



ALL INDIA TRINAMOOOL CONGRESS

Central Office : 30B, Harish Chatterjee Street, Kolkata - 700 026

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5 July 2021

To
The Hon'ble President of India
Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi- 110004

Re: Removal of Mr. Tushar Mehta from the post of the Solicitor General of India.

Your Excellency,

We are constrained to write to you on behalf of the All India Trinamool Congress Party (AITC), to bring to your urgent attention a deeply troubling matter of national importance that raises grave doubts of impropriety in one of India's highest legal offices – the Office of the Solicitor General of India.

Various news-reports, containing videos and photographs, have reported a private one-on-one meeting between Mr. Suvendu Adhikari, a politician of the Bhartiya Janata Party and an accused in serious criminal offences and Mr. Tushar Mehta, the Solicitor General of India. This meeting took place at Mr. Mehta's official residence. Such a meeting, between one of the highest serving law officers of India – the Solicitor General, who is also appointed as the Special Public Prosecutor for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and an accused person being investigated by the same agency, raises extremely serious doubts of impropriety. To make matters worse, this meeting took place subsequent to an equally improper meeting between Mr. Adhikari and the Home Minister of India, Mr. Amit Shah.

Notably, Mr. Adhikari is an accused in various criminal cases of cheating, illegal gratification, and bribery etc. Two such matters are the:

- i) **Narada Case**, being investigated by the CBI and ED where Mr. Adhikari was caught on tape taking bribes in a sting operation and its videos were publicly circulated. Mr. Mehta, the Solicitor General of India, also represents the CBI in the Narada case before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble High Court.
- ii) **Saradha Chit Fund Case**, being investigated by the CBI and ED where one Mr. Sudipta Sen is the prime accused, had given written statements and letters, levying grave allegations against Mr. Adhikari. Even in this case, it was Mr. Mehta, who appeared for the CBI.

The Solicitor General of India, being the second highest law officer of the Republic of India after the Attorney General of India, advises the Government of India and its various organs in crucial legal matters. Thus, a meeting between an accused person in grave criminal offences and the Solicitor General of India, who is advising the very investigating agencies who are investigating and prosecuting such an accused person, reeks of impropriety and is a blatant conflict of interest. Such a meeting makes a total mockery of the criminal justice system in our country and would only serve to destroy the common man's faith in the judiciary.

This incident took place on 1st July 2021, when Mr. Adhikari after meeting the Home Minister, Mr. Amit Shah, at his Krishna Menon Marg residence went immediately to the residence of the Solicitor General of India at No. 10, Akbar Road. He left the Learned Solicitor General's official residence after around thirty minutes. This meeting is also corroborated by a press report in a prominent National Daily with the caption "**Suvendu Visits Delhi, Meets Shah and SG**".

We, therefore, have reasons to believe that such a meeting has been organised to influence the outcome of criminal cases where Mr. Adhikari is an accused person, using the high offices of the Solicitor General. We state that the act of the Solicitor General to provide an opportunity of an



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audience to Suvendu Adhikari not only indicative of grave impropriety but also raises troubling doubts about his professional integrity.

Perhaps realizing the gravity of his actions, the Solicitor General has since attempted to offer an explanation to the Press that Mr. Adhikari came to meet him "unannounced", and hence he had to "apologise" for not meeting him. We ask ourselves, if this means that the Solicitor General would indeed have meet an accused person in criminal cases if they had come with "a prior appointment"? We ask ourselves, has the Solicitor General forgotten the ethics and principles which circumscribe his conduct in the high office he occupies?

Your excellency has himself had a glorious career at the Bar, having practiced for long years before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and is familiar with the rules of practice that enjoin an advocate to act honourably and ethically. The conduct of the Solicitor General, we are sad to say, is against every ethical principle known to the legal profession.

The Solicitor General's conduct must be investigated and pending such inquiry, he must tender his resignation.



Admittedly, since Mr. Adhikari was present in the residence of Learned Solicitor General's for over thirty minutes, the Solicitor General's efforts to dismiss speculation regarding this clandestine meeting, will be of any value only if he makes the CCTV of Mr. Adhikari's visit public.

Rather, it is deeply unfortunate that the Solicitor General continues to remain defiant and his defence is without corroboration, unconvincing and undignified, if not spurious. The majesty of the office of the Solicitor General of India must be protected so that public faith in the criminal justice system is not shaken. The sanctity of the office of the Solicitor General of India cannot be seen to be compromised. Public interest, integrity and neutrality of the office of the Solicitor General of India are required to be protected at all costs.

We, therefore, approach Your Excellency to initiate necessary steps for the removal of Mr. Tushar Mehta from the post of the Solicitor General of India to uphold India's Constitutional values.

Yours sincerely,

For All India Trinamool Congress

 Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, MP	 Mahua Moitra, MP
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