

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:247

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION

Sinh Dr. Sanjay,Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether the present institutional and legal framework is adequate to combat corruption at the highest bureaucratic levels in the Ministries/Departments and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to amend the relevant statutes to prevent corruption at these levels;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the names of the Secretaries and their Departments against whom action has been taken under the extant provisions during the last three years; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to prevent occurrence of corruption at such level of officers in various Ministries/Departments of the Union Government?

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): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 247 BY SHRI MANSUKH BHAI D. VASAVA AND DR. SANJAY SINH FOR 29.8.2012 REGARDING 'PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION'.

(a) to (c): The present institutional and legal framework for combating corruption is contained in the following Acts of Parliament:-

- (i) The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946;
- (ii) The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003;
- (iii) The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The legal framework under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 applies to all levels of public servants irrespective of rank. The jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission covers public servant of specified levels which includes officers at the highest bureaucratic levels in the Ministries/Departments.

Nevertheless, the fight against corruption is an ongoing process and it is the endeavour of the government to strengthen its anti-corruption laws and institutional mechanisms from time to time so as to ensure that the corrupt are punished effectively and expeditiously. To strengthen the anti-corruption mechanism, the Central Government has introduced a number of legislations in the Parliament in the recent past. Some of them are-

- (i) The Lokpal & Lokayuktas Bill, 2011;
- (ii) The Whistle-blowers Protection Bill, 2011;
- (iii) The Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organizations Bill, 2011; and
- (iv) The Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of the Grievances Bill, 2011.

(d): According to information furnished by CBI, it has registered 02 cases against Secretaries to Government of India during the last three years i.e. 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2012 (till 31.7.2012). Details are as under:-

Year	No. of cases registered	Name of the officer	Designation/ Department
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2009 01 Shri Siddhartha Behura, IAS, (UP:1973) (Retired) The
then Secretary, Department of
Telecommunications.

2010 - - -

2011 01 Shri Shyamal Ghosh, IAS, (GJ:1965) (Retired) The
then Chairman (Telecom Commission)
& Secretary, Department of
Telecommunications.

2012 - - -
(upto
31st
July, 2012)

Total 02

(e): As stated above, the fight against corruption is an ongoing process. Corruption thrives where transparency is lacking, procedures are complicated, discretion of a high order is permitted and where there is a demand supply gap. Government is tackling these situations by encouraging greater transparency, introducing simplified procedures, reducing scope for discretion. The Central Government has taken several steps, in the recent past, to combat corruption at all levels. These include:-

(i) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;

(ii) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC;

(iii) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt Integrity Pact in major Government procurement activities; State Government have also been advised to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurements;

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

(v) Issue of Citizen Charters;

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

(vii) 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; and

(viii) Introduction of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010 in the Parliament (passed by the Lok Sabha on 29.3.2012).