

INAUGURATION OF
LEGAL CARE AND SUPPORT CENTRE AT MILIDHANE
KOTHAGIRI

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY
HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SATISH K. AGNIHOTRI
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE, MADRAS HIGH COURT

27.05.2014

Mr. G.P. Elango, District and Sessions Judge, Mr. P. Sankar, District Collector, Judicial Officers, Dr. Arul, Member Secretary, Mr. Manikumar, Mr.T.K. Mathan, Presidents of the Bar Associations, Mr.Bojarajan, Mr.Dharamraj, Media, the residents of the Village Milidhane, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome accorded by the people of this area particularly by Badaga dance, which was overwhelming. I, on behalf of my wife Mrs. Agnihotri, my son, and on my behalf, say that we are grateful.

This is a place as explained by Mr.Bojarajan, I am told, that if you live in Ooty, you may live 80 years, in Coonoor, 90 years and in Kothagiri 100 years or you may never die. Longevity you have very long. Longevity means, you have

responsibilities also. You have to live in a society with a long life and if you live for a long time, your society has to be decent and excellent society.

Mr.Bojarajan, joined by other colleagues, has pointed out the difficulties of advocates. Advocates do not have any difficulty. You should think of difficulties of litigant public. If the litigant public have any difficulty in respect of approaching the Court, for that you please approach your District Judge. I have already constituted a committee of senior Judges to examine this aspect, particularly distances and other aspects for creation of building; for creation of courts. You can point out all these things; we will examine. We will see that you have a good building; good atmosphere so that you can serve the litigant public.

At the same time, today I have not come for redressal of grievances of the advocates. Today's purpose is entirely different. One more village I have chosen for inauguration of Legal Care and Support Centre at Milidhane. I congratulate the residents of the Village Milidhane for having this facility. This facility, this Centre, is not a facility to get legal aid or for going

to Courts. Please be aware of this. This is a facility to give you assistance, a care and support system for leading a good life. How will you lead a good life? Not only by way of going to Courts. For a life, you need food, shelter, dress and good atmosphere. As the Collector has already pointed out, there are so many Schemes. Villagers may not be aware. Even the advocates are not aware of all these Schemes. First, you please try to know what are the Schemes, beneficial Schemes, that are available to the public at large. Advocates are not only to earn fee for resolving disputes. They are social reformers. You have to contribute for the development of society. Charging fee is not the main object. It is an object to sustain yourself for living. Therefore you charge a fee. But you will not charge for extending advice to the people about the Schemes about other benefits which are available. We have para legal volunteers. They are like para medical workers. They are paid honorarium. Panel lawyers and other lawyers. You please go to the people and tell them. Not to say how you can resolve their conflicts to say that you have these and these legal rights! No. You tell them that you have a Scheme provided by the State Government and Central Government. Like, for example, Old

Age Pension Scheme. How many citizens, over the age of 60 years, having no female relatives, are getting pension. Find out. You please survey. Go to villages, help them, tell them that, 'make an application, you are entitled to avail this Scheme.' Students. Going to Government Schools, higher secondary schools, are entitled to free laptops. Please tell them. Tell their parents, 'if you do not have laptops, I will help you'. Go to the Collector. You take an application in this Village Care and Support Centre and forward it to the Tahsildar or the Taluka Officers with a request that it will be done within a week. I was discussing with your Collector. I instructed him, 'please instruct your Officers to ensure that whenever an application comes through Taluka Legal Centre or District Legal Centre, their grievances are resolved within a period of one week'. One more thing. I have instructed all the Judicial Officers to maintain Register, submit a report periodically, monthly, to the State Legal Services Authority, which will be placed before me to monitor these things. This is the job. Free cycle distribution. One Scheme for all the Students of the 11th Class. Please see whether they are getting it. If they are not getting, help them. Maternity Assistance Scheme. I am told

this town is known after a tribe, primitive tribe. They require certain things. So, bring about them to the mainstream. These are the schemes. Maternity Assistance Scheme. Please tell them, 'you have not to go through the travails of the delivery pang. We have facilities, hospitals, ambulances are there. Money is given. 12,000! You need not go for any employment for the time being so you can rear your child. Take care of the child properly.' Take care of mother. Take care of child. Marriage Assistance Scheme. There may be several Schemes like these. Please find out. All advocates are requested to find out all the Schemes. I further advise the Collector to give a list of Schemes, which will be displayed on the Notice Boards of the District Legal Centre and in all Legal Care and Support Centres and Taluk Legal Centres. Please be aware of this. Help them. This is the purpose. Now, we know, by taking all types of conflicts to the Courts, is not going to give relief immediately. You have to spend time. You have to spend money. Then what ultimately? Nothing. Ego clash? Going to the Supreme Court. Please tell them that for all types of litigations or disputes or conflicts, you need not go to the Courts. We are going to have ADR Centres in all the Districts. In the Nilgiris district also, very

shortly we will have. In this, Mediation Centre will be there. Lok Adalat Centre will be there. Conciliation will be there. Or arbitration, it will be there. We are going to have 32 Permanent Lok Adalats in the entire State, which will be presided by an Officer of District Judge level. Before going to the Courts, please go there. I request all the advocates, please advise them to get their disputes resolved in this Centre. Not anywhere. Why to go to the Court? We are all suffering from docket explosion. If you want to have a good life, 100 years life, then please have these things. Don't get blood pressure. Don't create tension. Resolve amicably, friendly. This is my message. With this, I had already opened the Legal Care and Support Centre, Milidhane. Next time, whenever I come this side, or I receive a report, I am sure, I will have extraordinary exemplary illustrations from this town. Nandri. Vanakkam.
