

Dweepon Ki Awaaz

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Missappropriation of Money in the Name of Lok Adalat

Inaugural Ceremony of 3rd Lok Adalat organised by the State Legal service Authority of A&N Administration was held in the High Court annexbuilding on 14.02.99. The function was inaugurated by the Lt. Governor Shri I.P. Gupta, Barring the DC, IGP and JS none of the heads of the departments and offices, secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and other gazetted and non gazetted officers of the Admn. was found present in the function. This function was organised with a view to make legal awareness to the public in general as also to the heads of departments, officers and subordinate to them. When the function started only 20/25 persons including lawyers were found present. It seems to be an insult on the Lt. Governor who chaired the seat as Chief Guest. It seems that invitation cards were not issued to all concerned, who is / are responsible for such callous attitude? It was the concern of legal branch of the Administration.

Secondly huge quantity of sweets packets were shown to have been purchased. Purchase of 800 sweets packets for 25 or 50 guests is not logical.

Thirdly, the sitting of the Lok Adalat were held in the court daises of district & sessions judges and Chief Judicial Magistrate. Murder cases are tried in the Court of Sessions Judges, who is the heads of the judicial authority here. A Panchayat member not having desired education is found sitting on the dais of sessions judge. We, the journalists and Trade Union leaders do have highest respect and regard to that dais. It is really bad that sessions judges chair is occupied by a Panchayat member or illiterate persons or politician, thereby lowering the dignity of chair of a high judicial authority. Lok Adalat could very well be held in the hall where the inaugural function was held. The number of cases disposed of by Lok Adalat is less than ten, for which lakhs of rupees is shown to have been debited from public exchequer. We want that the judiciary should be kept above all and our high confidence over it should at no cost be lowered down. Judicial chairs should be occupied only by judges and it should not be shared with any politician or members of Panchayat. Shameful action of the Administration should not be repeated in future.

Tourism Workers On War Path

The Tourism workers working under the Director IPT since last several years in the capacity as TSM (Daily rated) were on war path since 15.2.99 in front of the office of the IP&T. Several conciliation settlements were arrived in the past before the Conciliation Officer but none of the settlement were implement by

Shri DVS Deep, Co-ordinator of United Forum of Prasar Bharati Employees Port Blair Unit, Convened a press Conference on 19.2.99 in Connection with the Agitation of Employees of AIR. The text of the Pres Note Released by him is Reproduced Below

Government has given a quantum jump in the pay scales of the engineering and programme staff of AIR & Doordarshan ignoring other cadres. This has caused great resentment among other cadres. It seems that authorities have considered only engineering and programme staff as employees of AIR & Doordarshan. It can only be termed as discriminating attitude of the government. In view of the disparity created by the decision of the government all the remaining cadre employees associations have come under one umbrella & constituted United Forum of Prasar Bharati Employees. According to the direction given by the United Forum of Prasar Bharati Employees nation-wide agitation has come into effect from 15th February, 99. The Port Blair unit of United Forum of Prasar Bharati Employees is also participating in the agitation. Gate meetings are being organised daily during Launch hours at the main gate of the AIR. The employees are doing their duty wearing black badges from 15.2.99 onwards. The local unit of the United Forum of Prasar Bharati Employees includes AIR & DDK administrative staff Assn. AIR & DD Editorial staff Rajbhasha Assn. AIR News Caster Assn. Announcer's Assn. Stenographer's Assn. AIR & Drivers's Assn. Group D staff Assn. Library Information Staff Assn.

Shri D.V S. Deep, Asst. News Editor, AIR, Port Blair has been given the responsibility of co ordinator of the said Forum. The on-going agitation will continue if the demands are not met by 8.3.99, the forum will stage Dharna at AIR gate and forum will go on indefinite strike from 9.3.99 which may include, relay/hunger strike and fast to death if need arises.

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the Director. Whatever post newly created under various plans have been filled up from outsiders ignoring the eligibility and rightful claim of the workers who languishing the department since last several years. The anti-employees attitude of the Director forced the employees to launch agitations. The workers on realy hunger strike from 22.2.99. The Union affiliated to AICCTU have since decided to report agitation in support of the striking employees from 25.2.99.