

Volume 11

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Part 9

Concern Expressed

The Supreme Court expressed serious concern about the insanitary conditions prevailing in the five metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Calcutta and Bangalore. The court by its order dated 23-11-99 directed the Secretary, Union Urban Development Ministry to file his response to a report filed in the court by a committee earlier appointed by the court on the state of cleanliness of those cities on a public interest petition alleging high insanitary conditions and inadequate measures for the disposal of solid wastes in the metropolitan cities. The court also constituted a committee to look into the functioning of Agra Municipal Corporation and other civic authorities which are supposed to take care of Taj Mahal.

Law Day Observed

On 26.11.99 law day was observed under the joint auspices of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Justice E. S. Venkataramaiah Foundation in the Bhavan's premises at Bangalore. Eminent Speakers Mr. Justice U. L. Bhat, former Chief Justice of Kerala, Assam and Madhya Pradesh High Courts and Prof. B. Venkatakrishnappa, former Principal, BMS Law College, Bangalore spoke on the occasion on the topic "Fifty years of Supreme Court - A critical analysis". Several Judges of the High Court of Karnataka, Judicial Officers, Advocates, Academicians and members of public participated in the programme.

Notaries Association

The association of notaries of Karnataka in its annual conference held on December 11, 1999 at Sri H. S. Renuka Prasad, President; Sri B. Prem Kumar, Vice-President, Sri Prabhakar Hegde, Secretary; Sri S. S. Reddy, Joint Secretary; Sri B. K. Seetharama Rao, Sri Venkatachalapathy, Sri Shakesh Aradhya as city secretaries. In addition 15 notaries were also elected to the executive committee. The association has notified that it proposes to conduct and next state notaries conference at Chickmagalur during December 2000.

Charging Interest Un-Islamic

During December 1999 the Pakistan Supreme Court has declared that charging of interest as Un-Islamic and ordered radical changes to be made in economy. The apex court ruled that payment or receipt of interest was forbidden in Islam and directed the Government to take steps to set up an interest-free economy by June 2000. "Consistent with its commitment to tenets of Islamic Ideology the Government of Pakistan is carefully considering the order" the Government said in a statement. The judgment has given a time frame to replace old laws which "by itself is a sufficient assurance to the people of Pakistan and rest of the world that no immediate change has been brought about by the judgment" the statement says. The statement also state that the financial commitments and obligations of the federal government to the foreign governments financial institutions and other entities are not affected.

SC on Disposal of RSA's

The Supreme Court while passing orders in Civil Appeal Nos. 4613-16 of 1999 against the orders of High Court of Karnataka in RSA's indicated its displeasure about the method in which the second appeals are disposed off. The apex court order is reproduced below for reference.

"Leave granted. The learned single judge in regular second appeals has gone into the evidence and come to a conclusion thereon contrary to that of the court below holding that its judgment and decree was "prime facie perverse and error apparent on the face of the record". This is not a "mantra" that can be employed to permit the court to do in a second appeal what the law enjoins it not to do. We have, regretfully, had to comment in similar fashion about judgments of a similar kind delivered by the same learned judge. In the circumstances, it becomes necessary to set aside the judgment and order under appeal and restore the second appeals to the file of the high court for being heard and determined) fresh keeping the boundaries of its jurisdiction in a second appeal strictly in view. This shall be done expeditiously".

HC Workload Reduced

The workload in high court of Karnataka has been considerably reduced by end December 1999. It is to be noted that more than once the then Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court Mr. Justice R.P. Sethi had vowed of bringing down the arrears of cases in the high court. The process continued with a vigorous effort and the present Chief Justice Y. Bhaskar Rao has ensured keeping up of the momentum. It is reported that in 1994 there were 2.1 lakh pending cases in the high court. It came down to 1,09,118 in June 1998 and 91,475 by June 1999. By end December 99 the reported pendency of cases is 82,487, With the massive computerisation undertaken by the high court the situation is expected to improve further.

Karnataka HC Pulled Up

The Supreme Court passed the much awaited judgment in Cogentrix case on December 13, 1999 absolving the company of indulging in payment of alleged kickbacks. The bench comprising Justice Saghir Ahmed and Justice S. Rajendra Babu severely criticised the Division Bench of the High Court for ordering a CBI probe in to the circumstances leading to the award of the contract to the US multinational Cogentrix. The apex court is of the view that flimsy grounds and materials on record did not call for such a probe. "The HC has looked at different circumstances in the case with a jaundiced eye, We Think the HC has gone too far". The bench observed. The court also held that "no foundation for the claim (CBI enquiry) is laid in the petition".

