

Last week, after arguing a very complicated case for the whole day, I was leaving out of the court room, thoroughly exhausted. Beside me was the SDR, who argued the case for the department, walking equally exhausted. I congratulated her for the gallant display for which she smiled and commented, "You are gifted that you can relax for another week but I have to be ready for tomorrow!" Very true indeed!!!

On any given day, most of the advocates appear in either one or two cases only, to ensure better concentration. I can testify that the mental exhaustion after conducting every case is much more than the physical exertions after a marathon run! But our learned DRs are made to represent around 20 to 30 short matters or 15 to 25 regular matters, in a single day! If a single case itself demands so much of steam, the amount of steam that is required to handle so many cases on a single day is phenomenal! And it is not a single day affair, but it goes on and on...

As a practicing advocate, I closely know the dedicated efforts that every case requires and the amount of homework that goes into the preparation of a defence or an appeal! What applies to me and my brethren, if not more, equally applies to the DRs too! As said above, if we all do so much of preparation for the one or two cases we appear on a single day, think of the preparation a DR needs to do for his/her long list of cases! Breathtaking but true!

To me, the DRs are the most dedicated lot on this planet, doing a thankless job! And what do the DRs get for doing such a thankless job? An out-of-turn promotion? An award for effective representation? A reward for the cases won? Nay! Unfortunately, it's all whiplashes and brickbats! There is no one to appreciate or give any incentive to the DRs, if a case is hard fought and won. But they are ready to nail them and seek explanations, when a fragile case is lost! We have witnessed the learned DRs, desperately defending tooth and nail, the clumsy and brittle orders passed by their counter parts! When subjected to judicial scrutiny, such cases get fall like nine pins, for want of legal approval! During such cases, the poor DRs are not only lay stranded as dismal witnesses but also invite the wrath of the Bench for arguing such flimsy cases! I strongly feel that lack of proper briefing, inadequacy of infrastructure, overload, frail orders passed by the quasi judiciary, are the major reasons for the decline of quality output from the DRs thus making them as Devil's Advocate, by just standing at the opposite side and arguing just for the sake of argument!