GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:256 ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010 GROWING CORRUPTION Ray Shri Rudramadhab

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the Supreme Court's remarks on graft in Government's departments, 'Nothing moves without money' wherein it expressed concern over growing corruption in Government machinery, particularly in the Income Tax, Sales Tax and Excise Departments as reported in the media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps proposed to check rampant corruption in public dealing departments in the country?

Answer

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs .(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a): Yes, Sir.
- (b): Punjab Vigilance Bureau had registered a case against Shri Madan Mohan Lal Verma, Inspector Income Tax, W-2 (6), Jalandhar, for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 25,000/-. The case was transferred to CBI for investigation; a charge sheet was filed before the Court of Special Judge, CBI, Punjab at Patiala; and the accused was sentenced to undergo one year RI with a fine of Rs. 2,500/-. The accused filed a Criminal Appeal against his conviction in the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh which set aside the conviction and acquitted the accused. Against the said acquittal, CBI filed Special Leave to appeal before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The same has been converted into a Criminal appeal and admitted on 08.10.2010.
- (c) : Government is fully committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption" and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life by improving transparency and accountability. Several steps have been taken to combat corruption and to improve the functioning of Government. These include -
- (i) Issue of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;
- (ii) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (iii) The pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance as a preventive measure;
- (iv) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC;
- (v) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt Integrity Pact in major Government procurement activities; Similar instructions have been issued by the Central Government on 16th June, 2009 advising the State Governments to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurements;
- (vi) India is amongst the countries who have signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
- (vii) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems;
- (viii) Issue of Citizen Charters.