

Sanjay sought 2 lakh for YC, says witness ^{HT} 77

NEW DELHI, May 28 (Samachar) —Mr Avinash Chand, son of Mr Ravinder Parkash, who has filed a complaint of criminal conspiracy against former U.P. Chief Minister N. D. Tiwari, Mr Sanjay Gandhi and others, today told the court of Metropolitan Magistrate A. K. Srivastava that accused Sanjay Gandhi wanted a donation of Rs 2 lakh for the Youth Congress.

Deposing as second prosecution witness in support of the complaint filed by his father, he said the issue of donation came up when he had told Mr Sanjay Gandhi that his father had been arrested under MISA and he wanted him to be released.

It was either on Oct. 24 or 25, 1976, he said that he had gone to see Mr Tiwari, at U.P. Niwas. After his introduction to Mr Tiwari he was ushered into another room where Mr Sanjay Gandhi was sitting.

He said he had gone to U.P. Niwas with his mother, sister and a family friend but none of them was allowed to accompany him.

He said that the introduction was over Mr Gandhi asked him if "we cared to do any service for the Youth Congress."

When asked to elaborate, Mr Gandhi said: "Pay a donation of Rs 2 lakh for the IYC."

He said Mr Gandhi had also asked him to tell his father about it when he visited him in the jail. He said he informed his father about it when he met him two or three days later.

He claimed that he had met Mr Gandhi and Mr Tiwari several times.

Mr Purshottam Chander, a director of the Janata Paper Mills of Mr Ravinder Parkash, told the court that the mill had obtained land from Mr Parkash and his mother, Mrs Savitri Devi and that the land was converted to industrial land from agricultural land after obtaining necessary permission from the concerned authorities.

On March 12, 1976, he testified, possession of the land and the garden therein belonging to Mr Ravinder Parkash, Mrs Savitri Devi and the mill was taken by the special land acquisition officer, who is also one of the accused.

At the time of taking possession of the land by the authorities, crop and trees were standing on it.

After recording the statement of the counsel for the complainant that he closed his preliminary evidence, Mr Srivastava fixed June 6 for arguments as to what offences prima facie have been made out against the accused.