

**XVIIIth Biennial Conference of Anti-Corruption Bureaux/Vigilance
Bureaux of States and CBI**

**Address by Director CBI at the Valedictory Session
22nd October, 2011**

Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel Shri V. Narayanasamy,

Vigilance Commissioner, Shri R. Sri Kumar,

Vigilance Commissioner Shri J.M. Garg,

Secretary, (Personnel) Smt. Alka Sirohi,

Special Director CBI Shri V.K. Gupta,

Distinguished delegates to the Conference,

Medal Awardees and their family members,

Friends from Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. We are greatly honored to have Hon'ble Minister of State of Personnel, Shri Narayanasamy for this Valedictory Session of the 18th Biennial Conference of Heads of State Anti-Corruption Bureaux and CBI officers. Sir, your presence on both days of our Conference signifies your commitment to the cause and is a major source of inspiration to all of us.

2. Sir, you and the department of personnel has always stood with us in all our endeavors and supported us on each count. Due to your constant guidance and encouragement, our motivation has multiplied and we can assure you sir, that, CBI will continue to excel in this fight against corruption.

3. Our special gratitude to Secretary (Personnel) Smt. Alka Sirohi. Her unstinted support to our functioning in general and in holding this conference in particular merits special mention. I thank you Ma'am on behalf of all of us in CBI.

4. We had the privilege of having amongst us the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singhji, to inaugurate this Conference yesterday. We are grateful to Hon'ble PM for his kind words. Such words inspire us to put in our best. We would also like to express our gratitude to Hon'ble PM for assuring us and I quote

“Whatever be the structure and functions of the Lokpal when it is established, the CBI as our premier investigating agency will continue to play a very important role in our efforts for ensuring probity in our public life.”

5. Hon'ble PM set the agenda of this Conference by pointing out, and I again quote,

“I also believe that today we stand at the cusp of far reaching changes in our approach and our institutional mechanisms to curb corruption in public life.”

6. Sir, taking a clue from the expectations of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the delegates to the Conference, during the last two days have deliberated upon a number of issues on the theme of Conference, “Corruption: Emerging Challenges and Response.”

7. In the first business session, Secretary (P) Smt. Alka Sirohi elaborated the comprehensive legislative processes initiated by the Government to eradicate graft in public life. She underlined that the State Governments have a crucial role to play in curbing corruption as people form an impression of the Government mainly on the basis of their interaction with the State Government functionaries.

8. We had interesting presentations on “Appraisal of Anti-corruption Apparatus in States and Union Territories” and “Need for Strengthening of State Anti Corruption Machinery”. We also had an informative presentation regarding the institution of Lokayukta in Madhya Pradesh.

Sir, on the basis of discussions, the house has unanimously adopted a **resolution** as follows:

“There is a need for standardizing various norms applicable to the set-ups and processes of Anti-Corruption agencies across the country. A Special Working Group, consisting of selected representatives from various States and CBI, may be constituted to suggest minimum basic norms / benchmarks which can be adopted by all the State ACBx. The group will submit its report, preferably within 3 months’ time.”

9. Sir, the second session of the conference was focused on **preventive vigilance**. Shri R. Sharma, DG, Economic Offences, MP made a thought provoking presentation on “Combating Corruption for Economic Development”.

10. Shri Salim Ali, Additional Director, CBI stressed upon the need for adopting the concept of Total Quality Management (TQM) as a tool for preventing corruption within organization.

11. Another useful suggestion came from Shri Balwinder Singh, Special Director CBI when he advocated the need for a bill payment monitoring system and encouraging e-payments. Sir this reminds me of what our Hon'ble Prime Minister said yesterday, I quote

“It goes without saying that the best way to fight corruption is to reduce opportunities for corrupt practices. If government decisions are transparent and the responsibility of individual public servants in the decision-making processes is clearly known, the deterrence against illegal private benefit in public work is so much more enhanced.”

12. Sir, we understand that there is a need for moving forward from the concept of punitive and preventive vigilance to proactive and predictive vigilance, as rightly observed by Shri R. Sri Kumar, Vigilance Commissioner. Participative vigilance through the direct engagement of common man using the technology to help check corrupt practices may ease our job further.

13. During the session on legal issues pertaining to Anti Corruption Cases, a very elaborate talk was delivered by Shri G.E. Vahanvati, Attorney General of India. Shri Vahanvati pointed out certain anomalies in existing legal provisions regarding sanction for prosecution. He also suggested for amendment to prescribe time limit for issuing sanction for prosecution. Shri Vahanvati also pointed out difficulties faced by Anti Corruption Agencies in obtaining sanction for prosecution from amorphous bodies like Municipal Corporation, Zila Parishad etc. Shri Vahanvati also pointed out certain ambiguities in PMLA Act which are hampering its implementation. He supported the view held by CBI that the agencies investigating predicate offences, should also be able to investigate the money laundering offence under the PMLA.

