



HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

CRIMINAL MISC. WRIT PETITION No. - 28869 of 2025

Yogesh Sharma

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State Of U.P. And 3 Others

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s) : Nikhil Pandey, Nishant Mishra
Counsel for Respondent(s) : G.A.

Court No. - 49

**HON'BLE AJAY BHANOT, J.
HON'BLE GARIMA PRASHAD, J.**

Learned AGA to obtain instructions on the merits of the case.

Principal Secretary, Department of State Taxes, Government of U.P. shall file his personal affidavit disclosing the authority of law under which an Additional Commissioner, Appeal is to be referred as Hon'ble Additional Commissioner, Appeal. This is a subtle but a certain way to diminish the status of constitutional authorities and courts.

There is a recent trend where the ranks of various State officials from the lowest to the highest levels are being preceded with "Honourable" in correspondences as well as orders. This Court has already noticed that the word Honourable has to be prefixed only in case of Hon'ble Ministers and other sovereign functionaries. The same does not hold good for bureaucrats or officials of the State Government. The order passed by the learned Single Judge of this Court in **Krishn Gopal Rathore vs. State of U.P. and others (Writ A No. 13930 of 2024)** may be fruitfully referenced:

"This Court notices that in official correspondences, there is a regular

reference to different ranks of officials of the State with the word "Honourable" appended to their name. In this case, the Divisional Commissioner of Kanpur has been referred by the Collector, Etawah as "Honourable Commissioner" (translated from Hindi).

Let the Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue, U.P., Lucknow apprise this Court, on affidavit, if there is any protocol about officials of the State who are entitled to prefix or have the word "Honourable" prefixed along with their designations or names.

This Court is well aware that the word "Honourable" is to be certainly prefixed in the case of Hon'ble Ministers and other sovereign functionaries, but we are not aware if the same holds good for Secretaries serving the State Government."

Put up this matter on 19.12.2025 in the list of fresh cases.

December 15, 2025

Vandit

(Garima Prashad,J.) (Ajay Bhanot,J.)