

Meghaninagar P.S. I Cr. No. 67/2002

Date: 03-06-2011

Statement of Shri Pradip Sharma, S/o, Shri Nirankarnath Sharma, aged about 55 years, R/o, 34, Vrindavan Bungalows, Satellite Road, Ahmedabad City, u/s 161 Cr.P.C. Phone No. 26779017.

I was born, brought up and educated in Gujarat. I have done my graduation in Chemistry from Gujarat University. Ahmedabad City. I joined Gujarat Administrative Service in the year 1981. In Gujarat State, I remained posted in different places in different capacities. I was nominated to IAS in the year 1999 with the seniority of 1994. Five different criminal cases relating to revenue matters have been registered against me. Initially, I was arrested in 06-01-2010 and bailed out under the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 06-09-2010. After I was released on bail, Govt. of Gujarat filed more cases against me within 20 days. I was again arrested on 14-02-2011, since then I continue to be in judicial custody in District Jail, Bhuj. While I was in judicial custody, two more criminal cases were registered against me and I am also in judicial custody in one of these cases.

I had sent a letter dated 11-04-2011 to the Chairman, SIT through Superintendent, Dist. Jail, Bhuj. In this letter, I have expressed my willingness to make a statement before SIT relating to the allegations being inquired into against Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister and others. In this connection, I state that I was posted at Municipal Commissioner, Jamnagar City during the period December, 2000 to April, 2003 and thereafter, I was transferred as Collector & District Magistrate, Bhuj. After the Godhra train burning incident on 27-02-2002 (could be after 4-5 days), I remember that Shri Arvind Sharma IAS, Secretary to Chief Minister had rung me up sometime in the first week of March, 2002 on my official mobile no. 98250 50666. Shri Arvind Sharma spoke to me in Hindi and he said that "*Pradip, mein Arvind Sharma bol raha hu, mein CM sahab ke chamber se bol raha hu, CM sahab samne bethe hai. Jara Kuldip (my elder brother) ko bolna, ki jyada proactive hone ki jarurat nahi hai, Muslims ko protection dene ki jarurat nahi hai. Jo ho raha hai, woh hone de*". I do not recall my reply to him at this stage. However, the very next moment, I called up my elder brother Shri Kuldeep Sharma IPS, who was then posted as IGP, Ahmedabad Rural Range on his official mobile number which could be probably 98250 06266. I narrated the conversation held with Shri Arvind Sharma to my elder brother, to which my brother replied something that I can never forget in my lifetime. I quote him in verbatim "I am a Police Officer in uniform, saving lives and properties of people is my duty and that is exactly what I am doing". These words were too harsh and abrupt for me to be conveyed to CM's office. I therefore asked my elder brother Shri Kuldeep Sharma to call up the CM's office directly and convey his thoughts. His response was that he had no intention of calling the CM's office and in case if they call again then I should request them to call him (my brother) directly. However, no call was received from CM's office in this regard.

Que. During examination, Shri Kuldeep Sharma has stated that Shri Arvind Sharma had conveyed to you that he (Shri Kuldeep Sharma) was acting too strongly and that he needed to exercise restraint only. No other talks have been narrated by him. What have you to say in this regard?

Ans. I am not sure my elder brother Shri Kuldeep Sharma remembers the exact conversations held with me. However, I have reproduced the actual words as per my recollection.

Que. Did you ever work with Shri Arvind Sharma, PS to CM in Gujarat State?

Ans. Yes. In 1999-2000, I was posted as Deputy Commissioner, Grievance Redressal Authority and Shri Arvind Sharma was posted as Jt. Commissioner, Rehabilitation Agency at Baroda City.

Que. Did you ever speak to Shri Arvind Sharma, PS to CM or meet him thereafter?

Ans. Yes. I used to speak to him over phone and visited him personally also. Shri Arvind Sharma had also visited me at Bhuj, Jamnagar and Rajkot during his official visits to these places.

Que. Did you ever submit a report in this regard to any of the authorities?

Ans. I did send an affidavit to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and to Shri Raju Ramchandran, Ld. Amicus Curiae, Supreme Court on 24-05-2011. I came to know about Shri Raju Ramchandran having been appointed as Amicus Curiae in this case through media reports.

Que. Did you tell some of your colleagues/friends about the said conversation immediately after the incident?

Ans. I must have spoken to more than a dozen IAS officers about the said incident, but at this stage even if I name them, they may not support my version.

Que. Did you file any affidavit or inform the Nanavati- Shah Commission of Inquiry about the said incident?

Ans. Jamnagar District was almost eventless during the riots and as such there was no question of filing any affidavit by me before any authority in any capacity. I did not inform the Commission about the said incident in my individual capacity.

Read over and admitted to be correct.

Before


(Himanshu Shukla)
DCP & I.O. SIT
Gandhinagar
Camp- Dist. Spl. Jail,
Palara, Kutch-Bhuj