

Prosecution of Mayawati recommended

Enough evidence, CVC tells Supreme Court

Legal Correspondent

27/8

NEW DELHI: The Central Vigilance Commission on Monday told the Supreme Court that there were "adequate grounds" to prosecute former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati in the Rs. 175-crore Taj corridor scam. This opinion runs contrary to that of Attorney-General Milon K. Banerjee, based on which the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation had decided not to proceed against her.

Not accepting the CBI's stand, the apex court in March directed the CVC to scrutinise the CBI materials pertaining to the investigation and submit a report.

In the light of the CVC recommending the prosecution of Ms. Mayawati and five others, a three-Judge Bench, comprising Justice Ruma Pal, Justice S.B. Sinha and Justice S.H. Kapadia, directed that all of them be impleaded. The Bench directed them to file a proper application in this regard within a week and a rejoinder by the parties concerned a week thereafter.

Apex court's direction

The apex court in February asked Solicitor-General G.E. Vahanvati how the CBI could close the case without the leave of the court and directed the CBI to produce all the material before the CVC. On March 14, the CBI submitted 18 volumes of material relating to the investigation.

The CVC, in its report to the court, recommended the prosecution of Ms. Mayawati, former State Environment Minister Naseemuddin Siddiqui and former State Environment Secretary R.K. Sharma and officials Rajendra Prasad, Kamal Radhu and M. Sharma. The CVC agreed



- Supreme Court directs Mayawati, five others to be impleaded
- Court asked CVC to scrutinise CBI's material in March
- CVC agrees with CBI decision to close cases against five persons

with the CBI decision to close the cases against former Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary D.S. Bagga, Mayawati's former personal secretary P.L. Punia, former Union Environment Secretary K.C. Mishra, former State Environment Secretary V.K. Gupta and S.C. Bali, managing director of the company that undertook the contract for the Taj heritage corridor project.

Senior counsel K.K. Venugopal, appearing for Ms. Mayawati, questioned the CVC's recommendation and said the supervision of the CVC would not mean it could direct the manner in which the CBI should conduct the investigation and file a charge sheet. He said it would be the exclusive jurisdiction of the CBI to file a case or not and once the Attorney-General had given his opinion to close the case, the CVC could not recommend prosecution.

23 AUG 2006 THE HINDU

Akali Dal, SGPC reject riot report

"A shameful governmental shield for killers and rapists," says Parkash Singh Badal

Staff Correspondent

CHANDIGARH: Shiromani Akali Dal president Parkash Singh Badal has described the Centre's Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Nanavati Commission's indictment of Congress leaders for organising and leading the brutal massacre of innocent Sikhs in 1984 as "a shameful governmental shield for killers and rapists."

Reacting to the events in Parliament on Monday, Mr. Badal through a statement issued here said, "August 8 will go down in history as a day of national humiliation, constitutional disgrace and daylight murder of rule of law and human values. The report and the Government's follow up are destined to become a witness of the extent to which the conscience of the nation had been muted."

President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) Bibi Jagir Kaur rejected the Commission's report as well as the Government's ATR, as a mere eyewash aimed at protecting those guilty. She described it a cheap political gimmick by the Congress.

Mr. Badal said no one had expected justice from the Congress-led Government at the Centre, but it had exceeded all limits to hand out a verdict that

virtually paints the victims of 1984 as the villains. He said the development had dealt a death-blow to the hopes of those who had believed that the events of 1984 were a tragic aberration and that the country would bring about the necessary moral and constitutional rectification by punishing the guilty.

Mr. Badal asked Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh if his self-respect still allowed him to keep clinging to his job in the wake of the brazen denial of justice to the Sikhs by his party. "Let him tell the people of Punjab if he seriously believes that the Congress leaders were not guilty of this most heinous massacre of innocent men, women and children in 1984," he said.

Mr. Badal also took on Congress president Sonia Gandhi and said it was her personal, political and moral responsibility to speak the truth and ensure deliverance of justice as UPA chairperson.

The Akali leader said the Nanavati report had enough evidence against senior Congress leaders such as Jagdish Tytler, Sajjan Kumar and Dharam Das Shastri. The Commission's report and the Government's ATR had rubbed salt in the gaping wounds of the Sikhs, Mr. Badal said.



