

PM calls for introspection on judicial appointments

12 Sep 2008, 0041 hrs IST,TNN

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/PM_calls_for_introspection_on_judicial_appointments/articleshow/3472904.cms

NEW DELHI: With judiciary reeling under the embarrassment of allegations of corruption facing several of its members, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday called for "introspection" on judicial appointments.

Singh, who was speaking at the launch of a book "Judicial Reflections of Justice Bhagwati", was quoted by agencies as saying that the time has come for "introspection on judicial appointments".

The remark coincided with a spike in concern over corruption in judiciary over the past month or so when many skeletons have tumbled out of the judicial cupboard. It was not clear whether by calling for introspection Singh was, besides lamenting the slide in standards, also calling for a fresh look at the existing scheme of judicial recruitments.

Singh's concern about the decline in quality of judicial recruitments came off clearly. The agency report said that PM, while referring to the impressive credentials of Justice P N Bhagwati, said that a review of recruitments was necessary to ensure that judicial appointments at all levels lived up to the standards associated with the former CJI.

"There is no doubt that the personal record and reputation of those who sit in judgement does not shape our view of the judicial system," the agency report quoted the PM saying.

This was not the first time that the PM had expressed his anxiety about the falling standards. This time, however, they may have greater resonance.