



SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI-110001 (INDIA)

02.11.2020

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** Mr. Ashok Arora suspended from the post of Hony. Secretary vide EC resolution Dated 08.05.2020*

Respected and distinguished Members of the Supreme Court Bar Association

I address this communication with the Vice President, Mr. Kailash Vasdev to update you with developments on the issue of Allotment of Chambers for Lawyers in the Additional Complex of the Supreme Court at Pragati Maidan.

First and foremost, we would like to give you good news. The Hon'ble Chamber Committee presided over by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nariman comprising of Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.U. Lalit and Hon'ble Mr. Justice L.N. Rao have been extra ordinarily supportive to our members with a positive attitude on the issue. Thanks to their intervention and guidance, Members of the SCBA are likely to get approximately 475-500 chambers as against 234 presently constructed Chambers in the block allocated for this purpose. In addition, their Lordships have been kind to agree that in the vacant land behind the complex admeasuring 1.33 acres where Supreme Court Archives are proposed, a Chamber Block will be constructed so as to provide additional 300-400 chambers. Thus, in all, the SCBA will get approximately 800-900 chambers.

The first meeting of the Chamber Committee had taken place on February 6, 2020 wherein on the suggestion of the SCBA, the Hon'ble Committee had agreed to allot Halls on several floors for being converted into cubicles to be allotted to members in addition to the constructed 234 chambers. In that meeting it was agreed to prepare a design for this purpose. However, with COVID-19 intervening, and lockdown having been announced, the progress was delayed.

Following, my letter dated 22nd September, 2020, to the Hon'ble Committee, the Hon'ble Committee immediately convened a meeting on September 27, 2020. This meeting was attended by Shri Kailash Vasdev, Vice President and myself on behalf of the SCBA. The Hon'ble Committee presented a Layout so as to make the entire Block with Chambers for single occupation and not chambers plus cubicles as was originally thought of. The CPWD was advised to prepare a design in this regard. Discussions also took place to ensure that fire and other Provisions for safety were made.

During the discussions it emerged that approximately 470-490 Chambers could be provided in the New Complex, I.C. 234 existing Chambers and balance approximately 250 chambers



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being made available by conversion of open space in Halls. This was an outstanding and extremely positive suggestion from the Hon'ble Committee and as your Representatives we enthusiastically accepted the same with gratitude.

A further meeting took place on October 5, 2020, which was attended only by the Vice president, Shri Kailash Vasdev, as I had to leave Delhi for urgent and personal reasons. Registry officials including the Secretary General and concerned Registrars were present. Revised drawings were presented and discussed and changes were suggested by Lordships and Shri Vasdev as to conform to Safety Standards which may necessitate a small adjustment chamber sizes. Although, this may reduce a few chambers, safety being the top priority, this was agreed to. A final Layout for the entire Chamber Block making provision for 470-490 chambers was to be made available by CPWD before October end.

During this meeting, the Secretary General had informed Hon'ble Committee that Change of Land Use had been permitted in 1.33 acres of land behind the New Pragati Maidan Complex where Supreme Court Archives building was proposed. Upon request by the Vice President, Shri Kailash Vasdev, that the chamber Block be constructed therein, the Hon'ble Committee readily agreed to the suggestion and it was tentatively suggested that 350-400 chambers could be provided there. This is a very welcome development for the Bar. In addition a suggestion is to be made to the Chamber Allotment Committee to allot the existing chambers available on the demise/departure of existing allottees.

Friends, it gives us immense pleasure to inform you that the issue of Allotment of Chambers will be resolved sooner than anticipated and a final decision would be taken by the Hon'ble Chamber Committee in it's next meeting. The same will be communicated to you. However, we felt that the Members must be informed of the developments since delay has rightly caused anxiety among all of us.

Friends, on the eve of Deepawali, we extend our Season's Greetings to You and Your Families and Wish you Season's Greetings.

Warmly,

DUSHYANT DAVE
President

KAILASH VASDEV
Vice President