

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

F.No. 3/Judl./2024
7th February, 2024.

C I R C U L A R

This Hon'ble Court *vide* order dated 10th January, 2024, passed in *Shama Sharma* versus *Kishan Kumar* (Transfer Petition (C) No.1957 of 2023), while observing that the caste of the parties need not be mentioned in the memo of parties, has been, *inter alia*, pleased to direct as under:

“10. Before parting with this matter, we have noted with surprise that the caste of both the parties has been mentioned in the memo of parties, besides their other details. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that if the memo of parties as filed before the courts below is changed in any manner, the Registry raises an objection and in the present case as the caste of both the parties was mentioned before the court below, he had no option but to mention their caste in the Transfer Petition.

11. We see no reason for mentioning the caste/religion of any litigant either before this Court or the courts below. Such a practice is to be shunned and must be ceased forthwith. It is therefore deemed appropriate to pass a general order directing that henceforth the caste or religion of parties shall not be mentioned in the memo of parties of a petition/proceeding filed before this Court, irrespective of whether any such details have been furnished before the courts below. A direction is also issued to all the High Courts to ensure that the caste/religion of a litigant does not appear in the memo of parties in any petition/suit/proceeding filed before the High Court or the Subordinate Courts under their respective jurisdictions.

12. The above directions shall be brought to the notice of the members of the Bar as well as the Registry for immediate compliance. A copy of this order shall be placed before the Registrar concerned for perusal and for circulation to the Registrar Generals of all the High Courts for strict compliance.”

In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Court, as above, all the concerned Officers/officials of the Registry are hereby directed to adhere to the aforesaid directions that henceforth the caste or religion of parties shall not be mentioned in the memo of parties of a petition/proceeding filed before this Hon'ble Court, irrespective of whether any such details have been furnished before the Courts below.

The members of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on-Record Association may also kindly take note of the directions of this Hon'ble Court, quoted above.

-sd/-
[Puneet Sehgal]
Registrar (Judl. Admn.)

-sd/-
[Pavanesh D.]
Registrar (Judl. Listing)

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Supreme Court Bar Association with a request that this circular may be given publicity for the information of the Members of the Association.
2. The Secretary, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association with a request that this circular may be given wide publicity for the information of the Members of the Association.
3. All concerned.