

TALKING POINTS

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY,
HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE
(PMO & PERSONNEL,
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS)**

**1st INTERPOL GLOBAL PROGRAM ON
ANTI-CORRUPTION & ASSET RECOVERY**

**AT
1030 HRS
ON
13TH FEBRUARY, 2012**

**AT
CBI HEAD QUARTERS, LODI ROAD
NEW DELHI**

Sh. Amar Pratap Singh, Director CBI,
Sh. Vikram Srivastava, DG, BPR&D
Sh V K Gupta, Special Director, CBI
Officers from CBI,
Officers from INTERPOL Anti-Corruption Office, Lyon, France, Participants of this course,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to be here at the inaugural function of the '1st INTERPOL Global Programme on Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery' being jointly organized by the CBI and the Anti Corruption Office of INTERPOL.

2. At the very outset, I congratulate the CBI for this pioneering effort in its mission to combat corruption and also to the Anti Corruption Office of the INTERPOL for organizing this course in India. I commend their joint efforts in making this global training programme possible, at a short notice.

3. Today, the entire world is passing through an era of economic changes and liberalization. When corruption, financial and other economic offences are eating into the economy of the nations and when new and unheard *modus operandi* are being used by criminals, it is essential that we gear ourselves to face such challenges. We also need to keep ourselves abreast with the latest technological advancements in the fields of investigation and prevention of crime. The complex web of crime, worldwide, can be combated only through joint efforts, like this one, in the rapidly changing scenario.

4. Transparency and accountability have become vital components of governance today. Accountability works hand in hand with transparency as it harnesses and optimises precious resources into gainful socio-economic upliftment of people.

5. Creating a prosperous, sustainable future for the citizens world over is a challenging task. The various challenges we face are complex, multi dimensional and increasingly global. The path of rapid growth is not a straight and smooth line, as it overlaps with vested interests, inertia and lack of awareness. Thus, our challenges need to be met with a work force symbolising complete dedication, strong will and character.

6. Corruption is basically anti-poor and anti-national. It has the potential of destroying the entire social fabric of the country. Recent developments in the world are an example to this.

7. Whatever we might do to fight corruption, the reality is that we cannot build a fool-proof system and hence there is a need for thorough investigation into allegations of wrong doings followed by prosecution to bring the guilty to book. The officers indulging in corrupt practices must realise that they cannot easily get away from the law and would sooner rather than later they may have to suffer the consequences.

8. Government of India is committed to fight the menace of corruption and has taken several steps in the recent past towards this. In June last year, India ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). This major step is intended to facilitate efforts to secure effective international co-operation in tackling trans-border corruption. In regard to the bribery of foreign public officials, a stand-alone Bill titled "The Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public international Organizations Bill, 2011" has been introduced in the Indian Parliament. In regard to private sector bribery, a process of due diligence has been initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs of Government of India, to consider amendments in the Indian Penal Code in consultation with the State Governments.

9. Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill, aimed at bringing an ombudsman type body in India was recently debated in the Indian Parliament. It is another significant step to eradicate corruption among public functionaries. To make the judicial system more accountable to the common public, a mechanism for enquiring into complaints against judges of higher courts and to lay down the standards of conduct, Government of India has introduced the "Judicial Standards Accountability Bill, 2011".

10. In order to protect honest officials from undue harassment and to establish a mechanism to receive complaints relating to disclosure of any allegation of corruption against any public servant, Government has introduced "The public interest disclosure and protection to persons making Disclosure Bill" i.e., Whistle Blower's Bill in the Parliament. Thus, several legislative measures have been attempted by us towards corruption free regime in India.

11. In our fight against corruption, one major aspect needs our attention. That is recovering and attaching the assets of the accused persons which have been created out of the ill gotten wealth made through corrupt means. As a result of this, the accused or the corrupt persons have a huge amount of wealth and resources at their disposal which is then used by them to fight the cases against them. This vitiates the entire process of law enforcement. There is an urgent need to look into these aspects and focus our efforts in this direction as well during and after the investigation and trail.

12. I am very happy to note that these aspects have been given due importance in this training programme. A look at the schedule of 5-day Programme makes it an interesting reading. The schedule covers a wide spectrum of Critical Analysis of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Preventive Vigilance, Corruption in exploitation of natural resources, Investigation of corruption cases in procurement and contracts, Anti-Corruption Laws and

Regulations, Frauds and corruption in financial sector, Tracking the proceeds of corruption, Asset Recovery and Forfeiture etc.

13. I am extremely happy to see the blend of methodologies used by Central Bureau of Investigation in collaboration with INTERPOL in organizing this training. Presentations, group discussions, cases studies, readings, etc. would make the course contents not only interesting to participants, but would make them introspect and reflect on the topic concerned. The participants are fortunate to have got the best faculty in the world, Bureaucrats, Forensic Experts and practicing police officers, who would be sharing their experiences, views and thoughts on issues and topics of their excellence.

14. Such training programme should not be a one time effort but a continuous process which should be fine-tuned every time whenever replicated in future. I suggest that feedback must be obtained from the participants about the changes to be brought in to make the contents and methodology closer to the needs of the participants.

15. I also suggest that INTERPOL Anti-Corruption Office may conduct an Impact Evaluation Study, after a period of, say, 6 (six) months, so that the "take home" from the training by the participants could be assessed realistically. After all, the implementation and transfer of new ideas and experiences shared during the training programme by the participants to their respective area of work is the best measuring rod to assess the impact of training on them. Based on the outcome of such a study, necessary changes in the schedule for future courses can be brought about.

16. I am sure; the training inputs would definitely enrich their professional knowledge and enable them to introspect as to where they stand today, where they want to go and what is the laid down path to reach the destination.

17. I am also sure that the efforts put in by all stake holders in this programme would certainly help achieve the main objective of the Training Programme and to enable the participants to handle the upcoming assignments with more professionalism and confidence.

18. I once again commend the joint efforts of INTERPOL and the Central Bureau of Investigation in putting things together in running this course. I wish this Programme every success.

Thank you,

Jai Hind