

OBITUARY REFERENCE

My Lords, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi, Mr. Justice M. K. Sharma and his Hon'ble Companion Judges, Mr. K.C. Mittal, President of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Central Government Standing Counsels, Ms. Mukta Gupta, Standing Counsel for Delhi Administration [Criminal], Mr. J.R. Midha, Standing Counsel for Delhi Administration [Civil] Additional Standing Counsels and counsels for various other bodies and statutory authorities, Mrs. Krishna Bhandari, widow of Late Mr. Surinder Nath Bhandari, Mr. Surhid Bhandari and Mr. Sanjeev Bhandari, sons of Late Mr. S. N. Bhandari, my esteemed colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. Though Mr. Bhandari passed his law in 1953, he started practice only in February, 1963 after his stint with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Punjab and Delhi Chambers of Commerce. I have known Late Mr. Bhandari since that time. He was a man of knowledge and learning and his knowledge made him a very confident person. He was always cool and unconcerned with what was happening around and was always focused only on his cases. He had never taken part in bar politics or bar gossips and like a true soldier he was concerned and only concerned with his cases which he had to argue. He was always thoroughly prepared with his brief and it was a great pleasure to see him how meticulously he argued his matters.

3. He was an authority on Labour Laws and had argued important matters in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, this Hon'ble Court and various Industrial Tribunals. Some of the matters which he argued in the Hon'ble Supreme Court include the matter of (i) Dalmia Dadri Cement Vs. Murari Lal - 1970 (3) SCC 259, (ii) SBI Vs. Nanak Chand - 1964 (5) SCR 621; (iii) P.R.K. John Vs. A. L. Pande - 1965 (2) SCR 713; Cinema Theatres Vs. Workmen - 64 (2) LCJ 128, which show his ability and acumen to grasp with difficult questions of law. His practice was not confined to the Courts of Delhi alone and he often travelled to other parts of the country to handle such cases. He was designated a Senior Advocate on 23.9.2000.

4. Late Mr. Bhandari had suffered some lungs problem a year earlier but he had fully recovered and was attending to his office and Courts and as usual

after having dinner he slept comfortably but in the morning while getting ready he felt restless and passed away peacefully. God was kind to give him a peaceful death.

5. By his death we have lost yet another strong pillar of advocates on the labour side. He was a lawyer of old thoughts, i.e., a lawyer who believed in hard work and no shortcuts. He was always well read and well prepared. He was always nice, pleasant and a sober advocate and used to greet every one with a smile. By his death the Bar has lost a good man, a good advocate, and a noble soul who had never hurt anyone.

6. I, on behalf of the Government of India, my esteemed colleagues, Central Government Standing Counsels and other Government Counsels request the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi to convey our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Krishna Bhandari, Mr. Surhid Bhandari, Mr. Sanjeev Bhandari and other members of the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.



(P. P. MALHOTRA)

Additional Solicitor General of India

Date : 12-03-2008.