

**27<sup>th</sup> November, 2012**

**Speech of Director CBI**

Friends, I will be demitting office in another 3 days. This is only the second time that I am coming before Media. The first was the day I took charge. On that day I had said that we would not hesitate to take action against anybody, howsoever, high and mighty if there was evidence and that the functioning of the CBI would be transparent and the officers of the CBI would be insulated against any outside pressure and they would be free to investigate fairly and impartially.

2. These comments were made in the backdrop of impending actions in 2G and Adarsh cases and CWG cases against high profile accused. In the two years that followed, we have, by and large, tried to keep these commitments.

3. The tenure was marked by complex, specialized, high profile investigations to probe corruption and crime. The media ensured that the CBI was kept in the public eye, it is satisfying that most of the time it was for reasons which made us happy and proud.

4. We have attempted to be as transparent and open in the functioning as possible. All complaints were thoroughly examined, all grievances considered. Senior officers including the Director have always remained accessible to anyone who wanted to meet us or put across their views.

5. The tenure started on a very rocky note as immediately we had the 2-G scam monitored by the Hon'ble Supreme Court almost on a daily basis, the Aarushi Murder Case, Adarsh Scam and the CWG case on our hands. The entire CBI worked tirelessly as a team and was able to produce results in all these cases specially in 2-G case. Would specially like to mention the critical role played by Shri Suresh Kumar Palsania in the supervision of investigation of the 2-G Sacm. His unfortunate demise a month ago, due to a serious illness was a big shock to the entire CBI and also to the 2-G investigation and trial.

6. The decisions in the Aarushi case may seem controversial but that is a call that an Investigating Agency has to take based on available evidence. I am happy to note that the concerned Magistrate felt that there was enough evidence to take cognizance in the case and the trial is now going on smoothly. I would not like further to comment on the matter since it is sub-judice.

7. No sooner were charge sheets filed in the 2G case, the organization had to face the heat of the Jan Lokpal and the Lokpal Bill. In the Jan Lokpal Bill, it had been suggested that the Anti-corruption wing of CBI should be merged with Lokpal while in the Govt. Lokpal bill it was proposed that Lokpal may be given a separate Agency which would in effect have meant that the CBI would no longer be involved in anti-corruption work.

8. With a lot of hard work and efforts we were able to play a pro-active role and successfully convince all the political parties and also members of the Civil Society that the Bureau must remain central in the Anti-corruption mechanism of the country and should not be diluted in any manner. I would also like to point out that the proposal for selection of the Director by a collegium comprising of the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha was first mooted by the CBI itself. This was proposed to ensure that future Directors are insulated from the allegation of being the choice of the Government alone, even though the present selection is as per the procedure mandated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and is absolutely fair and transparent.

9. We are happy to note that the Select Committee has endorsed this view and I am sure that successive Directors will look forward to a healthy and meaningful relationship with the Lokpal.

10. CBI conducts investigations in a totally free and fair manner, without fear or favour; and as per procedure established by law. CBI enjoys complete functional independence for investigation.

11. While, all cases are subject to the test of legal scrutiny by the competent courts; investigation of important cases are also monitored by the Constitutional Courts which have commended our work from time to time.

12. A high conviction rate of around 70% is testimony to our professionalism and fairness. CBI has successfully investigated and prosecuted cases against the so-called 'high & mighty'.

13. Therefore, I would like to emphasize that baseless allegations of bias against the CBI and its Director are totally unfounded, misconceived and unfortunate.

14. The perception created in some quarters that CBI does not catch the big fish is also incorrect. In fact, most of our investigations involve senior and high level officers and public servants. The Bureau does not shy away from charge- sheeting those who have found to be involved in a crime or offence.

15. At the same time, it is our bounden duty to protect the innocent. I also wish to assure you that CBI differentiates between acts with criminal intent and bonafide mistakes / errors in judgments / commercial decisions.

16. In my tenure, I have always emphasized strict internal vigilance. Any officer or staff of the CBI must have the highest level of integrity. We have taken strict action as per rules, against any official of the CBI who was found to be indulging in corrupt activities.

