

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7699

ANSWERED ON:16.05.2000

INTEGRITY OF CIVIL SERVANTS

NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;PRABHUNATH SINGH;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a sharp fall in the integrity of civil servants in the country as reported in the Pioneer dated April 16, 2000;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible therefor; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard to deal with the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (Department of Personnel & Training) have reported that no studies have been conducted in this regard. However, Government is fully alive to the need to provide clean administration and to eradicate corruption at all levels of public services. The drive against corruption is a continuing process and the policies are modified from time to time in order to make them more responsive to the changing environment. All the Anti-Corruption Agencies of the Government viz. Internal Vigilance set up in the various Ministries/Departments, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and the Central Vigilance Commission are making all possible efforts to curb corruption in public service. The Government has recently taken the following initiatives for eradication of corruption:

(1) The Central Vigilance Commission Bill to confer statutory status to the Commission has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 20, 1999. The Bill stands referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

(2) The Central Bureau of Investigation launched special drives recently to detect cases of disproportionate assets, to organise traps to apprehend public servants while demanding and accepting illegal gratification and conduct surprise check at sensitive places.

(3) The Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide para 3 (v) of Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No.371/20/99/AVD.III dated 4.4.1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption such as creating a culture of honesty, greater transparency in Administration, electronics clearance system and computerisation of banks, sensitising public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on Vigilance Management in Public Sector Banks and Public Sector Undertakings.

(4) The Government set up a working group on 'Right to Information and Transparency' in January, 1997 which submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 1997. The report of the Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in Parliament.

(5) Recognising that an important aspect of Preventive Vigilance is to ensure transparency in public administration, measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizen's Charters and Facilitation Counters have been initiated. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up.