



भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 002

Press Release

Sub: Lawyers' Body stick to their demand for their direct involvement instead of outsiders in the process of appointment.

2. Lawyers'-representatives dissatisfied the indifferent attitude of Law Ministry with regard to the welfare measures for Lawyers.

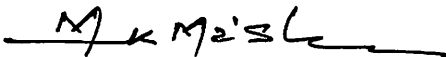
The meeting of Union Law Minister with the Chairmen of the Bar Councils and Presidents of High Court Bar Associations completely proved fruitless for the Advocates at large and has ended in vain today. The Union Law Minister had invited the representatives of the Bar in order to interact on agendas like (a) *Judicial reforms*; (b) *Use of information technology to improve the functioning of the Bar Council and Bar Associations*; (c) *Videography of court proceedings*; (d) *Measures to improve disposal of cases by courts*; (e) *Status of infrastructures of the Bar Councils and Bar Associations*; (f) *Welfare measures for the members of the Bar*; (g) *Problems of the Bar Councils and Bar Associations*; but the meeting basically discussed only one issue. In Vigyan Bhawan, the representatives, including the Chairman, Bar Council of India, about 12 Chairmen of the State Bar Councils and 10 Presidents of various High Court Bar Associations and other Members of the Bar Councils had come to attend this meeting.


The Bar Councils and Bar Associations were under the impression that some discussions with regard to the welfare measures and to strengthen the institutions of Lawyers would be discussed as suggested in agenda of Law Ministry, but the Law Minister wanted to discuss the the issue of replacement of existing collegiums-system for appointment of Judges with the proposed draft Bill relating to "National Judicial Appointment Commission". The Chairmen and the Presidents expressed their views that since it is not a matter of agenda, it should not be discussed; but when the Union Law Minister insisted to invite the opinion of the Bar Councils and Bar Associations, all the participants expressed **their unanimous view that they are not at all in favour of the proposed "National Judicial Appointment Bill" in its present form. The Bar Councils and Bar Associations expressed their solitary view that the Chairman or the representative of Bar Council of India and Chairman or representative of the concerned Bar Associations, State Bar Councils should form part of the Commission and without the involvement of Bar Councils and the Bar Associations, the Lawyers and the people of the country cannot accept the replacement of the existing collegium system.**

After the end of the meeting, the Chairman of the Bar Council of India and majority of Chairmen of the State Bar Councils and all the Presidents have expressed their displeasure with regard to the fruitless and futile meeting since nothing was discussed for the welfare of Advocates. The meeting infact could not resolve anything and even the agenda of welfare of Lawyers which was expected to be discussed, has been proved meaningless.

When the Presidents of Bar Associations and Chairmen of Bar Councils demanded fund for welfare of Lawyers, the Union Law Minister expressed his inability, and asked Lawyers' bodies to approach the Finance Minister for this. The majority of participants of the meeting have expressed their displeasure on this issue and they again reiterated that without the involvement of the Bar Councils, Bar Council of India, the process of appointment of Judges cannot be changed and the Lawyers of the country are not going to tolerate the replacement of the existing collegiums with the proposed Commission, without the representation of the Bar Councils and the Associations.

Since nothing was discussed about the welfare measures, strengthening of Bar Associations etc., the representatives of Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils and Presidents looked totally dissatisfied and as per them, it was wastage of time.


(Manan Kumar Mishra)
Chairman, BCI


(S. Prabakaran)
Convenor & Spokesperson,
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Dated: 10.8.2013