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**Response/protest to the letter dated 3.10.2024 and subsequent action taken thereupon directing the SC canteen to serve non-veg food and food items having onion and garlic during Navratra Festival.**

1 message

Rajat Nair &lt;adv.rajatnair@gmail.com&gt;

Sat, Oct 5, 2024 at 7:50 PM

To: Rajesh R &lt;1976.rajesh@gmail.com&gt;, vikrantyadav@hotmail.com, Vipin Nair &lt;templefirm@yahoo.com&gt;, Amit Sharma &lt;amitsharmalaw@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you, to formally register our strong protest to the unilateral action taken by SCBA and SCORA pursuant to the letter dated 3.10.2024 written by few respected members of our Bar in respect of serving of non-veg foods and food items containing onion/garlic during navratra festival.

It's a matter of common knowledge that many of the members of the bar and also junior/assisting lawyers of the members of bar scrupulously follow 9 days of abstinence from Non-veg food or food having garlic or onion during the holy week of Navratra. Most of them do not even eat from a kitchen where onion and garlic is used in preparation of other food.

Ordinarily, the Supreme Court closes for Dussera vacation during these days, barring one or two days, which fall right at the start of Navaratra festival.

There are now 6-7 good canteens in SC premises. The court was to function only on Thursday and Friday during this week of Navratras and therefore, the main canteen at SC premises was requested to have Navratra food for two days i.e. on Thursday and Friday, so that the members of the bar, especially batchelors, who religiously observe Navratra festival and who cannot carry home cooked Navratra Food, can have an avenue where they can have their Navratra meal.

However, on Thursday itself i.e. on 3.10.2024 a letter was written to the President SCBA & SCORA requesting them to direct the canteen to serve non-veg food on the ground that "*Non serving of non-vegetarain or food with onion-garlic to cater to the wishes of a few is not in keeping with our pluralist traditions and would result in lack of respect for each other*".

From the information gather the said letter was written by few individuals (who are never seen ordering food from the said canteen). It appears that on the direction of the office bearers of the SCBA the canteen was directed to serve non-veg food on Friday.

SCBA had 2795 members as per 2024 voters list, however, it appears that the aforesaid direction was passed, in haste, by the officer bearers of SCBA, unilaterally, on the basis of letter dated 3.10.2024 signed by only handful of members, without consulting or taking into consideration the sentiments or viewpoint of the majority of the member of the bar.

This practice of passing directions without taking into consideration the sentiments of the other members of the bar, in our opinion, was an act “*not in keeping with our pluralist traditions*”, shows intolerance and “*lack of respect for each other*”; if not an act of appeasement.

No irreparable harm or loss would have happened if, for two days only, one out of 6-7 canteens, functioning in the Supreme Court premises, was allowed to serve Navratri food to the members of the Bar who were religiously observing the Navratra festival. Moreso, when the other canteens were already serving the normal food on their menu list having non-veg food and food containing onion, garlic etc.

The courts have now closed, so the issue has now outlived its life. However, the aforesaid act of taking unilateral action by office bearers of SCBA/SCORA without consulting the remaining members of bar or taking into consideration their sentiments has compelled me write to your goodself to officially register our protest in this regard so that such dissonant incidents do not happen in future.

Attached with this mail is the protest letter which, till the time of writing this mail, has been, endorsed by 133 lawyers regularly practicing in the Supreme Court [through google sheet),

Thanking you,


Yours sincerely,

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3 attachments



WhatsApp Image 2024-10-04 at 1.07.04 PM.jpeg  
126K

 **Response to letter dt. 03.10.2024 on the issue of Navaratri friendly... (1).pdf**  
15K

 **Navratri vrat (Responses) - Google Drive.pdf**  
37K