

**FULL COURT REFERENCE TO BE HELD ON 19.08.2016 AT 3.00 PM
ON THE SAD DEMISE OF LATE SH. H.C. GOEL AND SH.MAHESH
CHANDRA, FORMER JUDGES, DELHI HIGH COURT**

JUSTICE G. ROHINI

My esteemed brother and sister Judges,

Shri Rajeev Khosla, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association

Shri Jatan Singh, Vice President, Delhi High Court Bar Association

Shri Abhijat, Hony. Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association

Shri Sanjeev Narula, Standing Counsel, Union of India

Shri Raman Duggal, Standing Counsel (Civil), Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Shri Rahul Mehra, Sr. Standing Counsel, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Other Standing Counsels of the Central and State Government

Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association

Office Bearers of other District Bar Associations

Senior Advocates

Members of the Bar

Members of the bereaved families,

Ladies and gentlemen.

We have assembled here today to express our profound sense of grief on the sad demise of two former distinguished Judges of this Court Sri Justice Hukum Chand Goel and Sri Justice Mahesh Chandra.

Justice Hukum Chand Goel was born on 15th October, 1927. After completing his law, Justice Goel practised in District Courts, Ambala from July, 1951 to June, 1954. On 16th June, 1954, he joined Punjab Civil Services (Judicial) and served as Civil Judge and as Judge, Small Cause Court till 1963. Justice Goel also served as Law Officer in the Law Commission of India from November, 1963 to December, 1967. After a brief tenure of four years in the Law Commission, Justice Goel continued as Judge, Small Cause Court, Delhi and later on served as Senior Sub Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge, Delhi upto 16th January, 1970. On 17th January, 1970, Justice Goel was promoted to the Delhi Higher Judicial Service as Additional District and Sessions Judge and confirmed as such in May, 1971. Thereafter, Justice Goel served as Judicial Member, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal at Indore and Bombay from March, 1974 to May, 1978. From 1978 to 1980, Justice Goel served as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Delhi during which period, i.e. on 8th March, 1979, Justice Goel was promoted to selection grade of Delhi Higher Judicial Service and confirmed as such from 1st April, 1982.

From January, 1980 to November, 1981, Justice Goel constituted one-man Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal for Union Territory of Delhi. Thereafter, in November, 1981, Justice Goel came back to Delhi Higher Judicial Service and joined as the first Additional District and Sessions Grade, Delhi.

After the long journey of a little more than 29 years in the subordinate judiciary and gaining experience from multiple facets of law, Justice Goel was elevated as Additional Judge of this Court on 12th August, 1983 and permanent Judge on 23rd February, 1984. The experience he gained during this period by analytically and critically assessing the fact situation in each case helped him later in discharging his functions remarkably as the Judge of the High Court. After serving the judiciary for nearly 35 years, Justice Goel retired on 15th October, 1989.

It is also worth mentioning that in 1980, Justice Goel participated in International Seminar on 'Arrest and Pre-trial Detention' at Tokyo, Japan. It is a matter of pride that the paper presented by Justice Goel at the Seminar was included as resource material by National Institute of Justice of U.S. Department of Justice.

His uprightness, erudition, vision and learning was highly acknowledged by members of legal fraternity. I am told that Justice Goel was a very hard working and honest judge. He was well known for his excellent behaviour, integrity, gracious, dignified and sober approach towards not only the members of the Bar but also towards the litigant public. He always kept cool temperament and was full of grace and dignity.

Justice Goel delivered numerous judgments covering all spheres of law and upheld the law in letter and spirit. His unbiased approach towards work and fine sense of judgment earned him laurels and accolades amongst the legal fraternity.

The inevitable happened on 15th October, 2015 and Justice Goel left for heavenly abode at the ripe age of 88 years.

Late Justice Mahesh Chandra

Justice Mahesh Chandra was born on 12th October 1928. After completing his graduation from DAV College, Ambala in 1948, Justice Mahesh Chandra completed his Law from Delhi University in the year 1952. He practised as a lawyer in the trial courts at Ambala till 1957.

Justice Mahesh Chandra entered the judicial arena through Punjab Civil Services (Judicial Branch) Exam and posted as Subordinate Judge on 16th July, 1957. In the year 1966, on bifurcation of Punjab, Justice Mahesh Chandra was allocated to the Haryana Civil Service (Judicial Branch). Justice Mahesh Chandra was selected for Delhi Judicial Service in 1971 and worked as Officer on Special Duty (Legal) to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation. On 24.03.1972, Justice Mahesh Chandra was promoted to Delhi Higher Judicial Service as Additional District and Sessions Judge. From 1972 to 1974, he was on deputation to Ministry of Labour, Government of India as Officer on Special Duty (Legal). Justice Mahesh Chandra also worked as Presiding Officer, Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court for Northern India from September, 1976 to January, 1982. Justice Mahesh Chandra was elevated as Permanent Judge of this Court on 3rd July, 1986. After rendering his services to the Indian Judiciary for more than 33 years, Justice Mahesh Chandra retired on 12th October, 1990. He was also appointed Member of the Law Commission in 1991 for a brief span from March 1991 to August, 1991. From November 1991 till October, 1993, he was appointed as Chairman, Board of Arbitration (JCM), Ministry of Labour, Government of India.

Although Justice Mahesh Chandra delivered numerous judgments on almost every aspect of law, the one judgment for which he will always be remembered is the famous murder trial of Mrs. Indira Gandhi whereby sentences were imposed by Judge Mahesh Chandra shortly after he concluded a 254-day trial that began in a small, makeshift courtroom in Delhi's Tihar Jail. The judgment ran into 262 pages.

Justice Mahesh Chandra also authored books on diverse law subjects – (a) Payment of Wages Act, (b) Gratuity Law, (c) Socio Economic Offences.

Justice Mahesh Chandra led a retired life since 1993 till 2016. Justice Mahesh Chandra after dedicating his entire life to the noble cause of upholding rule of law, had left for heavenly abode on 22nd July, 2016.

On the death of Justice H.C. Goel and Justice Mahesh Chandra, we have lost two memorable legal luminaries. It is an irretrievable loss for the judicial fraternity as a whole and a personal loss for their family members.

I on my own and on behalf of my esteemed colleagues mourn the sad demise of Justice H.C. Goel and Justice Mahesh Chandra and pray to the Almighty to bestow strength on the bereaved members of the families to bear the loss. May the Almighty bestow eternal peace to the departed souls.

(AFTER REFERENCE BY LAWYERS IS OVER)

I request you all to pay homage by standing in silence for two minutes in the memory of the departed souls.

(The Hon'ble Judges will take their respective seats for a moment after the silence, and it will be announced by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice as under).

"As a mark of respect to the departed souls, the court work shall remain suspended for the rest of the day".