

Babu transfers: Gov changes CM's order

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Governor, E.S.L. Narasimhan on Tuesday ordered the reversal of former CM Kiran Kumar Reddy's last minute transfer of a few bureaucrats to plum posts.

Just before demitting office, Mr Reddy had transferred his secretary K.S. Jawahar Reddy, to irrigation department as in-charge of Jalayagnam projects, special secretary, N. Sridhar to AP Beverages Corporation Limited as MD, and officer on special duty M. Surender, to AP State Seeds Development Corporation as MD.

The government, however, has cancelled the previous postings and put Mr Jawahar Reddy in panchayat raj, Mr Sridhar in education department - in an insignificant post - and Mr Surender as executive director in AP Industrial Infrastructure Corporation. The government did not touch Ajay Kallam who had served as the CM's principal secretary and was made in-charge of finance. The latest transfers, however, raised curiosity in the backdrop of the Central Administrative Tribunal recently staying the transfer of transport commissioner G. Anantha Ramu, on the grounds that he had not completed two years in the post. The government had not challenged the CAT order and had honoured it by canceling Mr Anantha Ramu's transfer.

"Approaching CAT is one of the options available to us," said one of the officers.

Significantly, the government also brought back Aditya Nath Das to irrigation, where he had worked for about seven years and had been moved to the Infrastructure and Investment department by

the former CM.

Sources said the Governor wanted Mr Das to bring all the irregularities that took place in the last five years to his notice and also to come up with rectification methods. He put V. Nagi Reddy, who is known for his straightforward approach, in the Irrigation department as part of the cleansing exercise.

Incidentally, chief secretary Dr P.K. Mohanty was unhappy with Mr Das for not submitting a report on the controversial GO allowing cost escalation to irrigation contractors and for proceeding abroad on a foreign jaunt. Earlier, Mr Das, however, had defended the issue of the GO, which he said had been done as per business rules.

Meanwhile, the Governor brought back P. Basant Kumar, joint collector of Chittoor, as his joint secretary. Mr Kumar had earlier worked with Mr Narasimhan and was conferred IAS. Mr Ch. Sridhar had been installed in Mr Basant Kumar's place.

Another dynamic officer, Rahul Bojja, was brought in as special commissioner to GHMC.

The Governor also put a ban on foreign trips by the IAS officials and asked the CS to consider leave applications only in case of health exigencies. He wanted the full attendance of the officials to ensure smooth completion of division formalities.

The government also moved senior IPS official Tejdeep Kaur Menon to an insignificant post of commissioner Stationery and Printing. A.B. Venkateswara Rao, who is handling OCTOPUS, is shifted to Special Protection Force in place of Ms Menon.

Significantly, DG (operations) J.V. Ramudu has been given additional charge of OCTOPUS.