

**REFERENCE MADE BY THE HON'BLE MR. Y.K. SABHARWAL,
CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY, TO
LATE MR. RAJARAM SAKHARAM BHONSALE, ON WEDNESDAY,
THE 16TH JUNE 1999.**

My learned brother Justice Ghodeswar, Mr. C.J. Sawant, Advocate-General, Mr. V.A. Gangal on behalf of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Mr. I.M. Chagla, President of the Bombay Bar Association, Mr. Dilip Bhosale, President of the Advocates' Association of Western India, Mr. P.A. Jani, Hon. Secretary of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have assembled here to mourn the sad demise of late Mr. Rajaram Sakharam Bhonsale, who died on May 18, 1999, during the summer vacation after a brief illness. **Mr. Rajaram Bhonsale, was a leading and respectable member of the Bar.**

Mr. Bhonsale, popularly known as Raja Bhonsale, was born on 30th January 1931. He had very good academic attainments to his credit. After attaining Law Degree from Pune University in the year 1954, he went to London for further studies and was called to Bar from Lincon's Inn in 1960. He also obtained

Diploma in International Affairs from London University in the year 1959 and Degree of M.Sc.(Economics) in the year 1961. On returning to India, he started practice in the High Court in 1962. Mr. Bhonsale had also academic bent of mind. He was a Professor of International Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law in the University of Bombay from 1971 to 1974. Mr. Bhonsale was Member of the Bar Council of Maharashtra from 1969 to 1977 and also its Vice-Chairman for a year. Mr. Bhonsale was President of the Western India Advocates' Association in the year 1979. He was appointed Assistant Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor in 1969 and was then appointed Government Pleader in July 1976 and was Advocate-General of the State from 1978 to December 1979.

Mr. Bhonsale was elevated as a Judge of this Court in December 1979. However, in December 1981, he resigned and reverted to the Bar. He was a brilliant student with an excellent academic career, a leading lawyer and an illustrious Judge. During his short tenure as a Judge, Mr. Bhonsale rendered several landmark judgments.

Mr. Bhonsale was generous, jovial and modest. He always maintained cordial relations with his colleagues. Besides a leading Advocate, Mr. Bhonsale was also closely associated with several educational and social institutions. He was founder of a Law College. That College, within the jurisdiction of Shivaji University, I am told, came first as the result of II and III Year LL.B. Course in the year 1993-94 were 100%.

Mr. Bhonsale was not keeping good health for the last couple of years. Now that he has left us for a place from where no traveller returns, let us pray that his soul is freed from the bond of flesh. May his soul, at the end of his brilliant mundane career, find an everlasting abode of peace.

On behalf of myself, Justice Ghodeswar and all my learned colleagues and all of you assembled here, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family and in particular to his wife, Mrs. Vijaymala Bhonsale, who is a member of the Bar.