## **Investigations**

17. The Bureau's investigations made national headlines in several other cases, such as, illegal mining Cases of Obulapuram, irregularities in the implementation of National Rural Health Mission in Uttar Pradesh, Coal allocation cases, Trap of several officers such as CMD, NALCO, Excise Commissioner, Income Tax Commissioner.
18. There was some sterling work done in respect of Special Crimes, such as the Bhanwari Devi murder case, Shehla Masood murder case, and fake encounter cases.
19. Recently, CBI busted rackets relating to manipulations in Entrance Examinations for Medical Courses in Delhi and Chandigarh, which would have directly impacted students. Corruption cases in the National Defence Academy, Pune; Medical Council of India, and Bar Council were detected and investigated by CBI.
20. The involvement of high level functionaries such as Lt. General of the Army, CMDs of PSUs and other senior public servants in several corruption & bribery cases is under probe by the Bureau. Recently, on the complaint of the CBI, the state ACB Andhra Pradesh registered a case against a special judge in the infamous 'Cash for bail case'
21. There are also several cases concerning arms dealers and defence deals under investigation of the Bureau, which require comprehensive investigation including execution of LRs
22. The Bank Fraud Cell and Economic Offences Wing has investigated big ticket bank fraud cases. The Cyber crime unit of the CBI has also done some very important investigations.
23. CBI has also detected many cases of Collusive corruption with public servants. Diversion of resources, misuse of freight concessions and irregularities in using funds allocated for development work are some areas which CBI is probing.
24. The Bureau has taken a lead role in curbing the menace of human trafficking, particularly of women and children. An anti-human trafficking cell was set up in the CBI, which has already done some very good work.
25. Even though High-profile corruption cases kept CBI in headlines, the Bureau focused on several sectors having impact on the general public, such as, Education; Food , Civil supplies, Health; Banking; Mining; Housing and Infrastructure.
26. This paved the way for systemic improvement in these sectors and laying down of rules to prevent corruption.

### **Infrastructure and Modernization**

27. The Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated CBI's new Headquarters Building in New Delhi in the month of April, 2011. The new imposing CBI Headquarters gave the staff space that promotes functional efficiency, team work and offered several modern equipment and features.

28. A video conferencing system was also installed. Improvement and modernization of infrastructure and facilities is being undertaken in several CBI Zones and Branches, throughout the country

29. The CBI Academy was modernized with latest training facilities and an outdoor sports complex. Officers and trainees hostels have also been renovated. Additional land of 15 acres has been allotted to the CBI Academy Ghaziabad.

30. The CBI is now in the process of modernization of the Forensics wing, and the process is underway for construction of a state of art CFSL Building in Ghaziabad, for which land has been allocated.

### **Relationship with Interpol**

31. During this period we had very close relation with the Interpol and the Secretary General of Interpol visited India 4 times during the last 12 months. We organized training programmes in conjunction with Interpol on Anti-corruption & Asset Recovery at the CBI Headquarters. Efforts were made to declare CBI Academy at Ghaziabad as a Centre of excellence for Interpol training programmes.

32. Several welfare measures for CBI staff have also been initiated. These include getting 7 acres of land in Delhi for construction of 500 additional houses for CBI staff. Existing houses for the CBI staff have also been renovated. An incentive allowance of 15% of basic pay was also sanctioned for all the CBI Support staff.

### **Manpower & other Constraints**

33. There has been a significant increase in the number of cases referred by the Constitutional Courts and State Governments for CBI investigation. However the CBI presently has a capacity to register and probe approximately one thousand cases per year. This needs to be doubled looking to the existing trend.

34. Therefore, proposals for creation of more posts of IOs and Supervisory officers have been taken up with the Government.

35. A special drive was undertaken to fill vacancies in all ranks of the CBI, which has reduced the vacancy position significantly.

36. Apart from manpower, there are certain functional constraints before us – which include Delays in executing LRs and delay in obtaining prosecution sanctions. LRs is a tedious process, and to facilitate LR execution, posts of Liaison Officers in some key countries has been proposed.

37. Delay in obtaining experts' opinion, such as forensics expert, is also a matter of concern. In order to overcome this, a proposal has been moved for creation of a state of the art CFSL with the latest technology and equipment.

38. In order to reduce the pendency of under-trial cases, CBI made sincere efforts towards establish new courts. Out of 71 CBI Courts sanctioned by the Government, 66 are functional.

### **Awareness Programme**

39. CBI began an Anti Corruption Awareness Programme for school children and young people at its Headquarters and in Zonal offices across the country. The programme aims at making children aware of the activities of CBI and educating them on the legal and systemic provisions available to tackle corruption. So far over 2000 school children have taken part in our programme.

40. My successor, Shri Ranjit Sinha, who will be joining as the new Director in a few days is a very seasoned and experienced IPS officer who has already been the head of two big Police Organizations. I wish him all the very best of luck and am sure he will take this organization to greater heights.

41. I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation to the entire team of officers and staff of the CBI, who have worked unstintingly under very trying circumstances, to investigate very important sensitive, complex cases some involving high functionaries and powerful accused persons.

42. The Government including the P.M.O., Minister of Personnel, Home Minister, Finance Minister, Law Minister, A.G's office have given the Bureau their full and unstinted support. But for that support our task would have been far more difficult if not impossible. We are highly grateful to all of them.

43. I would also like to place on record our excellent and harmonious relations with the C.V.C. who have provided us valuable guidance and assistance throughout my tenure.

44. Finally, I would also like to thank all of you in the media who have always kept a watchful and critical eye on our functioning.