Commission gets New Chairman

Mr. Justice T. Jayaram Chouda has been appointed as the Chairman of Karnataka State Consumers Dispute Redressal Commission. The new chairman took over the charge on 29.12.99 from Mr. Justice N. D. V. Bhat, Who retired.

Vacation - 2000

The registrar general, High Court of Karnataka, through Notification No. GOB (I) 389/99-1, dated, 8th December, 1999 has notified that the High Court will be closed for vacations as specified below, during the year 2000 :

Summer Vacation :

17th April to 21st May (b.d.i.)

Dasara Vacation :

3rd to 6th October (b.d.i.)

Winter Vacation :

18th to 31st December (b.d.i.)

Note :

1. Friday the 27th October, Monday the 30th October and Tuesday the 31st October will be non-sitting days for Judicial Work.
2. Saturday the 26th February, Saturday the 25th March and Saturday the 24th June, will be sitting days for Judicial work.

Around the Courts

□ **Sec. 2(1)(d) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986-Employees PF is a "service" and the employee member under the scheme is a "consumer" under sec. 2(1)(d) of the Act :**

In a ruling delivered during December 1999 a bench comprising Justice S. Saghir Ahmed and Justice R. P. - Sethi of the apex court has held that an employee-member of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme is a consumer and the scheme a service under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The court has also held that the delayed payment of provident fund to an employee-member amounts to deficiency of service under the Act. "The provisions of the Act can, therefore, be invoked against the provident fund commissioner by a member of the scheme for the delayed payment of provident fund", the court added.

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Justice without force is powerless; Force without justice is tyrannical
Pascal

Bourgeois Practice

National judicial pay commission should be congratulated for suggesting measures promoting harmony within the judiciary. In its final report the commission has decried the practice of some high court judges summoning the judicial officers to appear before them and explain their judgments. The commission has noted with concern that often the trial judges are required to be present in the high courts in the midst of the advocates and litigants to elaborate why they pronounced judgments the way they did. The report states that, "it is a source of great embarrassment and humiliation to the trial judges".

Commenting on this practice the commission has said, "if we may say so, with all respect, such practice is unknown to our accepted norms and procedure, if not an abuse of power". With a view to maintain much required harmony the commission has said, "we hope those judges indulging in it would discontinue the practice, in the interest of maintaining harmony in the judicial fraternity and promoting public confidence in the administration of justice."

On the question of easy accessibility of high court judges, the commission said the tendency of some judges and chief justices to avoid giving an audience to judicial officers on the ground that they need not bother them is not desirable. On the contrary the commission suggested that the high court judges and chief justices should be ready to apply a healing balm to any hurt or injury of the judicial officer who might be upset.

On the question of disposal of the cases initiated by judicial officers the report has disapproved the practice of the high courts keeping such cases in cold storage. The report suggested that the cases initiated by judicial officers should be expeditiously disposed off preferably by a bench presided over by the chief justice so that any misunderstanding or misapprehension in the mind of the judicial officer could be effectively removed.

The report revealed that the annual confidential reports of judicial officers prepared and maintained by the high courts have given rise to many complaints. It is said that in certain cases, confidential reports are based

more on information received from members of the bar or third parties which in strict legal parlance is "hear say evidence". Honest and strict judges, who adhere to rules or procedure do not always find favourable response from lawyers, the report says. On most occasions, the pressure on a trial judge is so enormous that often it is the judge who is on trial, the report observes.

All right thinking people would welcome the suggestions and recommendations of the pay commission, headed by no less a person of the former judge of the supreme court Mr. K. Jagannatha Shetty which has examined the questions involved in depth and suggested remedial measures. Therefore there should be no reservation by any quarters regarding the discontinuance of the baneful practices hitherto in vogue and adopting an enlightened approach. One more aspect which requires correction is to replace the terms "subordinate judiciary" with a suitable phraseology as a measure of tackling the problem at a psychological level.

