

Indian Express

Plea filed in SC against former CJI K G Balakrishnan

Agencies : New Delhi, Fri Jan 20 2012, 21:08 hrs



A petition was today filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre for an inquiry into allegations of misbehaviour against former Chief Justice K G Balakrishnan and to ensure his removal as NHRC chief.

The plea of NGO Common Cause has sought issuance of a direction to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for making a reference to the apex court under the Human Rights Act to look into the allegations of 'misbehaviour' against former Chief Justice Balakrishnan, who is at present Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

"Despite the fact that there is overwhelming evidence indicating that the Respondent No 3 (Balakrishnan) has been guilty of several acts of grave misbehaviour, the Government has not taken any step for his removal from the NHRC," the petition, filed through lawyer Prashant Bhushan, said.

A provision of the Human Rights Act says that the Chairperson or other member of NHRC "shall be removed from his office by the order of the President of India on the ground of misbehaviour after the Supreme Court, on a reference being made to it by the President, has on inquiry reported that the Chairperson or such member, on any such ground, be removed."

The petition referred to media reports and alleged that it has come to light recently that some close relatives of Justice Balakrishnan have acquired assets disproportionate to their known sources of income during his tenure as the CJI.

It also alleged that the Justice Balakrishnan suppressed "a letter written by a High Court judge alleging that former Union Minister A Raja tried to interfere his judicial function" and later he 'lied' that he had not received any such letter implicating any minister.

- *21 Jan 2012*
- *The Times of India (New Delhi edition)*
- *TNN*

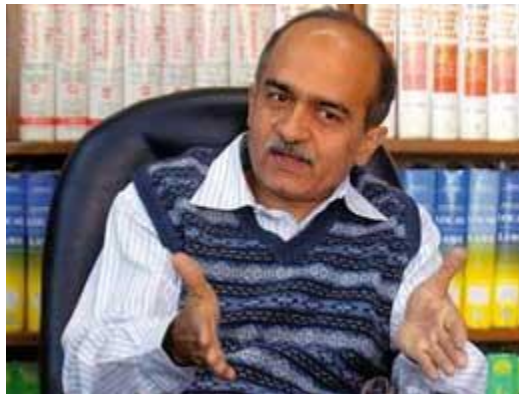
PIL seeks inquiry against KGB

New Delhi: NGO "Common cause" on Friday filed a public interest litigation in the SC seeking inquiry into alleged acts of corruption by National Human Rights Commission chairman and former Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan. The PIL sought a direction to the government to send a reference to the SC under Section 5(2) of the Human Rights Act for holding inquiry into a large number of complaints of corruption against the human rights body chief. A reference under Section 5(2) envisages an inquiry by the SC into alleged acts of misbehaviour by the NHRC chief, who would be removed from the post in case a positive opinion on corruption was sent by the SC to the President.

Jagaran Post

Prashant Bhushan files PIL in SC against former CJ K G Balakrishnan

Posted on: 21 Jan 2012, 12:25 AM



Bhushan files PIL against former CJ

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"Despite the fact that there is overwhelming evidence indicating that the Respondent No 3 (Balakrishnan) has been guilty of several acts of grave misbehaviour, the Government has not taken any step for his removal from the NHRC," the petition, filed through lawyer Prashant Bhushan, said.

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The petition referred to media reports and alleged that it has come to light recently that some close relatives of Justice Balakrishnan have acquired assets disproportionate to their known sources of income during his tenure as the CJ.

It also alleged that the Justice Balakrishnan suppressed "a letter written by a High Court judge alleging that former Union Minister A Raja tried to interfere his judicial function" and later he "lied" that he had not received any such letter implicating any minister.

The NGO, in the petition, has annexed media reports as documents to buttress its allegations that 'benami' properties were acquired by kith and kin of Balakrishnan during his tenure as CJI.

It alleged that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi misused his discretionary powers and allotted two prime plots of land in Chennai to a former aide of Balakrishnan.

(Agencies)

First Post India

Bhushan PIL lists extent of ex-CJI Balakrishnan's illegal wealth

Raman Kirpal Jan 23, 2012

New Delhi: Senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan on Friday, filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking an inquiry against former Chief Justice, present NHRC chairperson, K G Balakrishnan for his alleged misbehavior.

Filing a petition on behalf of Common Cause, Prashant Bhushan said he had written to the government raising glaring examples of misbehaviour by Justice Balakrishnan, but the government chose not to act. Thus he seeks the apex court's intervention for holding an inquiry and removal of Balakrishnan from the post of NHRC chairperson, if he is found guilty.

Citing examples of misbehavior, Bhushan, quoting news, alleged that Balakrishnan's close relatives had acquired assets disproportionate to their known sources of income during his tenure as Chief Justice of India. Investigations by the Income Tax Department and Kerala Police have shown that Balakrishnan's relatives amassed property worth crores of rupees during his tenure as a judge and Chief Justice of India, the petition alleged.

For example, Bhushan alleges that Balakrishnan bought 'benami' properties in the name of his former aide M Kannabiran. He allegedly suppressed a letter written by a High Court judge alleging that former Union Minister A Raja tried to interfere in his judicial function and later lied to the press that he had not received the letter. He allegedly approved evasive and false replies given by Central Public Information Officer, Supreme Court in response to the RTI application filed by Subhash Chandra Agarwal regarding declaration of assets by judges.



