

FULL COURT REFERENCE ON THE SAD DEMISE OF LATE SHRI KIRIT N. RAVAL, SENIOR ADVOCATE OF THIS COURT.

Mr. President and Secretary of the Bar, Additional Solicitor General of India, Standing Counsel for the Central Government and Government of Delhi, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi, Members of the Bar, ladies and gentlemen.

We are assembled here this afternoon to mourn the death of Shri Kirit N. Raval, a Senior Advocate of this Court, who breathed his last on the 26th April, 2005 at the premature age of hardly 53 years.

Shri Kirit Raval was born on 12th September, 1952. In the year 1971, Shri Raval graduated in Commerce Stream with 1st Division from a well-known College of Ahmedabad, called H.L. College of Commerce. He did his Masters in Business Administration from the world renowned Institution, called Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in 1973. In 1974 he secured 1st rank in LL.B examinations from Gujarat University. For a short period, Shri Raval worked as Management Consultant between 1973-75.

He joined the chamber of Mr. B.R. Shah, a Senior Advocate and joined the bar and started practicing in Gujarat High Court from 1975 and very soon, he proved himself to be one of the most upright and successful lawyer. Shri Raval represented several large companies, Banks, Financial Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings and appeared in many Public Interest Litigation.

Shri Raval was Standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department in the State of Gujarat for a number of years. He was designated as "Senior Advocate" in the year 1995. He was appointed as Additional Solicitor General of India on 18th May, 1998 where he earned his name and fame shortly by frequently appearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. It is only because of hard work and sincerity to duty and devotion, Shri Kirit Raval was appointed Solicitor General of India on 5th November, 2002. He was the youngest advocate ever appointed as the Solicitor General of India.

Shri Kirit Raval was expert in all fields of law. His services were solicited for all types of litigation,

before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, various High Courts including this Court, M.R.T.P. Commission, Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction. He proved his legal acumen especially in Constitutional Law, Commercial Law, Income Tax, Customs & Central Excise, Labour Law and Environmental Law. He also appeared in many cases before National and International Arbitration. Mr. Raval was professed choice as Law Officer when large stakes of revenue of Government was involved. After relinquishing office as Solicitor General of India, Shri Raval was in great demand and he appeared before various High Courts as well as in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Shri Kirit Raval was Chairman of Gujarat National Law University, a University which introduced five years course in Gujarat State. He took keen interest in establishing the same.

He contributed a lot as a counsel in matters of unfair trade practice under the M.R.T.P. Act, right of registered medical practitioners to prescribe drugs, transaction value and its determination under the

Customs Act, cancellation of en mass allotment of petrol pumps, LPG etc, requirement of sanction or consent for filing prosecution under the Official Secrets Act, environment and rehabilitation with reference to Tehri Dam and sustainable development, and judicial review with reference to terms of invitation to tender.

Shri Raval was a man of many dimensions with unassuming and self-made personality. Apart from the fact that he was a constitutional scholar, he was a modest philanthropist and was associated with various educational and charitable institutions. These few words are hardly enough to portray his unique qualities and legal acumen.

In the death of Shri Kirit N. Raval, we have lost a stalwart of legal fraternity. His death undoubtedly is a grievous loss to us all, particularly to his family. We condole the sad demise of Shri Kirit N. Raval and share the sorrow with members of his family, in particular his wife Mrs.Kalpana, also an Advocate, who is a regular practitioner. We all send our deep felt condolences to ~~the~~ the members of the bereaved family and wish them

strength to bear this irretrievable loss. May God bestow peace to the departed soul.

I REQUEST YOU ALL TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE MEMORY OF SHRI KIRIT N. RAVAL BY STANDING IN SILENCE FOR TWO MINUTES.

May 2, 2005

**(B.C. PATEL)
Chief Justice**

As a mark of respect to the departed soul, the Court is adjourned for the rest of the day.