

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
INCREASE IN CORRUPTION IN THE COUNTRY .

135

Shri Ram Jethmalani

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the effect of corruption is continuously increasing in the country for the last few years;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that clear indications are being given by international agencies also in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government regarding increase in the effect of corruption; and
- (d) the new administrative steps taken by Government in previous years to stop generation of scope of corruption instead of preventing the corruption?

ANSWER

Minister of State for Planning & Parliamentary Affairs.

(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 135 FOR 18.11.2010.

(a) to (c) : Yes Sir. Corruption is a menace that has a wide range of corrosive effect on society. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, and erodes the quality of life. Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, restricts a Government's ability to provide basic services, and feeds inequality and injustice. Transparency International has been publishing an annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranking the countries of the world according to "the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians". The index is not error-free and lacks actionable insight because of a simple country ranking.

(d): 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 Government is fully alive and committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption". Several steps have been taken to combat corruption and to improve the functioning of Government. These include:-

(i) Issue of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004 and introduction of the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection to Persons Making the Disclosure Bill, 2010 in the Lok Sabha on 26th August, 2010.

(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. More than 50 organizations have adopted the Integrity Pact. 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.