

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) In order to safeguard, the interest of students going abroad, especially in view of the recent incident in the USA where a University was shut down by the US Government causing hardship to some Indian students, the Government has requested the US Government to take all possible steps to prevent such incidents in future. Government also hopes that Indian students will exercise due vigilance in applying to foreign universities.

#### **Corruption in placing tenders**

1607. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the alleged large scale corruption in placing tenders for projects including Defence and Railways putting qualifying specifications in the tender as such that only multi-national firms were able to apply;

(b) if so, the details thereof and measures proposed to be taken to reduce corruption in tendering process;

(c) whether Government is considering a proposal to enact a comprehensive public procurement law to ensure transparency and reduce corruption in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The qualifying specifications prescribed in tenders vary from case to case and depend on requirement specific to the organization. No data on qualifying specifications is centrally maintained. The Central Vigilance Commission and the CBI have reported they are not aware of alleged corruption in placing tenders for projects by putting qualifying specifications in the tender such that only multi-national firms were able to apply. However, in order to ensure fair play and transparency in tendering process, the Central Vigilance Commission has recommended wide publicity for all notice inviting tenders and adoption of codified tendering

procedures with an emphasis on e-tendering and procurement techniques. Further, the Commission has also advocated adoption of Integrity Pact in all major procurements.

(c) and (d) On the basis of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers, a Committee under Shri Vinod Dhall, formerly Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs has already been set up on 31.1.2011 to look into various issues having an impact on public procurement policy, standards and procedure.

#### **Effect of corruption on country's image**

1608. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that corruption has badly affected India's image abroad;
- (b) if so, the steps that have been taken to retrieve the situation; and
- (c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANSASAMY): (a) Corruption is an impediment to faster growth. It not only dilutes but also negates our efforts at social inclusion and dents our international image.

(b) and (c) To combat corruption, a Group of Ministers has been set up to look into all measures, legal or administrative. Two bills have been introduced in Parliament relating to judicial accountability and protection of whistle blowers. Besides the legislation, necessary revamping of administrative practices and procedures are on fast-track. Several steps have already been taken by the Government in the recent past to combat corruption and improve the functioning of Government. These include:

- (i) Issue of Whistle Blowers' Resolution, 2004 and introduction of a comprehensive Bill in the Lok Sabha in 2010 for protection of whistle-blower;
- (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;