

After conducting the further investigation, charge sheet was filed against the accused, before Spl. Judge, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi on 29.12.2008. As per directions of Hon'ble Delhi High Court on 16.8.2010 in Cr MC No. 1436/2009, CBI has conducted enquiry against the officials responsible for delay in filing the charge-sheet and suitable action has been taken. A Status report in this regard was filed in Hon'ble Delhi High Court on 4.7.2011.

(b) No, Sir. In CBI, there is no such case which is pending investigation even after passing of twenty years.

Increase in corruption

†2548. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent survey conducted by 'Transparency International', corruption has immensely increased in different States of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to curb the corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Transparency International India (TII) publishes the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) annually ranking countries "by their perceived levels of corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys". The agency has placed India at 95th rank in 2011 as compared to 87th rank in 2010.

(b) The CPI ranks countries/territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of institutions. According to the Press-release of the TII, perception about corruption in India seems to have increased primarily due to the ongoing movement for the enactment of an effective Lokpal and alleged corrupt practices in a series of scandals involving the sale of telecom licenses, preparations for the Commonwealth, etc.

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 Central Government is fully alive and committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption" and has taken several steps to combat corruption. These include:-

(i) Issue of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004 and the introduction of the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection to Persons making the Disclosure Bill, 2010 in Parliament;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (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; 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) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems;
- (vii) Issue of Citizens Charters;
- (viii) Acceptance of the First Report of the Group of Ministers to consider measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption;
- (ix) Introduction of the Lokpal Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha;
- (x) Ratification of United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC);
- (xi) Introduction of the Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organizations Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha;
- (xii) Introduction of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010 in the Parliament;
- (xiii) Placing of details of immovable property returns of all Members of the All India Services and other Group 'A' officers of the Central Government in the public domain.

Special Central assistance to Western Odisha Development Council Region

2549. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government consider to give special Central Assistance to Western Odisha Development Council Region which is the most backward region of the State as well as most backward region of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): The districts covered under Western Odisha Development Council Region are already being allocated Additional Central Assistance on 100% grant basis under various components of Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) *i.e.* (i) Four districts, namely, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Sonepur are being allocated Additional Central Assistance under Special Plan for the KBK Districts of Odisha (ii) Nine districts, namely, Bolangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Jharsugada, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Sonepur and Sundargarh are being allocated Additional Central Assistance