

## Centre moves to impeach HC judge

NEW DELHI: The Centre will move an impeachment motion against Calcutta High Court judge Soumitra Sen on a recommendation by Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan seeking his dismissal for corrupt practices which have brought disrepute to the judiciary.

The government was forced to respond after the CJI's recommendations were reported in the media on Monday. Law minister H R Bhardwaj said an impeachment motion would be placed before Parliament on October 17 when it is scheduled to meet. The impeachment will follow an inquiry to be carried out by the presiding officers of both Houses.

In a letter to the PM dated August 4, the CJI said a committee of senior judges had found Justice Sen to have misappropriated around Rs 24 lakh in a case where he had been appointed receiver in the 1990s. He was then a lawyer practising in the Calcutta HC and had deposited the money in his own accounts.

He had also given a "false explanation" to the HC about Rs 25 lakh having been invested while the money had been withdrawn and invested in a venture that went into liquidation.

The HC had passed an adverse order in April 2006, forcing Sen to deposit a sum of nearly Rs 58 lakh which included interest on the money which had been misappropriated.

With the government moving the impeachment motion, Justice Sen is certain to be dismissed unless he chooses to resign — an option offered to him by CJI but which he has chosen to turn down.