

November 11, 2013
Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Shri V. Narayanasamy, MoS(PP), speech at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of CBI on Evolving Common Strategies to Combat Corruption and Crime.

I express my sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister for gracing this occasion. I am also honoured to have the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Law & Justice, Shri Kapil Sibalji in this Conference. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate CBI for completing 50 glorious years.

2. Since last year, this Conference has become an annual feature and affords all of us an opportunity to gather and do brainstorming as to how to improve our strategy to fight corruption and find new and innovative ways of prevention, detection and prosecution of various corrupt activities not only nationally but in a global manner.

3. Last year, we deliberated on "*Economic development: Response of anti-corruption agencies*". This year we are having an international conference on "***Evolving common strategies to combat corruption and crime***". This is an appropriate subject and timely in the context of India. Economy today is far too more integrated as a world economy, be it in terms of investment, trade and commerce or other forms of economic cooperation. Thus, tackling corruption and providing uniform level playing field too have acquired international ramifications. There is an urgent need to understand various aspects of corruption and various ways that it can occur in a global arena. I am sure today's deliberations would help us understand these issues better.

4. Our Government has taken various proactive steps to integrate to international efforts in combating corruption. I am glad to say that our existing legislation provides good institutional frameworks for handling cases involving foreign countries. India has so far operationalised Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with many countries. Several bilateral agreements have also been signed. CBI has been seeking and getting international cooperation in many important crimes, and yet there is a need for enhancing the level and kinds of international cooperation with a view to upgrading and adopting them to current requirements.

5. In order to weed out corruption and to improve governance, several legislations are in pipeline, such as, '*The Goods and Services Delivery Bill*', '*The Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organizations Bill*', '*Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 Amendment Bill*', '*Whistle Blowers Protection Bill*', '*The Lokpal Bill*', etc. The UPA Government is committed to improve the various facets of governance for the welfare of the common man.

6. Cooperation among central and state level anti-corruption agencies is as important as cooperation among international agencies in our fight against corruption. A sound and fully equipped and competent state anti-corruption agency would go a long way in checking and keeping under control the spread of corrupt activities in the country. Most of our flagship schemes have pan country coverage. Our financial systems are integrated with the remotest of institutions in every corner

of our country. Without scrutiny of these activities at state level, the fight against corruption only by central agencies would not achieve much. I encourage all state anti-corruption agencies to join us in our fight against corruption and would like to assure them our best cooperation in this regard.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are whole heartedly encouraging all activities trying to bring transparency into all forms of our governance. We have recently introduced Direct Benefit Transfer in government sponsored programmes to check pilferage of funds. We have been trying to cut human interface in government transactions by heightened use of technology. We have started a project for unique identification of citizens for preventing impersonations and trying to give it legal recognition. We have introduced "Value education Kit" for students and teachers from primary to secondary education level. We are doing everything possible to keep corruption and the corrupt at bay. We are willing to do more. I encourage you to toil and produce a set of recommendations which our government will study and take appropriate follow up action.

8. Our Government has taken various measures to make CBI a modern and efficient organization which includes improvement in training, infrastructure, housing, improved conditions of work and employment of staff of the CBI. To expeditiously fight corruption, special anti-corruption courts have been set up. Efforts are on to equip the anti-corruption agencies with modern techniques, equipments and forensic science laboratories for enhancing their investigative capacity. These measures would significantly contribute to the institutional strengthening of anti-corruption organizations and their efficiency. We are willing to lend our support to all the agencies, whether in State or Central Govt. to strengthen themselves in their fight against corruption.

9. I once again express sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for having agreed to inaugurate this Conference. I am sure that the deliberations of this Conference would be fruitful and go a long way in enhancing cooperation and sharing best practices for combating crime and corruption. I wish the Conference a success.

Thank You,

Jai Hind.
