

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

This file relates to the proposal for appointment of following four Judicial Officers as Judges of the Delhi High Court:

1. Shri Talwant Singh,
2. Shri Rajnish Bhatnagar,
3. Ms. Asha Menon, and
4. Shri Brijesh Sethi.

The above recommendation has been made by the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court on 22nd November, 2018, in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues.

In order to ascertain suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the Delhi High Court. Copies of letters of opinion of our consultee-colleagues received in this regard are placed below.

With a view to assess merit and suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have carefully scrutinized the material including the observations made by the Department of Justice as well as certain complaints placed on record. Apart from this, we considered it appropriate to invite all the recommendees for interaction. On the basis of interaction and having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that S/Shri (1) Talwant Singh, (2) Rajnish Bhatnagar, (3) Ms. Asha Menon, and (4) Brijesh Sethi, are suitable for being appointed as Judges of the Delhi High Court.

We have also taken note of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of a senior Judicial Officer. In this regard, the High Court Collegium in the Minutes dated 22nd November, 2018 of

its Meeting has duly recorded reasons for not recommending name of a Judicial Officer who is senior to the recommendees. We are fully in agreement with the justification given by the High Court Collegium for not recommending the senior Judicial Officer.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (1) Talwant Singh, (2) Rajnish Bhatnagar, (3) Ms. Asha Menon, and (4) Brijesh Sethi, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the Delhi High Court. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Ranjan Gogoi), C.J.I.

(S.A. Bobde), J.

(N.V.Ramana), J.

May 06, 2019.

