

REFERENCE MADE BY THE HONOURABLE SMT. SUJATA MANOHAR,
CHIEF JUSTICE, TO THE LATE HOSHANG DINSHAW PATEL, FORMER
JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT AT BOMBAY, ON FRIDAY, 15TH
APRIL, 1994.

Before we begin the day's proceedings, I would like to pay our homage to Mr. Justice Hoshang D. Patel who passed away in Bombay a few days ago. He had retired only last July and nobody had realised that the end was so near. He had faced many health problems in life and overcame them with courage. We all expected that with his strong will and cheerful disposition he would soon recover from the heart by-pass operation. Unfortunately that was not to be.

We, his colleagues on the Bench, knew him as a very cheerful and helpful person. He rose from poverty to occupy the position of a High Court Judge by dint of his abilities and hard work. After qualifying as a lawyer from the Nagpur University he started his practice in the chambers of Mr. S.P. Kotval, who later became the Chief Justice of this High Court. After the elevation of Justice Kotval to the Bench, he joined the chambers of another leading lawyer at Nagpur, Mr. D.B. Padhye, who also became a Judge of this High Court. He had specialised in labour laws and had appeared in many important cases in this field before his elevation to the Bench. He was a counsel before the Silewara Coal Mines Enquiry Commission and in the wage dispute between

the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, and their employees.

After his elevation to the Bench he was posted at the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court. He was, however, well-known to the Bombay Bar having sat here on many occasions. As a senior Judge at Nagpur he looked after the work of the High Court there very sincerely and conscientiously. He enjoyed public confidence. During his judicial tenure he was appointed to conduct an inquiry regarding the affairs of the Nagpur University. With his helpful nature and friendly temperament he acquired many friends and admirers.

We shall miss him. To his wife and daughter, I extend, on behalf of all of us - his colleagues and the Bar - our heartfelt condolences on this very sad loss.