Kolar Diary

□ Under the joint auspices of Kolar District Legal Services Authority, Mulbagal Taluk Legal Services Authority, Advocater Association, Mulbagal, and Sri Sai Seva Trust [Regd.], Bangalore, a free medical and legal awareness camp was inaugurated by justice Y. Bhaskar Rao, Chief Justice of high court of Karnataka on 11.12.99 at Hebbani, Bairakur Hobli, Mulbagal Taluk

□ On 16.12.99 Mr. Justice Y. Bhaskar Rao, Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka inaugurated the new court building of Civil Judge [Jr. Dn.] & JMFC, Srinivasapur. Minister for Law, Government of Karnataka Mr. D. B. Chandregowda presided over the function. A host of judges, ministers, political leaders, judicial officers and members of Srinivasapur Bar attended the function.

□ On 20.12.99 Mr. Justice R.P. Sethi, Judge Supreme Court of India, inaugurated a legal awareness camp at Chakavel, Bagepalli Taluk under the joint auspices of Karnataka State Legal Service Authority and Kolar District Legal Service Authority.

Indian Democracy - Electoral Reforms

Justice Ashok Bhan

Mr. Justice Ashok Bhan presented a paper on the above subject while inaugurating a seminar organised by Karnataka State Commission of Jurists at Bangalore during the last week of November 1999. Considering the contemporary nature of the subject and the amount of information contained in the paper "communique" will be publishing an edited version of the paper from this month onwards. Editor.

November 26th marks the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of our constitution - a magnificent document which was conceived and finalised by some of the sharpest minds and the noblest hearts. Indian Parliament in spite of 13 general elections in the country has not seen and found amongst itself the intellectual giants who constituted the constituent assembly for framing of the Indian constitution. In the preamble to the constitution the people of India have solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, secular, democratic republic. Indian Constitution has set out the governing principles of parliamentary democracy based on adult franchise. Though India is practising a democratic type of government, its social structure and other systems are different from those of the Britain and America. India has a heterogeneous society whereas those in the west have a homogenous society. It is much easier to bring about changes in a homogeneous society as compared to a heterogeneous society. Being aware of the clashes linked with Political Freedom and Social Justice after the French revolution our fore fathers rightly considered that Social Equality and Economic Justice were necessary for the successful working of the parliamentary system of democracy in the country. In India political revolution came to an end with the independence. Since then the social revolution to get India out of medievalism based on birth, religion, custom and community and reconstructing its social structure based on modern foundations of law, individuality and education, is being done. Economic revolution is taking place in the country in a scientific manner by restructuring its agriculture, industry and commerce.

It was realised by the members of the constituent assembly that to lend

authenticity and legitimacy to the democracy in a parliamentary form of government it is necessary that there should be free and fair elections. Conduct and holding of elections was therefore entrusted to an independent body known as the Election Commission of India. Our Constitution makers unanimously affirmed that "in the interest of purity and freedom of elections, the body entrusted to hold the election should be free from any kind of interference from the executive of the day". To ensure this adequate provisions were made in the Constitution. Enough safeguards have been provided in the constitution to make the election commission an independent body free from influence from the party in power. Superintendence, direction and control of elections starting from the preparation of the electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to the Parliament, State Legislatures, the offices of the President and Vice-President are vested in the election commission. The election commission consists of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix and appoint. When election commissioners are appointed, the chief election commissioner acts as the chairman of the election commission. The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners and regional commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule determine. But the chief election commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in a like manner and on like grounds as that of a judge of the Supreme Court and the conditions of service of the chief election commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. The election commissioner or regional commissioner cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the chief election commissioner. The President and the Governors of the States have been enjoined with the responsibility to make available to the election commission or regional commissioners such staff as may be necessary for the discharge of the functions conferred on the election commission. Elections are conducted under the Representation of People Act, 1951 read with the Act of 1950.

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Indian Democracy - Electoral Reforms

From Page 2

In spite of the provisions made in the Constitution and the Representation of People Act, our politicians in their own individual or collective interest have wecked the impartial and efficient functioning of the election machinery. Some of the issues which are relevant to ensure free and fair elections and to put the election system on an even keel are as follows. All the political parties and the public have been crying hoarse against criminalisation of politics, corrupt election practices, preventing the weak from exercising their franchise and the consequent rigging in elections, to mention a few. This sorry state of affairs is due to the failure on the part of the successive election commissioners to act independently and firmly in implementing the provisions of the election laws. A part of the blame has to be shared by the courts as well. The courts have not been able to decide the disputes relating to election in the given time frame provided under the law. This has resulted in making the challenge to the elections by way of election petitions into a mere farce. Some times election petitions are finally decided after the expiry of the term of the legislature.

