

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1065

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

CORRUPTION

ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL; CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE; M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY; NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA; NAWAL KISHORE RAI; RATTAN LAL KATARIA; RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN; SHYAMA SINGH; VAIKO

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Corruption harming country like militancy' in The Hindustan Times dated January 5, 2000.

(b) if so, the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government are aware that corruption in the country has reached at its maximum peak and various anti-corruption agencies set up by the Government have totally failed to check this evil practice; and

(d) if so, the immediate steps propose to be taken by the Government to eliminate corruption in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1065 TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.03.2000.

(a) & (b): The news-item captioned 'Corruption harming country like militancy' which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated February 5, 2000 refers to the deliberations of the Seminar titled 'Corruption: A challenge of the 21st Century' organised in New Delhi by Capital Foundation Society. In the Seminar, inter-alia, causes and measures to prevent corruption in the country were discussed.

(c) & (d): The Government is fully alive to the need to provide clean administration and to eradicate the malady of corruption at all levels of public services. The drive against corruption in public services to check mal-practices in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. The Head of each Ministry/Department of the Government of India and its organisations is responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in the respective organisation. All the Anti Corruption Agencies of the Government viz. Internal Vigilance set up in the Ministries/Departments, the Central Bureau of Investigation, a premier investigating agency of the Central Government and the Central Vigilance Commission are making all out efforts to curb corruption from public life. The Government has recently taken the following initiatives for eradication of corruption:-

1. 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.

2. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999. The Bill stands referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

3. Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 to set up the institution of Lok Pal to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries. The Bill, however, lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. Steps are being taken to re-introduce the Lok Pal Bill.

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. Besides, 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 4th April, 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 the public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and

public sector undertakings.