

SC ready to revisit Lodha reforms

Over a year after backing the mantra of reforms framed by the high-profile Justice R.M. Lodha Committee to usher in transparency in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the cricket administration, the Supreme Court on Monday said it was ready to revisit, if not modify, some key recommendations as they “may not be a good idea in this country”.

One State, one vote

Primary among the recommendations of the Justice Lodha panel which may come under scrutiny is the “one State, one vote policy. Another is the capping of the number of members of the senior selection committee at three, all of them to be former Test players. The BCCI last year stuck to its conventional five members.

“One State, one vote may not be a good idea in this country. I am quite favourable to the submissions of Railways, Maharashtra, Baroda and the Mumbai Cricket Association in this regard ... Again, we don't want to get into selection and all that. But appointing somebody who has played just two or three Tests over a more qualified person ... We want to debate...,” Justice Dipak Misra, who heads the Bench, orally observed.

The Bench said it would hear the BCCI, the State cricket associations and member bodies on issues such as “memberships, number of votes” in an effort to make the running of “cricket, the gentleman's game” come as close to perfect as possible.

Meanwhile, the Bench exhorted the BCCI and its members to meet on July 26, as scheduled, and implement the Lodha reforms as regards all issues other than the ones flagged for further debate in court.

The court recorded that it would take stock of the minutes of the July 26 meeting in a hearing on August 18 and see how much of the Lodha reforms have been agreed to by the BCCI members. The Bench would then post the case for September 5, on which date, the stage would be open for further discussion on possible modifications in the Lodha recommendations.

END

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