Mr. T. N. Seshan former chief election commissioner was the first one to take up the issue of electoral reforms for ensuring free and fair elections. He had set the standard and the tone for reforming and overhauling the process of elections in the country. The good work started by Mr. Seshan has been carried forward by the succeeding chief election commissioner.

Mr. T. N. Seshan introduced the concept of photo identity cards to weed out the menace of bogus voting. But this experiment has not been successful because as it has not been implemented uniformly throughout the country. Issuance of photo identity card to all individuals whose name find mention in the electoral roll is an absolute necessity. It is seen at times that the name of the person to whom the photo identity card has been issued on the basis of the name existing in the last electoral roll does not find mention in the revised electoral roll. Effective steps have to be taken to avoid such mistakes. Using of electronic machines for voting is also a must. A step in this regard has been

taken and in the last general elections in 60 parliamentary constituencies the electronic voting machines were used and hopefully after 5 years when the next general elections are conducted all the constituencies would have electronic voting machines. This would eliminate lot of paper work and the election results would be known to the country within the shortest possible time. At times voters cannot cast their votes because of their transfer or change of residence. In today's technology they can be provided with a smart card, based on which a voter could go to any polling station and cast his vote in the constituency for which he has been registered as a voter.

It is seen that the percentage of total number of votes polled is very low in the country. In some of the constituencies the voting has been less than 40%. Does the elected candidate truly represent the majority of the voters of the constituency? Answer to this is in the negative. It is true that the elected candidate secures more votes than the candidate next to him but he may be declared elected on securing less than 20% votes in the constituency. The real problem lies in the low percentage of the vote cast. Steps should be taken to ensure that atleast 90% of the total number of voters registered cast their votes. In the absence of the same it must be said that the candidate elected or the party coming to power does not reflect the majority of the votes in his or their favour. It should be made compulsory by law as has been done in certain countries for each voter to cast his vote. Failure to cast vote should be made punitive. It is unfortunate that a majority of the educated and the rich who claim themselves to be the forerunners of the society and who are vociferous in criticising the electoral system and the democracy, do not go and cast their votes. A constituency like South Delhi, the residents of which having reaped the maximum benefits, has reported a polling of less than 50%. People do not go to vote being of the opinion that their one vote would not make any difference or because of their disenchantment with the system itself or because they are simply lazy and do not want to spoil their holiday.

To be Continued.

Change of Venue sought

The Karnataka Husbands' Welfare Forum has appealed to the State Social Welfare Department to immediately shift the Family Counseling Centre from the premises of the Police Commissioner's Office of Bangalore to any other suitable premises. In a letter addressed to the Social Welfare Advisory Board, President of the Forum Mr. A. R. Singh, an Advocate, has also demanded that the practice of serving notices of the counselling centre through police constables be discontinued forthwith. The Forum is of the opinion that the very location of the centre in the office of Police Commissioner and use of constables for service of notices on the respondents has the effect of terrorising already harassed husbands.

Union Carbide Sued

Fifteen Years after thousands were killed in a poison gas leak at a Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal survivors and relatives of the victims have filed a suit in a Manhattan Court, [USA] claiming damages from the company. Apart from the company its former chief Warren Anderson has been named as defendants in the suit.

Class-Action Suit

A class-action suit is filed in California Superior Court at San Francisco against Microsoft basing the cause of action from the Justice Departments Anti trust action against the company. The suit, representing millions of Californians, who use Microsoft operating systems software, accuses the company of using its monopoly in the field to overcharge buyers of Windows 95 and Windows 98. This suit is expected to be a harbinger for a flood of private litigation against companies indulging in monopolistic trade practices.

State Bar Council

Through election notification No. 1/99 dt. 15.12.99 the Secretary of Karnataka State Bar Council has called for particulars from advocates to furnish the information as to whether he/she has suffered any disqualification to disentitle from being included as voter in the final electoral roll under preparation so as to reach him on or before 15.1.2000.

Judges Reject Pay Panel Report

Widespread discontentment has come to fore with hundreds of district judges, directly recruited, rejecting the pay panel recommendations as biased and heavily favouring promotees. The All India Direct Recruit Higher Judicial Service Association, a registered body of the district judges, has reportedly decided to file a writ petition before the Supreme Court challenging some of the recommendations of the pay panel and seek redressal of their grievances.

