISTRICT JUDGES.

While appreciating the agitating judges and Advocates for their strong expression of resistance when there is an attempt to deteriorate the working conditions, we also extend our fraternal support to them.

LET US ALSO UNDERSTAND OUR RIGHTS & DUTIES AND TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN AGITATION CALL GIVEN BY THE TRADE UNIONS OPPOSING THE DESIGNS OF THE CONTROLLERS QUESTIONING THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE BANKING INDUSTRY.

LET US ENSURE THE 29TH STRIKE CALL A GRAND SUCCESS.

AINBOF ZINDABAD

AIBOC ZINDABAD

Manimaran G V
General Secretary