GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING)

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2046 (TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024)

DELAY IN OPERATIONALIZING THE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT, 2014

2046. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government acknowledges the urgency of operationalizing the Whistleblower Protection Act, 2014, to provide statutory protection to individuals exposing corruption in public dealings, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is adequately empowered to handle whistleblower complaints effectively under current guidelines; and
- (c) the details of consultations, if any, held to address concerns about balancing whistleblower protection and national security?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c): In terms of the provisions conferred in PIDPI Resolution, 2004, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the Designated Agency to receive written complaints or disclosure of any allegation of corruption or of misuse of office by any employee of the central government or of any corporation established by or under any central Act, government companies, societies or local authorities owned and controlled by the central government from whistle blowers. CVC is fulfilling its mandate as given under various provisions of PIDPI Resolution, 2004.

The Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 (No. 17 of 2014) has been notified on 12th May, 2014. In terms of provision of sub-section (3) of section 1 of the Act, the provisions of the Act shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint. No such notification has been made by the Government for the reason that the Act requires amendments aimed at safeguarding against disclosures affecting sovereignty and integrity of India, Security of the State, etc., before it is brought into force.

To make these amendments to the Act, the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department had been consulted for views and concurrence on the proposal for amending the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014. Upon receiving the concurrence of these departments and approval by the Cabinet, the government introduced the Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in the Lok Sabha on 11th May, 2015 which was passed by the Lok Sabha on 13th May, 2015 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha. The Bill has since lapsed upon the dissolution of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha.
