

(Text speech of Justice Yatindra Singh on the welcome by High Court of Chhattisgarh Bar Association on 09.12.2012.)

नमस्ते, जय जोहार, and a very good evening to all of you.

Thank you very much for inviting me here. It is a nice gesture on your part. It is a step towards a healthy relationship between bar and the bench, which is necessary as we are the two sides of the same coin.

I am glad that the members of the Bar had requested for re-starting ovation. It is also a steps towards healthy bar and bench relationship. It is also proper to hold reference at the time of retirement of a Judge. But having reference at the time of death of members of the Bench or the Bar, is not such a good idea.

Today your strength is less but tomorrow when it increases, holding references on death may be time costly. Instead of having reference, we may have only condolence at 4:15 pm twice in a year i.e. on the first Friday after winter and summer vacation. Or, this may be four times in a year. On the first Friday, after winter, Holi, summer and Dussehra vacations.

During the condolence meetings, the Chief Justice or the Senior Judge may read the obituary and everyone stands for two minutes silence. There may not be speeches. This practice is being followed at Allahabad. This saves time and also pays homage to the dead person. Of course, in case one has to attend the cremation on the death of somebody a mention to pass over the case can always be made.

A condolence meeting may be held when a member of High Court Bar or the present or past member of the bench dies. But holding condolence meeting of some one who is neither member of your bar or was not even past member of the bench is perhaps not a good idea.

You may take a decision in this regard. This will set up a healthy tradition.

For a good vibrant Bar, it is essential that it should have a good library. I was told by my brother Judges that individual members of the Bar have good libraries, but it is not true for the Bar Association.

A well equipped bar library is necessary as it helps the junior members of the Bar. It is they, who will carry the traditions of the Bar.

There are many ways to improve the Bar library. A part of the money collected by the Bar Association should be utilised for the library. Senior members of the Bar should contribute for the same.

In Allahabad, I had requested the Bar Association to start a separate account, which should be utilised for purchasing books and computers. Library on a computer has many advantages. Apart from others, it saves space. A good printer and photostat machine will also help you to print judgements and getting it photostat to be passed on to the bench.

In Allahabad, sometimes I used to impose cost; it was to remind lawyers not to commit the same mistake again. The cost instead of being paid to the legal aid committee or the other side, was being deposited in the library account of the Bar Association.

The cost was fixed at ₹250/- with the consent of the members of the Bar. This was the minimum cost. A higher cost was imposed if the mistake was repeated.

You can also adopt similar procedure and open an account for purchase of library books and computers. A lower or higher cost may be imposed that can be deposited in that account.

Your office bearers have been meeting me with some of your problems. I had suggested some tentative solutions to them; I would like to share with you.

- *Too many defaults:* The complaint is that many cases are listed for default that are not for the rules of the court but for some judicial orders. Defaults should be defined in the rules rather than by the judicial orders; by the judicial orders, only recommendation may be made to the court to consider the rule on the administrative side. However, sometimes there is delay in framing the rules and some of the Brother judges in their good intention pass the orders. The right way to remove them is file application in those cases or appeal or request the court consider them on the administrative side. I have asked the Registrar Judicial to supply copies of those orders to your office bearers. I will be happy if you give your suggestions by drafting the appropriate rules. Please hand over them to the RG so that it may be considered by the rule making committee then by the full court. Once a

rule is framed, this objection should go. In the meantime I am also requesting the computer committee to see that details of the defaults are uploaded on the Internet so that you can see and if you provide the details of your email, it could be emailed to you. In times to come this may be available in a RSS feed.

- *Construction of New Chambers:* I understand money has come but construction can not be done as no approval is granted by the court. A map of the construction has been approved. The construction of the shed should begin soon. But construction of chambers should await the allotment of the chambers already constructed. The allotment of chambers is a complex issue. This is the reason that it was handed over to the the committee of three most important advocates. I think allotment should be finalised first before undertake new construction.
- *Cricket practise:* Some young lawyers approached me for some land for cricket net practise in the High Court. I have a suggestion. In the residential colony, a stadium is planned in the second phase. But a field and cricket pitch, along with net practise pitch can always be prepared. You can practise there and also play matches there on Saturday and Sunday but please involve the employees as well. I along with Brother Diwaker have already inspected the field. And Brother Diwaker will ensure this facility is soon available.

I am thankful to the members of the bar that many of you attended the talk 'why should we shift over to Open Source'. You can always down load the programme that I had mentioned in my talk without any cost from the Internet or may take them on a CD from the computer section. They will be happy to hand you one. Those interested may contact OSD Computers in the High Court.

Thank you once again for inviting me for this function.

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