

OBITUARY REFERENCE
OF LATE SHRI R. L. MEHTA & LATE SH. GN AGGARWAL

My Lords, Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi, Mr. Justice Ajit Prakash Shah and his Hon'ble Companion Judges, Mr. K. C. Mittal, President, Mr. J. P. Sengh, Vice-President, Mr. D. K. Sharma, Secretary and other office bearers of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Central Government Standing Counsels, Ms. Mukta Gupta, Standing Counsel for Government of NCT of Delhi (Criminal), Mr. Najmi Waziri, Standing Counsel for Government of NCT of Delhi (Civil) and Counsels for various statutory authorities and other bodies, Shri Kirti Mehta and Shri Sunil Mehta, sons of Late Shri R. L. Mehta, Shri Sumeet and Ms. Surbhi Mehta, grand-children of Late Shri R. L. Mehta and his other relations, Smt. Uma Aggarwal, widow of Late Shri G. N. Aggarwal, Shri Girish Aggarwal and Smt. Vasudha Choudhary, children of Late Shri G. N. Aggarwal and his other relations my esteemed colleagues at the Bar, ladies and gentlemen.

2. Mr. Mehta was a tall and a fair man; tall in all respects; tall in honesty, tall in integrity, tall in hard work and a man of tall understanding and knowledge of goodness. Bhgawat Gita recites "Avi Bhutam Vibha Ketsu Taj gnnan Varam Viddhi Sahnivikam, i.e., a man of knowledge, a man who sees immutable existence in all beings, undivided in the divided that knowledge known to be knowledge of goodness. He was not only a fair complexioned man, but fair in

actions, fair to the Hon'ble Court, fair to his clients, fair to the opposite sides, fair in his arguments and, in fact, fair in all respects.

3. He was a simple and straight man. He practiced for nearly 72 years. I first met him in the year 1970 when I had shifted to this Hon'ble Court. I had the pleasure and opportunity of often meeting him. He was always kind, pleasant and smiling and was the only lead Counsel for the CBI.

4. He had handled several important cases for the CBI including the extradition of Jayanti Dharma Teja from U.K., prosecution of Mr. R. K. Dalmia, the Baroda Dynamite case besides many other cases and was awarded Padam Shree.

5. He was Public Prosecutor and a Legal Advisor to the CBI, example of honesty and integrity. He was always thoroughly prepared. He was a cool, modest, humble and always ready to help the juniors in the profession. He was very well respected by the Bench and the Bar because of his qualities of integrity, humility and knowledge of law.

6. He is survived by four sons and a daughter. He and his wife it appears lived for each other.

7. With the grace of God he never had any ailment. He passed away peacefully. He had gone to take bath and after returning from the bath-room he just lay down and when his wife returned from her bath she found him no more. He left for his heavenly abode on 27th June, 2008. His wife late Smt. Satya Mehta passed away on 4th of August, 2008 barely five weeks after his passing away in the same manner. His two sons, Kirti and Sunil Mehta and his two grandchildren, Sumeet and Surbhi Mehta are lawyers practicing in this Court.

8. As all souls have to leave the body God gave to this noble soul a peaceful exit without giving any pain to the body.

9. Late Shri G. N. Aggarwal was the only child of his parents and after his degree from Pilani, Rajasthan he completed his law from the Delhi University in 1959 and started his practice in 1964 with Late Shri Ishwar Dass Garg a well-known and well respected lawyer in Delhi. In the 60s Urdu was also used in Courts and Late Shri Aggarwal learnt Urdu at the age of 33 to be perfect in law. Later in 1967 he joined the Chamber of Shri B. C. Mishra who was a well respected lawyer at that time. After the elevation of Shri Mishra as a Judge of this Hon'ble High Court, Mr. Aggarwal started practice on the civil side. He had a roaring practice and was on the panel of leading Banks and industries. He was an authority on the civil law and had handled thousands of cases on Arbitration, Rent Control,

Hindu Law, Evidence and was always gifted with deep understanding of fundamental laws like CPC and Evidence Act. We must have met thousands of times in the corridors of this Court and I always used to call him not by his name but called him "CPC" and he used to respond. He mainly practiced on the Original side and the Appellate Side.

10. He was a man of good knowledge and understanding and possessed great will power. This can be seen from the fact that though in 1997 he underwent face surgery because of cancer. His face was disfigured due to that and developed a problem in speech, yet he did not give up his practice and continued to work with the same zeal and carried on his profession till he passed away in July, 2008. He had a peaceful death. His son Girish Aggarwal is an Advocate of this Court and is following his father's foot-steps and his grand-son is also pursuing law.

11. Mr. Aggarwal was a man of great understanding; the understanding of goodness, the understanding which knows action and inaction, an understanding which knows what should be done and what should not be done, the understanding which knows fear and fearlessness and bondage and salvation that is the understanding of goodness, as Bhagwat Gita recites.

12. 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 Shri Kirti Mehta, Shri Sunil Mehta, Shri Sumeet and Ms. Surbhi Mehta, and other relations of Late Shri R. L. Mehta, Smt. Uma Aggarwal, Shri Girish Aggarwal, Smt. Vasudha Choudhary and other relations of Late Shri G. N. Aggarwal. May their Soul rest in peace!



(P. P. Malhotra)

Additional Solicitor General of India

Date : 21-08-2008.