Former Chief Justice, present NHRC chairperson, K G Balakrishnan. Screen-grab from ibnlive.com

Bhushan's petition also refers to a *CNN-IBN* report dated 15 June 2011, that followed a [Firstpost Exclusive](#) which broadcasted interviews of two retired judges – P K Shamsuddin and K Sukumaran – who made grave allegations against Balakrishnan

And then Bhushan's petition lists out a number of dates, when Balakrishnan or his relatives made expensive buys:

- **23 February 2005:** Balakrishnan's brother (Late) KG Bhaskaran and his wife purchased 40 acres of farm house, whose market value is above Rs 3 crore.
- **18 March 2005:** K G Bhaskaran buys 20 acres of farm land, whose market value is Rs 3 crore.
- **18 March 2005:** K G Bhaskaran buys 2.13 acres of farm land, whose value is pegged at Rs 50 lakh.
- **18 March 2005:** K G Bhaskaran and his family bought 20 acre of land, whose value is pegged at Rs 5 crore.
- **28 May 2005:** Balakrishnan's daughter Rani KB bought 10.5 acre rubber estate and farm properties near Athirambuzha, Kerala, whose market value is pegged at Rs 3 crore.
- **28 November 2006:** K G Bhaskaran purchased a 53-acre farm house land in village Bodikamanvadi in Tamil Nadu, whose market value is Rs 10 crore.
- **12 February 2007:** Balakrishnan's eldest daughter K B Soni purchased flat at F4 of Travancore Residency in Mangattu Road, Edapally (heart of Ernakulam city). Market value: Rs 50 lakh.
- **3 March 2007:** Balakrishnan's son-in-law Sreenijan purchased 20 cent of land in Alangad village. Market value: Rs 7.5 lakh.
- **3 March 2007:** Sreenijan purchased 3.75 cent of land. Market value: Rs 20 lakh
- **19 March 2007:** K B Soni and others purchased legal office in Ernakulam opposite Railway Station. Market value: Rs 50 lakh.
- **15 December 2007:** Balakrishnan's second son-in-law M J Benny purchased a posh commercial shop/office in Swapnil Enclave in Marine Drive, Kochi. Market value: Rs 3 crore.
- **17 March 2008:** Benny purchased 6.54 cent in Marad village on National Highway. Market value Rs 30 lakh.

- **8 April 2008:** Sreenjan and his wife purchased land along with an old building in Varappuzha village. Market value: Rs 60 lakh.
- **28 April 2008:** Benny purchased 6.5 cent land in Marad village on the national highway. Market value: Rs 30 lakh.
- **28 April 2008:** Benny purchased 31.650 cent land in Marad village near the national highway. Market value: Rs 5 crore.
- **11 November 2008:** Sreenjan purchased a total of 2.77 acre of land where a big resort is under construction at a riverside in Kallur village. Market value: Rs 2 crore.
- **5 June 2009:** Sreenjan and his wife Soni purchased land in Edapally South village. Market value Rs 3 crore.
- **10 June 2009:** Benny purchased 7.928 cent land in Marad village. Market value: Rs 1 crore.
- **24 June 2009:** K G Bhaskaran and his wife bought land in Thiruvaniyoor. Market value: Rs 2 crore.
- **6 October 2010:** P V Sreenijan's mother purchased one acre land in Edapally South village. Market value: Rs 1 crore.

KGB gets a bitter PIL from NGO

Prabhakar Rao Voruganti

Express News Service

Last Updated : 21 Jan 2012 10:17:14 AM IST

NEW DELHI: An NGO on Friday filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking the removal of former Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan from the post of chairmanship of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The NGO, Common Cause, pointed out that despite the presence of evidence that the former CJI was guilty of several acts of grave misbehaviour, the government has not yet taken any steps for his removal from the National Human Rights Commission.

Under Section 5 (2) of the NHRC Act, it has been mentioned that the Chairperson or any other member of the Commission shall be removed from his office by the order of the President on the ground of misbehaviour after the Supreme Court, on a reference made to it by the President, on an inquiry suggests his removal.

“An NGO, Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms, had written to the President and the Prime Minister in April last year enclosing documents showing these acts of misbehaviour by Justice Balakrishnan and requested the government to make a reference to the Supreme Court for initiating inquiry against him. However, the government has not responded to the letters so far,” the petitioners averred.

Despite receiving these letters and the fact that investigation by the Income Tax Department and Kerala Police has shown that the relatives of Justice Balakrishnan had amassed property worth crores of rupees during his tenure as a CJI, he is still holding the NHRC office and no action has been taken against him by the government, the petition added.

The Pioneer

Plea in SC questions KGB as NHRC chief

FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY 2012 23:57

PNS | NEW DELHI

A petition in the Supreme Court on Friday questioned the continuation of former Chief Justice of India KG Balakrishnan as head of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and sought his removal on charges of corruption and holding disproportionate assets pending against his family members.

The petition, filed by NGO Common Cause listed the instances of “indiscipline” against Justice Balakrishnan. It showed how the rise of income and assets of his family members, particularly his daughters, son-in-laws and brother, coincided with the tenure of the former CJI between January 14, 2007 and May 12, 2010. It further accused Justice Balakrishnan of suppressing a letter written to him by a Madras High Court judge who was threatened by a Union Minister in court and revealing wrong information under RTI on assets of judges.

The petition filed through advocate Prashant Bhushan has sought an enquiry into each of the charges for which a reference is required to be made to the Supreme Court under Section 5 of the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993. If the enquiry finds Justice Balakrishnan guilty, the process for his removal of NHRC Chairperson gets automatically initiated.

The petition said, “Allowing a person who is facing serious charges of corruption and impropriety to head an august body created for the protection of human rights would make the institution non-functional.”