14. This session also had two presentations one on Act on Attachment of Property in State of Bihar and another on Difficulties being faced in Investigation of Disproportionate Assets Cases. The house expressed concern that delays in trial were blunting the edge of the PC Act and felt that the Act needed teeth to provide for instant punitive measures to have deterrence amongst the corrupt public servants. One of such measures could be simplified provisions for attachment of properties to prevent the corrupt from enjoying the fruits

of corruption. The house has adopted a **resolution** to form a working group to suggest measures to streamline and standardize the procedures as follows:

“The procedure as laid down u/s 3 of Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance Act, 1944, to deal with the attachment of property accrued through corrupt and illegal means during investigation, is very lengthy and cumbersome. Certain welcome steps have been taken by some States. A Special Working group may be formed to formulate and suggest appropriate legal provisions for attachment of property arising out of corruption cases in a simple and speedy manner under PC Act. The group will submit its report, preferably within 3 months’ time.”

15. During the session related to corruption in social sector, impressive overview of several schemes/programmes launched by the Central Government for the benefit of the poor and the needy were given by senior officers of Ministry of Rural development and Ministry of Health. Special emphasis was given to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and National Rural Health Mission. MGNREGA is the largest social sector scheme anywhere in the world

involving an amount of Rs.40,000 crores per year which involves 11.8 crore families throughout the country. Similarly, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is designed to improve the health care of 83.3 crores rural population of this country with a fund allocation of over Rs.17 thousand crores.

16. The house was impressed with increasing use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in bringing in transparency and accountability in implementation of MGNREGA. Similar models of implementation can be adopted in implementation of other schemes to reduce the opportunities of diversion of funds and corruption. We were particularly happy to learn from Secretary, Rural Development, the deterrent effect that the CBI enquiry has had in the State of Orissa.

17. Secretary (Rural Development) also briefed the house about the novel concept of Bharat Nirman Volunteers. Sir, I feel, as they are already being trained in human values, it might be worth considering to also using them in creating awareness about the menace of corruption and groom them into responsible citizens. In fact, they can eventually be our ambassadors in rural India.

18. The Conference also discussed on capacity building and coordination among Anti-Corruption. Need for greater coordination and more frequent interaction between the CBI and State ACBx/ Vigilance Bureaux was suggested. In fact, a resolution has been passed by the house on this issue as follows:

“Need for coordination between State ACBx and CBI has long been felt. It can be formalized through Quarterly meetings between Head of State ACBx / Vigilance Bureaus and concerned HoZ of CBI to share information and ensure mutual cooperation. Also, the conference of Heads of ACBx / VBx and CBI, which is presently organized on biennial basis, should be held annually.”

19. This morning we had a presentation by Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). FIU has been regularly providing inputs regarding suspicious cash transactions to CBI and other agencies. At times the inputs given by FIU have generated useful leads in investigation of sensitive cases. I would suggest the State agencies also to explore possibility of opening their channel of communication with FIU.

20. In fact close coordination amongst agencies working on the same cause leads to synergy which enhances the capabilities of all. We have an example of a case which we started on inputs from Interpol UK and funds equivalent to Rs.100 crores were frozen in a UK Bank account of an Indian entity alleged to be working as an agent for a large PSU.

21. Sir, yesterday we had discussed the need for tracking proceeds of crime. Today morning we had a presentation on “Forensic Accounting” which is a useful tool for carrying out investigation regarding investments and money laundering by criminals. We need to develop our competence in this area and this is one of the fields where we often require professional experts.

22. Sir, during our last Conference in 2009, we had passed a resolution regarding establishment of ‘National Mission against Corruption and strengthening of Anti-corruption Mechanism in States.’ This morning a detailed presentation made by Director, DOPT informed this gathering about the current position.

23. All through this Conference, there has been unanimity regarding capacity building. CBI will be very happy to organize as many courses on various issues for State ACBx and Vigilance Bureaus in our Training Academy.

24. I am glad to inform that this Conference has resulted in a number of quantifiable outcomes which we are presenting in the form of resolutions. I have already mentioned a few of them. Another important recommendation of this conference which I would like to specially draw your attention is **resolution** regarding Special Courts. The house has unanimously proposed that:

“Keeping in view the urgent need to dispose of the large number of old and long-pending corruption cases expeditiously, an appropriate number of fast and exclusive Special Courts may be set up in the States with 50% financial assistance from the Centre.”

A Complete set of resolutions is being presented to you separately.

25. In the end, I once again welcome you to the valedictory function of this Conference. I also welcome Vigilance Commissioner, Shri R. Sri Kumar and Shri J.M. Garg, Secretary (Personnel) Smt. Alka Sirohi for sparing their valuable time.

26. I also extend my hearty congratulation to all those who have been awarded Indian Police Medal for their meritorious services and the recipient of Best Branch of CBI award.

27. I express my special gratitude to the delegates of the Conference who responded to our invitation and came from all over the country and participated very actively throughout the deliberations.

28. I would like to place on record my deep sense of appreciation to Sh. V.K. Gupta Special Director CBI and his team of CBI officers and men who have relentlessly worked to make this conference a success at such a short notice after conferring a date by Hon'ble Prime Minister.

29. Thank you once again, and I wish you all a very Happy Diwali.
