

10% cut advised in January, 1992, were asked to fully implement that decision immediately. According to the information available with the Ministry of Finance, about 1.6 lakh posts in various categories have already been abolished as a result of this exercise. However, the exact amount of reduction in Government expenditure as a result of this measure is not centrally available.

Changes in existing laws of CVC to fight corruption

3617. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has sought some changes in existing laws to fight corruption;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action proposed by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The cases of corruption are dealt under the appropriate law. The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is the major Act to deal with the corrupt public servants. However, the Central Vigilance Commission has made the following suggestions to the respective Ministries/Departments for enactment, the position where of is indicated against each:—

- (i) Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Act: The law Commission of India forwarded its 166th Report on the Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill to the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs who laid the Report on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 28th October, 1999. However, the Report is still at consideration stage in consultation with appropriate authorities.
- (ii) Freedom of Information Act: With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies, the Government had, in January, 1997, constituted a Working Group on Right to Information and promotion of Open and Transparent Government under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The report of the Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in Parliament.

- (iii) Whistle Blower Act: The Central Vigilance Commissioner had requested to the Chairman, Law Commission to consider drafting a whistle Blower Act on the lines of United Kingdom and United States of America to encourage honest public servants to expose corrupt practices. No formal proposal has been received by the Government in this regard so far.
- (iv) The Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988: As per the information furnished by the department of Revenue, the matter regarding relevant amendments in the statute to make it workable is under process in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

Cases of corruption at high places pursued by the CBI

3618. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) apart from the fodder scam cases in Bihar, how many other cases involving corruption in high places and politicians are being pursued by the CBI in the last two years and the details thereof;
- (b) in how many such cases charge sheets have been filed by the agency; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) In the years 1998 and 1999, apart from the fodder scam cases in Bihar, the CBI has registered 7 and 2 cases respectively, relating to corruption against politicians. Out of the aforesaid 9 cases, chargesheet has been filed in one case relating to assets disproportionate to the known sources of income of a former Chief Minister of a State.

Leave Travel Concession to Government Employees

3619. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government employees are entitled to All India Travel once during four years while in service;