

Concluding address by Shri V. Narayanasamy, Union Minister of State for Personnel, P.G. & Pensions during Valedictory session of International Conference on Evolving Common Strategies to Combat Corruption and Crime (XXth Conference of CBI & State Anti Corruption Bureaux- 2013)

(November 13th, 2013, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi)

At the outset let me also extend a warm welcome to each one of you to the Valedictory Session of the Conference. I have been informed that the three day deliberations on the theme, "***Evolving Common Strategies to Combat Corruption and Crime***", have been productive and meaningful. This underlines the success of this very important Conference.

2. I hope all of you have had a pleasant stay and you are carrying back pleasant memories of this Conference and off-the-Conference interactions. I would wish to welcome you all again next year in greater numbers.

3. Our Government is determined to deal with issues of corruption with a firm hand, as the policy of our government is zero tolerance towards corruption. As you all may be already aware that we have ratified the ***United Nations Convention Against Corruption*** and are in the midst of the process of making our anti-corruption laws more stringent and in conformity with best international practices.

4. Anti-corruption work entails very responsible handling of investigations. Life times of reputations earned by a public servant can be dented by one minor mishandling during the investigative work. While the science of investigation has been deliberated in the coverage of this Conference, there may be a need to deliberate upon the softer/sociological aspects of handling an investigation and the information collected during the investigation. I would urge you to deliberate upon this aspect through opportunities like this in future.

5. While addressing this august gathering on the inaugural day, Hon'ble Prime Minister has in great detail emphasized this aspect. Hon'ble Finance Minister has also sought to distinguish between policy making and policing. It has been very adequately made out that the CBI should acquire expertise by inducting experts in domain knowledge concerning various streams of their investigations. To facilitate this, the recruitment rules of CBI have been amended recently by the government to have 10% of deputationist at Joint Director level and 20% at DIG level from among other than police service, i.e., Indian Revenue Service, Indian Economic Service, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, Enforcement Directorate, Indian Telecom Service, Indian Railway Accounts Service, Narcotics Control Bureau, etc.

6. However, the highest Investigating Officer is at the level of a Dy.SP and currently we do not have adequate provision for induction of officers upto Dy.SP level with expert knowledge in various fields of investigation. Hence, there is a strong need for capacity building of the existing officers and also making provisions for recruitment of officers especially at Investigating Officer level with sufficient domain knowledge with respect to various streams of investigations.

7. A strengthened CBI would have higher responsibility to conduct investigations objectively. Keeping in view the implications of a small mistake on their part on the overall sentiment and governance of the country impacting pace of development, it is the need of the hour to maintain highest standards of quality and competence. While the need for administrative independence and empowerment of the CBI cannot be ignored, keeping in view the overall system of governance, excessive delegation impacting on the checks and balance in the system, overall control of the executive cannot be and should not be overlooked.

8. Ladies and gentlemen! It gives me immense pleasure that in the Golden Jubilee year of the CBI, the forum of Anti Corruption Bureau has broadened itself into an international conference with the participation of international law enforcement practitioners, analysts, legal luminaries and domain area experts. I am sure that the presence of delegates from a large number of State Anti-corruption bureaux and foreign law enforcement organizations would have provided fresh perspective to the deliberations. Sharing the national and international practices and experiences would help benefit each other to reform positioned in the national contexts without reinventing the entire wheel.

9. A perusal of the topics and the agenda of the present conference showed that the issues taken up were aimed at discovering common grounds and evolving strategies for tackling emerging challenges. Issues like international law on Corporate Criminal Liability, International Cooperation in Tracking Proceeds of Crime, offences related to Intellectual Property Rights are the frontier areas of professional crime investigation. I have been told that experts from within and abroad of international repute have contributed significantly in discussions regarding natural resources allocation and its implications for growth. I am sure there would have been important contributions by experts in other fields and I expect CBI to come up with a compendium on these deliberations for use by Ministries concerned, and take necessary follow up actions.

10. I am also happy to note the close partnership of CBI with the State Anti-Corruption Bureaux in the States in this Conference. I am sure these partnerships would be mutually beneficial and help in building capacities to measure up to the emerging challenges. I also thank the overseas participants for their deliberations in the Conference and for making meaningful contributions in the Conference.

11. In the end, I once again congratulate the efforts of the Director, CBI and his team in successfully organizing this Conference. I am sure the efforts of the CBI has paid off by way of meaningful deliberations and significant takeaways' for all the participants.

Thank You

Jai Hind.
