

Impeachment notice against Calcutta HC judge admitted

New Delhi, Feb 27 : Rajya Sabha Chairman Hamid Ansari has admitted a petition filed by 58 members of the House for impeachment of Calcutta High Court Judge Soumitra Sen on grounds of financial misconduct.

With admission of the impeachment notice, a process has been initiated for forming a committee of three judges as required under the Judges Inquiry Act, sources said.

The committee would comprise a Supreme Court Judge, a High Court Judge and an eminent jurist, he said.

The MPs, drawn from BJP, CPI(M), CPI, NCP, RJD, TDP, AIADMK and JD(U), submitted a petition jointly signed by them to Ansari on February 20 for Justice Sen's misconduct on the grounds of misappropriation and misrepresentation of funds.

The petition, the first step in the process of impeachment, was based on the recommendation of Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishna n to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for removal of Justice Sen.

In the internal inquiry held by the CJI, Justice Sen was found to have indulged in a financial misconduct prior to his elevation to the Bench.

He allegedly received Rs.32 lakh as court-appointed receiver in a lawsuit between the Steel Authority of India Ltd and Shipping Corporation of India and deposited the amount in his personal account.