

Judges' assets: Karnataka Chief Justice in trouble

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UNDER ATTACK: Senior jurists including Shanti Bhushan (inset) have made allegation against PD Dinakaran.

New Delhi: Karnataka High Court Chief Justice PD Dinakaran's assets are under scrutiny and the Chief Justice of India KG Balakrishnan has asked him to respond to allegations that he has amassed assets disproportionate to his income.

The CJI had summoned Karnataka's Chief Justice to Delhi on Saturday to answer allegations made by senior jurists Fali Nariman and Shanti Bhushan on the basis of complaints based in Chennai that he has acquired huge assets.

Bhushan and other representatives will meet Union Law Minister M Veerappa Moily on Thursday to discuss the charges.

Justice Dinakaran is one of five judges recommended for elevation to the Supreme Court of India.

Backed by the senior jurists, Madras High court lawyers had sent detailed list of charges against Dinakaran. Following the allegation Bhushan strongly recommended in the letter to the CJI that Dinakaran not be elevated to the Supreme Court.

Bhushan also alleged that the CJI did not consult with Justice Markandey Katju and Justice Asok Kumar Ganguly, who were posted with Dinakaran during his tenure with the Madras High Court.

"He is said to have amassed huge amount of assets as a judge. There are lots of allegations against him. Please consult those judges in the Supreme Court who were his Chief Justices in Madras. Then, I am sure he will not be appointed," said Bhushan.

"Madras lawyers sent a detailed list of charges against Dinakaran. They said that through his family, he has acquired 700 acres of land on which he runs an estate, there is a road named after him, and there are other corruption charges as well," he added.

Dinakaran has reportedly denied all charges.

Meanwhile, in a statement, the Chairman of the Bar Council Suraj Narain Prasad Sinha termed the charges very serious and called for urgent deliberation by the CJI, Prime Minister and Law Minister.

The list of allegations against Dinakaran is long. He has allegedly acquired over 450 acres of land, under his own name as well as his wife and daughter.

He reportedly convened a bail adalat, releasing 500 people in just an hour; favouring some hardcore criminals.

There are also alleged discrepancies in the Binni Cotton Mills case, where Rs 50 crore concessions were given to one company on the basis of a submission made by the government counsel. The counsel later denied making any submission.