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CIC tells Law Ministry to give details on Chief Justice Bhalla

New Delhi, Jan 23: The Law Ministry has been directed by the CIC to disclose all information and file notings on appointment of Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh Jagdish Bhalla, who was in the middle of a controversy when a file on his promotion was returned by the former President.

Chief Justice Bhalla who was earlier the acting Chief Justice of Chattisgarh was facing allegations of misconduct during his tenure in the Allahabad High Court.

In 2006, he was recommended to be elevated as the Chief Justice of Kerala. But the move ran into a controversy after former President A P J Abdul Kalam raised an objection.

After his objections, the collegium headed by Chief Justice K G Balakrishnan shifted him to Chattisgarh High Court as a Judge. Later, he became the acting Chief Justice of that High Court.

An internet-based protest, with an online signature campaign, was also launched soon after his transfer to Chattisgarh.

A representative of pressure group, The Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Judicial Reforms, Shanti Bhushan, had even urged MPs to move an impeachment motion against Justice Bhalla for alleged irregularities.

The direction to Law Ministry by the CIC came in connection with RTI activist Subhash Chandra Agrawal plea in which he sought documents, comprising correspondence between Union Law Minister and other constitutional authorities, related to Chief Justice Bhalla's appointment.

In his application, Agrawal demanded notes of the Law Ministry along with file notings on the appointment.

Bureau Report