Referring to the commission's recommendation for a constitutional amendment to permit civil judges to compete for post of district judges the association president Mr. S. N. Dhingra said that the commission has exceeded its jurisdiction and the suggestion would disturb the basic structure of the constitution.

Court In Jail Premises

Chief Justice of India A.S. Anand has suggested a novel idea of judges holding courts inside jail premises to help lessen the agony of thousands of poor and underprivileged, under trials languishing in jails for committing petty offences. Justice Anand, in a recent letter to the Chief Justices of the high courts, suggested that every chief metropolitan magistrate or the chief judicial magistrate of the area in which the district falls, may hold his court once or twice in a month in the jail depending upon the workload in jail to take up the cases of undertrials who are involved in petty offences and are keen to confess their guilt.

NBW against Sessions Judge

A special court in Mumbai, set up under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, has ordered for issue of non-bailable warrant against a sessions Judge Mr. J. W. Singh for his alleged complicity with the underworld don chota shakeel in an extortion case in which the latter is an accused. Mr. Singh is under suspension and is absconding after mumbai high court rejected his plea to quash proceedings against him by its order of December 17, 1999. A country wide alert has been sounded by mumbai police to trace and nab Mr. Singh.

News Focus

□ On 27.11.99 a seminar on the "Indian Democracy-Electoral Reforms" was held under the auspices of the Karnataka State Commission of Jurists at Bangalore.

□ On 3.12.99 RTO authorities conducted tests under the auspices of AAB for grant of learners licence and driving licence to about 500 lawyers.

□ On 21.12.99 Mr. Justice Y. Bhaskar Rao, Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka, inaugurated a workshop on Continuing Legal Education at Bangalore organised by Karnataka State Bar Council in association with the Bar Council of India, Karnataka Judicial Academy and National Law School of India University. The workshop was concluded on 24.12.99 with a validictory address by Mr. Justice S. Rajendra Babu, Judge, Supreme Court of India.

□ On 23.12.99 Mr. Justice M. N. Venkatachalaiah, former Chief Justice of India and former Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, presented M.A. Thomas National Human Rights Award 1999 to renowned social activist and environmentalist Ms. Medha Patkar at Bangalore in a function organised by Vigil India Movement.

□ On 27.11.99 a memorandum signed by 158 members has been submitted to the President, AAB requesting immediate action to remove job typists, stamp vendors and others from the area in front of the AAB city unit premises by withdrawing permission granted to them and to earmark the entire area for the notaries.

Books Released

□ On 13.12.99 Mr. Justice Y. Bhaskar Rao, Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka, released the commentary on the Karnataka Education Act, 1983 written by Prof. B. M. Baliga, Advocate, in a function held at High Court Unit of the AAB. Mr. K.L. Manjunath, President, AAB, presided over the function. The book is priced Rs. 600/- [hard bound], Rs. 500/- [Paperback].

□ On 17.12.99 Mr. Justice V. Gopala Gowda, Judge, High Court of Karnataka released a Kannada book "Hridaya Netri" written by Advocate Smt. Deepa Srinivas at the AAB, City Unit. Smt. Rani Satish, Minister for Kannada and Culture, Government of Karnataka was the Chief guest at the function presided over by Mr. K. L. Manjunath, President, AAB. Renowned Kannada author Dr. Kamala Hampana introduced the book to the audience.

Lahari Law Academy

A trust dated 25.11.99 was registered formally bringing Lahari Law Academy to existence. The following are the trustees of the academy: S/s. S. Vijaya Shankar, Senior Advocate, S. S. Naganand, Advocate, H. S. Dwarakanath, Advocate, N. S. Satyanarayana Gupta, Advocate, President of Lahari Advocates Forum, P.G.G. Chengappa, Advocate, K. G. Raghavan, Advocate, K. P. Kumar, Advocate, K. Kasthuri, Senior Advocate, Udaya Holla, Advocate.

Lahari Advocates Forum

The above Forum has decided to organise 4th Book Fair in Bangalore City Civil Court (Annexe) premises between January, 31st to Feb. 2, 2000 for the benefit of legal fraternity.

Foreign Tour

Mr. S. S. Naganand, Advocate, visited Sri Lanka between 11th and 16th December 1999.

Raghavan XI Winners

In a friendly cricket match held on 19.12.99 at Bangalore K.G. Raghavan and his associates defeated Udaya Holla and his associates. This is the second consecutive year for Raghavan XI to have the victory.

