

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

This file relates to the proposal for appointment of following three Judicial Officers as Judges of the Uttarakhand High Court:

1. Shri Narayan Singh Dhanik
2. Shri Ramesh Chandra Khulbe
3. Shri Ravindra Maithani.

The above recommendation made by the then Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court, against three Service vacancies which existed on 29th May, 2018, in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues, has the concurrence of the State Government of Uttarakhand.

For purpose of assessing merit and suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have carefully scrutinized the material placed on record and the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file. Apart from this, we invited all the recommendees with a view to have an interaction with them. On the basis of interaction and having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that all the three recommendees viz. S/Shri (1) Narayan Singh Dhanik, (2) Ramesh Chandra Khulbe, and (3) Ravindra Maithani are suitable for being appointed as Judges of the Uttarakhand High Court.

Certain complaints against the recommendations made by the High Court Collegium and representations regarding non-recommendation of some senior Judicial Officers have been placed before us. Having gone through the justification given by the High Court Collegium in the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th May, 2018 for recommending the above three names, we do not find any substance therein.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (1) Narayan Singh Dhanik, (2) Ramesh Chandra Khulbe, and (3) Ravindra Maithani, Judicial Officers be appointed as Judges of the Uttarakhand High Court against the first three of the four existing service vacancies. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Ranjan Gogoi), C.J.I.

(Madan B. Lokur), J.

(Kurian Joseph), J.

October 31, 2018.

