

Bill to protect whistleblowers

2540. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is going to introduce a bill that seeks to protect the whistleblowers from official retaliation;
- (b) if so, by when; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A The Public Interest Disclosure and Protection to Persons Making the Disclosure Bill, 2010 has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26th August, 2010.

Country's rank in Integrity Index

2541. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India drops to 87th rank in Integrity Index;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future with some action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) 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 agency has placed India at 87th rank in 2010 compared to 84th in 2009.

(c) 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.