VOCIFEROUS PROTESTS: Akali Dal MPs raising slogans outside Parliament House soon after the Nanavati Commission report was tabled in Parliament. - PHOTO: V. SUDERSHAN

✓
g.p.c.
Akali Dal
9/8
11D-9

09 AUG 2005 THE HINDU

Bangarappa quits LS seat, now Karnataka SP chief

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, March 10

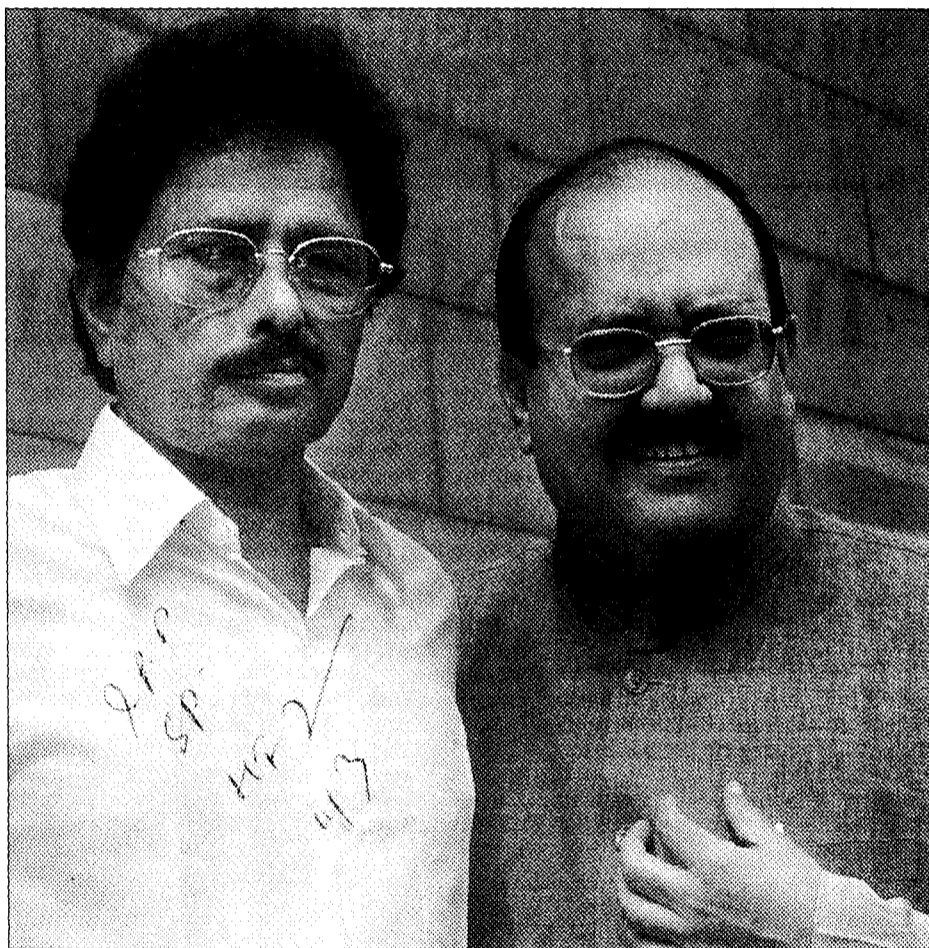
FORMER KARNATAKA chief minister S. Bangarappa, who quit the BJP earlier this week, on Thursday resigned his Lok Sabha seat and joined the Samajwadi Party. The veteran leader will now become SP president in Karnataka.

Seventy-two-year-old Bangarappa had joined BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha elections and had won the elections from Shimoga in Karnataka. Speaker Somnath Chatterjee announced in the Lok Sabha ahead of Question Hour that he had accepted Bangarappa's resignation.

The Karnataka leader, who had long association with the Congress before joining the BJP, was admitted to the Samajwadi Party by its president and UP chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav at the party headquarters. Several party leaders and MPs including Amar Singh, Ram Gopal Yadav, Jaya Bachchan, Jaya Prada and Salim Shervani were present.

Mulayam said Bangarappa was an old socialist and his entry into the Samajwadi Party should encourage all former socialists to come together and the party benefit from his vast political experience. Bangarappa said a big party convention would be held in Bangalore on March 25.

Asked why he had quit the BJP, he said the party did not keep its word on following secularism. It was



S. Bangarappa with Samajwadi Party general secretary Amar Singh at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday.

wrong to say that he left the party because he was not given certain office. In a prepared statement, Bangarappa said the Congress talked of secularism but was responsible for Babri demolition and anti-Sikh riots. "They may be the new power lords of the nation but

they are definitely not secularists," he said, adding the Congress party's incompetence as a political force became conspicuous when it failed to stop the communal force during Narendra Modi's rule in Gujarat.

In this "dark hour," he said the Samajwadi Party

had humbled the BJP in UP and brought down its parliamentary strength substantially. The Samajwadi Party was the principal force fighting the communal forces in UP and without its role, the Congress could not head the UPA government in Delhi, he said.

Rabri stakes claim, Buta plays safe

HT Correspondent
Patna, March 5

AFTER THE Sibtey Razi fiasco in Ranchi, Bihar Governor Buta Singh is playing it safe in Patna.

Hours after Rabri Devi formally staked claim to form the next government, Buta assured an NDA team he would invite only that combination which submits to him sworn affidavits of support from at least 122 MLAs, conclusively proving its majority in the 243-member House.

