

A brief report on

## “Right to Justice and Judicial Reforms”

A seminar organised by Academy for Socio-Legal Studies in Jaipur

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On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2007 a seminar was held in Jaipur on 'Right to Justice & Judicial Accountability. It was organized by The Committee for Accountability and Judicial Reforms and Academy for socio-legal studies. In the seminar a number of social organizations, eminent citizens, Jurist and Advocates were present. They included Shri Prashant Bhushan, Shri Prem Krishan Sharma both Supreme Court Advocates. Shri Suresh Vyas , Shri Than Singh, Shri P.N. Mandola, Shri Sawai Singh, Shri Nikhil Dey, Ms.Renuka Pamecha, Ms. Nishat Hussain, Ms Lad Kumari, Ms.Sumitra Chopra , Ms Kavita Srivastav ,Ms Memta Jetly ,Ms Asha Kalra & many others. The seminar was presided by Shri Prem Krishan Sharma, Than Singhji & Ms. Renuka Pamecha. Shri Prashant Bhushan was the chief speaker. The seminar was conducted by Shri Suresh Vyas.

Shri Kailash Chand Kumbhkar Advocate on behalf of Academy for Socio-Legal Studies gave a history of the activities of the Academy with regard to Right to Justice movement starting from the Public hearing on Judicial system held in the month of August 2001. Shri Prem Krishan Sharma who is also president of Academy placed a concept of a 'people oriented judiciary.' He said that the present feudal system must be completely done away with and a new people

oriented system which is easily accessible, transparent, and based on good faith and social consciousness should be evolved. If there is a will the job is not impossible. The appointment of judges should be transparent. They should not only possess legal knowledge but must have social concern also. The judges may come from any social field provided they are knowledgeable and sensitive at the same time. They should undergo extensive training both theoretical and practical to develop their social commitments. More over they should have worked with the deprived sections of the society in order to give them a proper background. The work of Judiciary should be in peoples' language, procedure should be simplified and the system as a whole should be made accountable.

Shri Prashant Bhushan gave a detailed account of the activities of the committee for judicial accountability and Reforms. He stressed on the need for taking this movement to every corner of the society. He also cited examples such as of Justice Sabharwal, Ashok Bhalla & ors. To show corruption and high handedness with regard to appointment and working of some Judges. He said that the committee has already exposed some of them and will continue to do this in order to clean up the system. He said that the mentality of Indian Judiciary has completely changed after advent of globalization and has now become completely antipeople. Therefore the spread and consistency of the movement is essential.

Other Speakers which included all the above named expressed their views and narrated their experiences of judicial working. They cited examples of sati cases and Bhanwari Devi case in which all the accused were able to get free. All agreed that the present system is not only time consuming and expensive but in fact it has become redundant as far as true justice to the people is concerned.

Even the avenue of public interest litigation which initially emerged as a ray of hope is now being gradually squeezed by the same Judiciary. In the end they all agreed to work for strengthening the movement of Right to Justice and support the activities of committee for Judicial Accountability and Reforms.

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*Compiled by Shri Prem Krishan Sharma from Academy for Socio-legal Studies*