

PGC Chengappa Memorial Lecture

J| Raveendran on Corruption

“Each of us thinks that laws need be applied to others strictly and they should be exempted. When we are the beneficiaries of corruption we do not raise a voice against it” said J| R.V.Raveendran, delivering PGC Chengappa Memorial lecture in Bangalore. He was speaking on the subject, ‘Corruption – certain dimensions’.

J\ Raveendran, the guest speaker at the 5th PGC Chengappa Memorial Lecture organised by Lahari Advocates Forum in the memory of its first president, examined different dimensions of corruption, its effect on society, common man’s participation and reaction to corruption and ways and means to check it. He opined that complete eradication of corruption is well nigh impossible. The guest lecture was organised on 18th November.

Theoretically examining different dimensions of the menace of corruption, the speaker said when a common man is caught for an offence he would prefer to bribe the law enforcement authority and get out of the scene. He said many would raise their voice only when they are victims of corruption and when they are beneficiaries corruption is acceptable to them.

The next stage of corruption according to J| Raveendran is when a person in power does not perform his statutory duties and expect favours from the intending beneficiaries.

Acquisition of land far in excess of requirement for an intended project by the Government officials and resorting to the process of denotification for corrupt gain, said the retired judge, is worst form and height of corruption.

To draw home the point that certain laws are made use by corrupt bureaucracy to make illegal gain, J| Raveendran cited the example of now repealed Urban Land Ceiling Act and its notorious Sec.20 which enabled urban landlords to save excess land beyond ceiling by resorting to corrupt practice. He recalled that the loophole in Sec. 20 defeated the very object of the Act. He opined that one of the reasons for corruption raising its ugly head is fewer opportunities and greater aspirants seeking to avail to those

limited opportunities, be it housing sites or jobs. He hoped that restricting population growth would bring down corruption when there would be many opportunities and not many applicants. He felt that corruption by bureaucracy should be nipped in the bud by making it difficult to deviate from procedure rather than prosecuting corrupt officials. He wondered what number of courts, judges and prosecutors are required to prosecute all corrupt officials and politicians.

J| Raveendran concluded the lecture by hoping that by strengthening existing anti corruption laws and by proper utilization of the benefits of Right to Information Act, level of corruption could be brought down.

Addressing a packed gathering of Advocates and Judges in the Patron-in-Chief hall in the premises of High Court of Karnataka, J| Raveendran was cautious not to mention corruption in judiciary even once during his hour long talk.

J| Vikramajit Sen, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of was the Guest of Honour. S.V. Srinivasa Moorthy, President, Lahari Advocates Forum, preside over the programme.