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Jayalalithaa - Convicted, Locked in Prison

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By Malladi Rama Rao in New Delhi

New Delhi, 27 September, (Asiantribune.com) : Jayalalithaa Jairam, worshipped as Amma” by her AIADMK faithful was today convicted in a corruption case and sentenced to four years, convict No 7402-



J Jayalalithaa: Once Film Star, Then Chief Minister, Now a Felon - Convicted of Corruption

She stands debarred from contesting elections for six years after her release from the jail.

Finance Minister O Panneerselvam is likely to hold the forte till she runs through her legal recourses. He had held the post of CM in 2001 when Jayalalithaa faced a similar predicament and won an acquittal.

The order delivered by Special Judge John Michael Cunha in a packed court room temporarily setup in Bangalore’s central jail has sent shivers down the spine of many in the political class particularly “Amma” trenchant critics in the DMK party even as the majesty of Indian law stood out in all its

transplendent glory.

As many as 259 witnesses were examined and Jaya herself faced over 1,300 questions in person during the trial that was shifted to Bangalore from Chennai at the behest of DMK in November 2003.

The charge against Jayalalithaa is that she owned Rs 66.65 crore worth of assets disproportionate to her known sources of income during 1991-96 when she became the chief minister for the first time. As CM, she took only Re 1 as salary.

Jaya had had declared assets worth a mere three crore rupees when she became CM in 1991 and by the time her term ended in 1996, the assets zoomed to Rs 65.86 crore, Dr Swamy had alleged in his complaint against here on June 14, 1996.

The judge also found Jaya’s aide former aide Sasikala Natarajan, Sudhakaran, whom Jaya used to treat as her foster son till some time ago, and sister-in-law J Illavarasi.

Sasikala, Sudhakaran and Ilavarasi were also given four years' imprisonment and fined Rs. 10 crore each

All the accused have been given hefty fines. Jaya has been asked to pay Rs. 100 crore in fine.

The conviction was ordered under Prevention of Corruption Act, and the Indian Penal Code.

As the news was flashed from Bangalore, shops and business establishments pulled down their shutters while the AIADMK cadres have hit the streets in Chennai and elsewhere and indulged in acts of stone pelting, and , and damaging public property. Sections of

media were attacked

DMK Reaction



Jayalalithaa who was given 4 years imprisonment in assets case is locked in the Parapana Agrahara prison in Bangalore.

DMK supremo M Karunanidhi and his colleagues have expressed joy. And said "Justice has been delayed for so many years, but not denied...we are happy".

DMK spokesperson T K S Elangovan said "We (the DMK) are accused of filing false charges due to political vendetta (but) now that the Court had found her guilty, it is clear that we have not filed any false cases".

How The Case Evolved

June 1996: Dr

Subramanian Swamy, then a leader of Janata Party, files the case alleging she had amassed assets worth Rs 66.65 crore as CM though her income as CM was one rupee a month.

Dec 7, 1996: Jayalalithaa arrested.

1997: Charge-sheeted filed, Governor Fathima Beevi permits her prosecution

October 1, 1997: Madras High Court dismisses Jayalalithaa appeal against Governor's decision.

Aug 2000: 250 prosecution witnesses examined by now; only 10 more remained.

Oct 2000: Jaya convicted in Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation (TANSI) case.

May 2001: AIADMK wins assembly election, Jayalalithaa becomes CM Minister.

Sept 2001: SC nullifies the appointment. Jaya ceases to be CM

Feb 2012: Jaya returns to the assembly as her conviction was set aside, becomes CM again.

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

Nov 18, 2003: Supreme Court transferred the case to Bangalore.

Feb 2005: Karnataka Government appoints B V Acharya, a former advocate general, as Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) to conduct the prosecution.

2011: Jayalalithaa deposes in the Special Court and answers 1,339 questions.

2012: Acharya expresses inability to continue as SPP.

2013: Karnataka government appoints G Bhavani Singh as SPP.

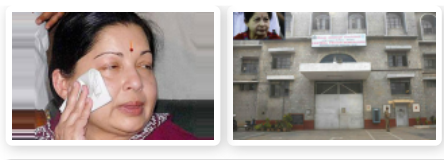
Dec 12, 2013: Special Court allows a plea by DMK general secretary K Anbazhagan and directs physical production of valuables and other assets seized from Jayalalithaa in 1997 and deposited with RBI treasury in Chennai.

Aug 28, 2014: Special Court reserves judgement for September 20 and directs all the four accused to appear before it on that date.

Sept 16, 2014: Special Court defers by a week to Sept 27 pronouncement of its verdict.

Sept 27, 2014: Jayalalithaa convicted - Locked up in Parapana Agrahara Prison

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