Rabri, who was accompanied to Raj Bhavan by husband Lalu Prasad Yadav, fell far short of that figure. "We have submitted a list of 75 RJD MLAs, 10 of Congress, 3 of NCP, 2 of BSP and 1 of CPI(M) who have pledged their support to us," Lalu told reporters after the

Soren has 9 days

THE NEXT session of the Jharkhand Assembly will begin on March 10 and the vote of confidence will be held on March 15, sources said in Ranchi. The Speaker will be elected on March 11.

PTI, Ranchi

meeting with Buta.

Later, an NDA team met Buta to ask him not to invite Rabri to form the government, BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi told reporters. He claimed that 144 MLAs — 92 of the NDA, 29 of LJP, 7 of CPI-ML, 4 of Samajwadi Party and 12 Independents — had pledged not to support RJD. "We have been assured

by the Governor that he would abide by the Constitution and no injustice would be done," Modi said.

Neither the NDA nor the RJD has any hope of reaching the figure of 122 without support from Ram Vilas Paswan's LJP. Paswan, however, has stuck to his decision to oppose both groups.

Several Independents, led by Jagdish Sharma, too met the Governor today. They said they had taken the initiative to get Paswan and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar to form a non-RJD, non-BJP government. "If they fail to clinch a deal, we (the Independents) should be given a chance to form the government," Sharma said.

Fellow independent Kishore Kumar Munna chipped in: "We don't want President's Rule."

■ See also Page 2

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

06 MAR 2005

Lalu looks for way out

Stateaman News Service

PATNA, Feb. 28. — For the first time in the past 15 years, RJD chief and railway minister Mr Lalu Prasad finds himself caught in a tricky situation with no "escape route" in sight and all options running out. With elections throwing up a fractured mandate and "king maker" Mr Ram Vilas Paswan proving to be a hard nut to crack even after 36 hours of the announcement of results (he has written to the Governor informing him of his stand not to support either the RJD or the BJP) both the "Raja of Bihar" and his chief minister wife have become wary about their fate. RJD legislators are to elect their leader tomorrow.

Under the prevailing situation, the powerful Yadav couple is apprehensive of losing their respective posts to see their party in office for the fourth consecutive term. As such, this is the only option, say observers. It is also the only condition for Mr Paswan's support to the RJD in government formation.

Given some half-a-dozen fodder scam cases as well as the cases relating to disproportionate assets in which Mr Prasad is an accused, he can hardly afford to quit the Bihar chair or withdraw his party's support to the UPA government at the Centre. Political compulsions have apparently forced the RJD chief to use "respectable" language towards his "enemy No. 1" Mr Paswan who holds the key to government formation and not name the chief ministerial candidate.

While Mr Paswan has been advocating a minority candidate for the chief minister's post, he categorically declared that he would neither support the RJD nor the BJP. The LJP president's stand leaves room for the return of a "secular" government in the state. Mr Prasad's curious silence on the chief ministerial candidate has added grist to the rumour mill. "Our party will decide who will be the chief minister" was



Mr Lalu Prasad and his wife, Mrs Rabri Devi, address the media in Patna after the chief minister tendered her resignation to the Governor on Monday. — PTI

all that Mr Prasad had to say when asked if Mrs Rabri Devi would be the RJD candidate for the job.

She is in office since 25 July 1997 when Mr Prasad had to resign as chief minister after being charge-sheeted in the fodder scam.

Replacing Mrs Rabri Devi with a Muslim leader will not only send a positive signal to the minority community about Mr Paswan but also serve a crushing blow to the already crumbling edifice of the RJD built with the support of the M-Y (Muslim-Yadav) equation. The LJP has succeeded in breaking the RJD's M-Y equation to a great extent. Mr Paswan formed the D-M (Dalit-Muslims) equation to counter RJD's M-Y factor and he seems to have gained. Thus, the appointment of a Muslim to the hot seat will consolidate Mr Paswan's base. He is keeping his cards close to his chest.

Rabri resigns

PATNA, Feb. 28. — Mrs Rabri Devi today submitted her resignation to Governor Mr Buta Singh who asked her to continue in office till alternative arrangements were made. The chief minister, accompanied by her husband Mr Lalu Prasad, reached Raj Bhavan around 11 a.m. and submitted her resignation. Mr Prasad said later that his party would stake claim to form a government in the state after consulting "secular" parties. — SNS

UPA meet today

The UPA Coordination Committee is to meet in Delhi tomorrow. Though the meeting has been convened to discuss the Budget, it is expected that Mrs Sonia Gandhi would hold parleys with Mr Lalu Prasad and Mr Ram Vilas Paswan. But sources said, a solution would take time given the bitterness between the Bihar strongmen.