

## FAREWELL SPEECH

My Lord the Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi, Dr. Mr. Justice M. K. Sharma and his Hon'ble Companion Judges, Mr. A. S. Chandiok, President of Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Ramesh Gupta, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi, Ms. Mukta Gupta, Standing Counsel for Delhi Administration (Criminal side), Mr. J. R. Midha, Standing Counsel for Delhi Administration (Civil side), Counsels for the Central Government, State Government and Counsels for various public authorities, statutory corporations His Lordship's family members and my esteemed colleagues, Ladies and Gentleman.

2. Today we are giving farewell to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Swatanter Kumar. With great pride I can say that Mr. Justice Swatanter Kumar is a great Judge. He is well known for his honesty, integrity, excellent behaviour with the Bar and his will to accommodate everyone. His Lordship is very gracious, simple, dignified and sober. Appearance before Hon'ble Mr. Justice Swatanter Kumar has always been a great pleasure for the Members of the Bar. In his Lordship's Court, the scales of justice have always been even and his Lordship's Court has been a great temple of justice. His Lordship is a clear example of a lighthouse in the sea which is unruffled by the turbulent sea and the approaching ships. His Lordship has been a great source of inspiration to the Members of the Bar and junior colleagues. In the quest for justice, his

Lordship has never wavered or swayed and has always maintained an unbiased approach in delivering justice. His Lordship's approach in delivering justice has been like a true Yogi who treats a piece of gold and a piece of wood alike. By your Lordship's elevation as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, this High Court and the Members of the Bar feel elated and though they may feel some vacuum yet gain to the State of Maharashtra will compensate and balance.

3. His Lordship is an illustrious son of an illustrious father. His Lordship's father late Hon'ble Mr. Justice Om Prakash was Additional Judge of Delhi High Court w.e.f. 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 1967 to 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 1967 and permanent Judge of this Hon'ble Court from 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 1967 to 16<sup>th</sup> of August, 1970. His Lordship's dedicated hard work, sincerity and unbiased attachment to the matters before his Lordship is well known. His Lordship has delivered landmark judgements. His Lordship's love for hard work is well recognized. In a single day, his Lordship delivered 465 judgements touching upon individual cases in various branches of law. It was applauded by one and all.

4. His Lordship Shri Swatanter Kumar was born on 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 1947. His Lordship had his schooling in Shimla and Mandi and did his graduation and L.L.B. from Punjab University at Chandigarh. His Lordship shifted to Delhi when his Lordship's father was appointed as an Additional Judge of this Court. His Lordship had his training with

senior lawyers and doyens of the Bar like Late Shri Sardari Lal Bhatia, Late Shri S. N. Chopra, Late Shri S. N. Anand and Late Shri Bawa Shiv Charan Singh.

5. His Lordship started his independent practice in 1971. Soon his Lordship started representing various Government Departments and became the Standing Counsel for DSIDC and Delhi Financial Corporation. His Lordship was thereafter selected in Higher Judicial Services, Himachal Pradesh and joined as an Additional District Judge in February, 1983. Destiny had decided some thing better. His Lordship resigned in October, 1983 and again resumed practice in Delhi. In February, 1994, his Lordship was designated as a Senior Advocate. His Lordship was well known for his hard work and honesty and was elevated to the Bench of this Hon'ble Court on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1994. His Lordship was thereafter transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court where he took over on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 1994. His Lordship was shifted to Delhi High Court in the year 2004.


6. His Lordship was a well sought after lawyer in Delhi. I vividly remember the great speed and agility with which his Lordship used to rush from one Court to another having a Cause List in his hand. His Lordship not only excelled himself in practice but his chamber also produced another Judge of this Court, Hon'ble Justice Ms. Gita Mittal, who was junior to Justice Mr. Swatanter Kumar, her dedication to

work and honesty too is well-known like the honesty and integrity of her senior.

7. His Lordship has just crossed 59 years and we hope that his Lordship will return to Delhi like his two predecessor Chief Justices of the Bombay High Court, namely, Hon'ble Justice Mr. Y. K. Sabharwal and Hon'ble Justice Mr. Dalvir Bhandari. Though his Lordship's departure from Delhi is a big loss to the lawyers and litigants of Delhi, his Lordship's elevation as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court would undoubtedly be a boon for Bombay and the people and the lawyers of Maharashtra will immensely benefit from his Lordship's knowledge of law, sympathetic and considerate approach for resolving the miseries of poor and underprivileged litigants.

8. May I on my behalf and on behalf of the Standing and other Counsels of the Central Government wish your Lordship a bright and successful tenure.

9. May I also wish good luck to your Lordship on behalf of the Central Government.

  
( P. P. Malhotra )

**Additional Solicitor General of India**

**Dated : 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.**