

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

This file relates to the proposal for appointment of following four Judicial Officers as Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court and three Judicial Officers as Judges of the Telangana High Court:

- 1 Ms. B.S. Bhanumathi (A.P.),
- 2 Shri Ch. Manavendranath Roy (A.P.),
- 3 Smt. P. Sree Sudha (Telangana),
- 4 Shri M.Venkata Ramana (A.P.),
- 5 Smt. C. Sumalatha (Telangana),
- 6 Shri A. Hari Haranadha Sarma (A.P.), and
- 7 Shri N. Tukaramji (Telangana).

The above recommendation was made by the then Chief Justice of the erstwhile common High Court for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on 27th September, 2018, in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues. Views of the Chief Ministers and the Governor for the two States are placed in the file.

The High Court Collegium in its recommendation has recorded that Officers at Sl. Nos.1, 2, 4, and 6 are selected and recommended against Andhra Pradesh State Service quota and Officers at Sl. Nos.3, 5, and 7 would be considered for being recommended against Telangana State

Service quota. While the above proposal was under process, two separate High Courts viz., Andhra Pradesh High Court and Telangana High Court, came to be constituted. The seven recommendees are accordingly being considered for elevation in their respective High Courts.

In order to ascertain suitability of the above-named recommendees mentioned at Sl. Nos.3, 5 and 7 above, for elevation to the Telangana High Court, we have consulted our colleague conversant with the affairs of the Telangana High Court. A copy of his letter of opinion received in this regard is placed below. As regards recommendees at Sl. Nos.1, 2, 4, and 6 above, there is no sitting Judge in the Supreme Court outside the Collegium for being consulted for this purpose.

For purpose of assessing merit and suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have carefully scrutinized the material on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as a complaint against one of the above-named recommendees. Apart from this, we considered it appropriate to interact with all the recommendees. On the basis of interaction and having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that S/Shri (1) Ch. Manavendranath Roy, and (2) M. Venkata Ramana (mentioned at Sl. Nos. 2 and 4 above) are suitable for being appointed as Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

As regards (1) Ms. B.S. Bhanumathi, (2) Smt. P. Sree Sudha, (3) Smt. C. Sumalatha (4) Shri A. Hari Haranadha Sarma, and (5) Shri N. Tukaramji (mentioned at Sl. Nos.1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 above), consideration of the proposal for their elevation is deferred for the present.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (1) Ch. Manavendranath Roy, and (2) M. Venkata Ramana, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Ranjan Gogoi), C.J.I.

(S.A. Bobde), J.

(N.V.Ramana), J.

April 15, 2019.

