GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4384 ANSWERED ON:21.12.2011 ANTI CORRUPTION CELL Patel Shri Natubhai Gomanbhai

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

(a) whether cases of graft are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has constituted an Anti-Corruption Cell for detection and prevention of such cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the State-wise number of persons caught taking bribes by the said cell during the last three years?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (e): Ordinarily, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the State Anti-Corruption agencies concerned nab persons for taking bribe/graft. As no data is maintained, centrally, on the State-wise number of persons caught for taking bribe/graft, it may not be possible to conclusively say whether cases of bribe/graft are on the rise in the country.

However, awareness about corruption in the country has increased, in the recent past. Each Central Ministry/ Department/ Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)/ Agency etc. also have vigilance wings to deal with corruption in their respective domain.

Corruption thrives where transparency is lacking, procedures are complicated, discretion of a high order is permitted and where there is a demand supply gap. The Central Government is tackling these situations by encouraging greater transparency, introducing simplified procedures reducing scope for discretion. The Central Government is fully alive and committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption" and has taken several steps, in the recent past, to combat corruption. These include:-

(i). Issue of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004 and the introduction of the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection to Persons making the Disclosure Bill, 2010 in Parliament;

- (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; State Governments have also been advised to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurements;

(vi). Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems;

(vii). Issue of Citizens Charters;

(viii). Acceptance of the First Report of the Group of Ministers to consider measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption;

(ix). Introduction of the Lokpal Bill, 2011 in the Parliament;

(x). Ratification of United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2011;

(xi). Introduction of the Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organizations Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha;

(xii). Introduction of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010 in the Parliament;

(xiii). Placing of details of immovable property returns of all Members of the All India Services and other Group 'A' officers of the Central Government in the public domain.

(xiv). Introduction of the Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.2011.