Around the Courts

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Shivkumar Joshi, a member of the scheme applied for payment of his provident fund on July 15, 1992. It was found that the application was not complete as required by para 72(5)(D) of the scheme. Ultimately the claim was settled on August 24, 1992 after the area inspector furnished the necessary particulars. Joshi filed a complaint before the Faridabad District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum on August 26, 1992 alleging deficiency in service and claiming damages of Rs. 65,000/- along with costs. However the District Forum directed the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner to pay costs of Rs. 1,000/- and 18% p.a interest on account of delayed payment. Haryana State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and the National Commission upheld the award. Aggrieved by these awards the RPF Commissioner approached the Supreme Court. While rejecting the RPF Commissioner's case the Supreme Court upheld the awards.

News Panorama

□ Male and female workers in Malaysia can tease one another without breaking the code of sexual harassment and if either side does not take exception, the lower house of Malaysian parliament during November 99. Human Resource Deputy Minister Affifuddin Omar, said "If a Male staffer teases a female Colleague who does not feel slighted, then it is not harassment".

□ Pradeep Nagra, a bearded sikh boxer of Toronto, Canada, recently won a court order allowing him to compete in the national boxing championship. Nagra had approached the court contending that the ground on which he was debarred from participating in the competition was arbitrary and opposed to his religious prescription which expects a sikh to keep beard. However, the Canadian Amateur Boxing Association cancelled an entire weight division following the court ruling.

□ A French court in December 99 sentenced an Indian businessman Chand Mehta to a six month jail term for violating trade mark and copy rights law on a complaint given by French Car Manufacturer Peugeot. In addition to the prison term, the chief exports manager of Jaipur-based Auto Lite India Ltd., has been asked to pay a fine of Rs. 15,00,000/-. The appellate court released him on bail after Mr. Mehta had been arrested by the French Police and undergone two weeks jail term.

□ Attorneys - general from through out the US want a ban on the sale of bidis from India. They have complained that the hand-rolled bidis have more than three times the amount of nicotine and more than five times the amount of tar compared to regular cigarettes. Additionally, bidis are flavoured clove, chocolate and strawberry and other tastes to make them more appealing to young people in America. The National Association of Attorneys-general spokesman said, "we are writing to congress to urge that the federal government do everything possible to enforce laws to ensure that bidis are not available to children in the US."

□ The fight against music piracy on the internet has received a shot in the arm after a court in France recently convicted pirate operators of illegally distributing albums of music reporters. The december 6th ruling against a computer technician and information technology student is the first criminal judgment against internet pirates in Europe. The 2 men were given 3 months suspended prison sentences and ordered to pay \$ 15,300 in damages.

Bomb Scare in High Court

During the last week of December 1999 threatening phone calls are received at the high court warning that "Naxlites" will blast the court by using bombs. Following this security has been beefed up and all the court halls are thoroughly searched and screened by the police. Dog squads and explosive experts are also pressed into service with a view to ward off any eventuality. A high alert has been sounded by the police.

Weddings

□ On 3.12.99 Mr. A. Lakshminarayana, Advocate, Kolar married Ms. S. Veena at Kolar.

□ On 27.12.99 Ms. Yashoda married Mr. H. S. Govinda Vatsa at Tumkur. Ms. Yashoda is daughter of Mr. Krishnamurthy, Advocate.

Officebearers elected

In the general body meeting of Ramanagara, Bar Association, held on 18.12.99 Mr. N. Subba Sastry, Advocate, has been unanimously elected as president of the association for the third consecutive term. Mr. M. H. Kumar, Advocate and Mr. V. N. Jayaramu, Advocate, have also been elected unanimously as the secretary and treasurer.

KAT to continue

In a major policy reversal of the Janata Dal Government the Congress Government in Karnataka has decided to continue and reactivate the functioning of Karnataka Administrative Tribunal to deal with the grievances of its employees.

Obituary

□ M. Bashir Ahmed, Advocate, practicing at Mayo Hall unit passed away at Itarsi, Madhya Pradesh on 5.12.99.

□ On 8.12.99 K. N. Shankaralingappa, Advocate, passed away at Bangalore.

□ On 10.12.99 C. S. Shanthamallappa [67], Advocate, passed away at Bangalore.

□ On 12.12.99 B. Krishnoji Rao, Advocate, practicing at Magistrates Court Unit, passed away at Bangalore.