

SC appoints Former HC Judge Justice Dhingra to head SIT to investigate 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots cases

January,11,2018:

Apex Court Bench headed by CJI Dipak Misra stated that, “Regard being had to the nature of the cases, we think it appropriate that a fresh SIT be constituted for carrying on the further investigation”.

On Thursday, Supreme Court has appointed Former Delhi HC Judge, Justice S.N. Dhingra, as the Chairman of its Special Investigation Team (SIT), to further investigate the 186 cases in connection with 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots.

Supreme Court decided to independently investigate these cases after an earlier SIT appointed by Centre closed them.

Three-member SIT would also have Abhishek Dular, a 2006 IPS batch officer, and Rajdeep Singh, a Retired IPS officer.

Apex Court has directed SIT to submit its first status report on investigation in two months.

Bench has further directed Centre to provide SIT with all the logistic assistance and has posted the case for hearing on March 19, 2018.

The apex court decided to set up its own SIT during a hearing on January 10.

Court wanted all the SIT members to be based in the National Capital.

Decision to form new SIT was based on a confidential report placed on record on December 11, 2017 by an Supreme Court-Appointed Supervisory Committee of two former SC judges, Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan and Justice J.M. Panchal.

Committee was tasked with vetting investigation into 241 Anti-Sikh Riots cases closed by Government’s SIT. These 186 cases are part of the 241 cases.

On August 16,2017, Apex Court had decided to independently examine investigation records of the 241 cases and confirm that there was nothing more to do on them.

A total of 3,325 people were killed in 1984 riots in which Delhi alone accounted for 2,733 deaths, while rest occurred in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and other States.

Government SIT was set up on February 12, 2015, following a recommendation by Home Ministry-appointed Justice (retd) G.P. Mathur committee.

This SIT was headed by Pramod Asthana, an IPS officer of the 1986 batch. It had Rakesh Kapoor, a retired District and Sessions judge, and Kumar Gyanesh, an Additional Deputy Commissioner of the Delhi Police, as its Members.