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Jaya sentenced to 4 years imprisonment in disproportionate assets case, fined Rs 100 crores

DC | N ARUN KUMAR (/byline/n-arun-kumar)

Published
UpdatedSep 27, 2014, 4:08 pm IST
Feb 23, 2016, 2:43 pm IST

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The AIADMK will elect its new legislature party leader on Sunday


Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa (Photo: PTI)

Chennai: In a big blow to Tamil Nadu chief minister and AIADMK general secretary J. Jayalalithaa, a special court in Bangalore sentenced her to four years in prison and fined Rs.100 crore in a disproportionate assets case on Saturday.

Special judge John Michael D'Cunha also sentenced the three other accused, including close friend Sasikala Natarajan, Sasikala's niece Ilavarasi and nephew Sudhakaran, who is the 'disowned' foster son of Jayalalithaa in this case, initiated by Dr Subramanian Swamy and actively pursued by the rival DMK party since 1996. The allegation is that Jayalalithaa had amassed wealth valued at about Rs.66.65 crore in her name and in the names of the three others, which was disproportionate to her known source of income.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

DMK GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO FORM SPECIAL COURT ON COMING TO POWER IN 1996



1996: Dr Subramanian Swamy, then a leader of Janata Party, files a case against Jayalalithaa alleging that during her tenure as Chief Minister from 1991 to 1996, she amassed assets worth ₹66.65 crore disproportionate to her known sources of income.

DEC. 7, 1996: Jayalalithaa arrested.

1997: A prosecution launched in additional sessions court in Chennai against Jayalalithaa and three others for having assets 'disproportionate' to their known sources of income.

JUNE 4, 1997: Chargesheeted for offences under IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

FEB. 21, 2002: Jayalalithaa returns as Chief Minister.

2003: DMK general secretary K. Anbazhagan approaches Supreme Court to transfer the trial to Karnataka saying that a fair trial was not possible in Tamil Nadu with Jayalalithaa as Chief Minister.

NOV. 18, 2003: the Supreme Court transfers case to Bangalore.

FEB. 19, 2005: Karnataka government appoints B.V. Acharya, a former advocate general, as special public prosecutor (SPP).

OCT. /NOV. 2011: Jayalalithaa deposes in the special court and answers 1,339 questions.

AUGUST 12, 2012: Karnataka government accepts Acharya's resignation.

FEB. 2, 2013: Karnataka government appoints G. Bhavani Singh as SPP.

AUGUST 26, 2013: Karnataka government issues a notification withdrawing the appointment of Bhavani Singh as SPP.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013: Supreme Court quashes the notification withdrawing appointment of Bhavani Singh as SPP.

DECEMBER 12, 2013: Special court allows a plea by DMK general secretary Anbazhagan and directs physical production of valuables and other assets seized from Jayalalithaa in 1997.

AUGUST 28, 2014: Special court reserves judgment for September 20 and directs all four accused, including Jayalalithaa, to appear before it on that date.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014: Special court defers by a week - to September 27 -pronouncement of its verdict.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2014: Special Court convicts Jayalalithaa.

Read: Jayalalithaa disproportionate assets case: Prison cell readied for Tamil Nadu CM (<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140927/nation-current-affairs/article/disproportionate-assets-case-prison-cell-readied-tamil-nadu-cm>)

The court verdict would mean that Jayalalithaa immediately ceased to be the chief minister and her cabinet would stand dissolved. The state administration has come under the control of chief secretary Mohan Verghese Chunkath, who would report to state Governor K. Rosaiah. Jayalalithaa also stands disqualified as MLA. Now the AIADMK legislature party will have to elect a new leader and intimate to the Governor for the swearing-in of a new CM and Cabinet.

Jayalalithaa had met senior minister O. Panneerselvam twice during the breaks in the court proceedings, when she could have conveyed her choice of successor.

The AIADMK will elect its new legislature party leader on Sunday. The AIADMK legislature party is meeting at the party headquarters in Chennai to elect the next chief minister, who is likely to be sworn in the same day.

Read: J. Jayalalithaa is the first CM to lose post in a graft case (<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140927/nation-politics/article/j-jayalalithaa-first-cm-lose-post-graft-case>)

DMK general secretary K. Anbazhagan had moved Supreme Court in 2003 to transfer the case out of Tamil Nadu expressing apprehension that it would not be conducted properly since Jayalalithaa ruled the state then. The Apex Court shifted the case to Bangalore and a special court was set up to conduct the trial.

Read: Tamil Nadu chief minister Jayalalithaa's legal wrangles (<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140927/nation-current-affairs/article/tamil-nadu-chief-minister-jayalalithaas-legal-wrangles>)

The court verdict led to violence in many parts of Tamil Nadu as angry AIADMK members stoned buses and shops. They also burnt effigies of Dr Swamy and DMK president M. Karunanidhi. Shops downed shutters in most places and inter-state bus services were suspended. A few buses were torched.

"I have issued instructions to the chief secretary and the director general of police to ensure that law and order is maintained in the state and there is all-round peace", Governor Rosaiah told Deccan Chronicle. He said he was closely monitoring the situation.

Read: Stone pelting, burning effigies in Tamil Nadu after Jayalalithaa's conviction (<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140927/nation-current-affairs/article/stone-pelting-burning-effigies-tamil-nadu-after-jayalalithaa>)

The prolonged trial saw five judges - A S Pachapure, A T Munoli, B M Mallikarjunaiah, M S Balakrishna and John Michael D'Cunha.

The case was transferred to Bangalore's Special Court in 2003 by the Supreme Court on a petition filed by DMK leader K Anbazhagan who had expressed doubts over conduct of fair trial with Jayalalithaa as Chief Minister.

Read: Jayalalithaa's prison cell 'custodian' has been holding maximum number of top State political leaders and VVIPs

(<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140927/nation-current-affairs/article/jayalalithaas-prison-cell-custodian-has-been-holding-maximum>)

Security has been increased at the DMK headquarters and residences of its senior leaders. Police said that on a request from DMK, security had been increased at "Anna Arivalayam", the headquarters of DMK, two residences of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M Karunanidhi and the residence of Anbazhagan, party's general secretary.

Read: After Tamil Nadu CM Jayalalithaa's conviction who will take over next?

(<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140927/nation-current-affairs/article/after-tamil-nadu-cm-jayalalithaa%E2%80%99s-conviction-who-will-take>)

Appearing before the court four times, Jayalalithaa has answered 1,339 questions in closed door hearings during which she has maintained that the case was "politically motivated" and "fabricated" at the instance of her rival DMK.

Read: Jayalalithaa case verdict: AIADMK workers try to break barricades on Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border (<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140927/nation-current-affairs/article/jayalalithaa-case-verdict-aiadmk-workers-try-break-barricades>)

The case was filed by Subramanian Swamy in 1996. She was arrested and jailed for some days after DMK came to power in the 1996 Tamil Nadu Assembly polls.

Here is a timeline of events:

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Jayalithaa: The Conviction (<http://www.dipity.com/deccanchronicle/Jayalithaa-The-Conviction/>), on Dipity (<http://www.dipity.com/>).

The Karnataka government has so far spent Rs 2.86 crore on playing host to the case, according to documents obtained by an RTI activist.



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