

## **SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

This file relates to the proposal for appointment of Shri Arindam Lodh, Advocate and Shri Data Mohan Jamatia, Judicial Officer, as Judges of the Tripura High Court.

The above recommendation made by the Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court, in consultation with his only colleague on the Bench, has the concurrence of the Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Tripura.

In order to ascertain suitability of Shri Arindam Lodh, Advocate and Shri Data Mohan Jamatia, Judicial Officer for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleague who is conversant with the affairs of the Tripura High Court. A copy of his letter of opinion received in this regard is placed below.

As regards Shri Arindam Lodh, Advocate, he qualifies the prescribed income and age criterion. Our consultee-colleague has found him suitable. Intelligence Bureau has reported that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. As regards comments of Intelligence Bureau about his professional competence, we are of the view that professional competence can best be determined by the members of the higher judiciary who have the opportunity to observe his performance on a daily basis. The High Court Collegium has recommended his name considering his legal acumen, background, standing at the Bar and experience including his performance as Law Officer of the Central Government.

We have taken note of certain complaints received against Shri Arindam Lodh. As per fresh I.B. inputs placed in the file, the allegations in these complaints pertaining to his integrity are not corroborated. Other allegations too are found to be unsubstantiated or factually

incorrect. In view of the positive material on record, including the views of our consultee-colleague, no credence can be attached to the above complaints.

Considering the material on record and the views of our consultee-colleague, the Collegium finds Shri Arindam Lodh, Advocate suitable for elevation to the High Court Bench.

As regards Shri Data Mohan Jamatia, Judicial Officer, consideration of the proposal for his elevation is deferred for the present, as further inputs relating to him are awaited by the Collegium.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Shri Arindam Lodh, Advocate be appointed as a Judge of the Tripura High Court.

( Dipak Misra ), C.J.I.

( J. Chelameswar ), J.

( Ranjan Gogoi ), J.

November 01, 2017

