

SPEECH OF DIRECTOR, CBI SHRI ANIL SINHA AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE NEW OFFICE BUILDING OF CBI IN MUMBAI

MARCH 1, 2016 AT MUMBAI

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am very happy to see this day come. After over a decade of waiting, we have achieved the completion of our dream project of having our own office complex. Now we have our own magnificent office building in Mumbai, that too in the most happening place of Mumbai. As most of us know, this project is a result of careful planning, meticulous designing, hard negotiation and a long drawn execution.

As you are all aware Mumbai is the financial capital of the country. It is the headquarters for all Major Public and Private Banks and Financial Institutions. It is a major gateway for exports and imports which directly impinge on the Indian economy. It has a very high density of central government departments, Railways, Banks, Customs, Central excise, PSUs, Oil Companies, defence establishments, etc., There are umpteen number of interactions between the citizens, the businessmen, the professionals and the middlemen on one side and the government departments, Banks and financial institutions on the other side.

CBI in Mumbai has seen major cases such as Harshad Mehta's Securities Scam of 1992, Bombay serial Blasts case of 1993, Beef tallow import case of 1993 (Jain shudh vanaspathi), Ketan Parekh's Madhavpura Cooperative Bank scam, Telgi security Stamp papers scam, Adarsh case, several other sensational cases .

Corruption flourishes due to three factors – Opportunities, Social Acceptance and Freedom from Risks. It is the duty of the Vigilance setup to reduce the opportunities; It is the duty of the Citizens to complain, inform and be intolerant of corruption; and it is the duty of investigative agencies like CBI and State ACB to effectively detect and prosecute the corrupt to instil fear in them.

The corrupt are resorting to devious and ingenious means to outwit the Investigative agencies. We must therefore update our knowledge and reinvent our practices and methods to detect and bring these new methods of corruption into the ambit of substantive evidence. We must think beyond phenolphthalein and DA formula. We must think beyond traps. Nobody would accept money into their hands anymore.

We must think of expanding the definition of corruption. Enforcement of Anti corruption Laws should bring about a change in the social perception about corruption. We must define what a corrupt practice is by pushing the envelope of enforcement. We must

encourage and generate discussion in public and civil society forums on the need for expanding the definition of what should be considered as a corrupt practice. This can be done only by taking up more and more challenging cases in hitherto grey areas.

In a recent landmark judgement (issued on 23rd February, 2016) by the Hon Apex Court in a case between CBI and a Private Bank (CBI vs Global Trust Bank), it was ruled that Officers of Private Banks come under the ambit of Anti-Corruption Law, because they are performing Public duty. According to Section 2(b) of PC Act, 'Public duty' means a duty in discharge of which, the state, the public or the community at large has an interest. And the explanation to the section mentions that 'State' includes a corporation established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act, or an Authority or a body owned or controlled or aided by the government or a government company as defined in section 617 of the companies act 1956. Honourable Supreme Court further held that the legislative intent behind the PC Act was to expand the definition of public servant.

As we all see, the number of cases being handed over to CBI by the constitutional courts and various State governments has been mounting over the years. Though CBI started as an anti corruption agency, its scope has increased over the last few decades to economic offences, serious frauds and sensational cases under IPC. CBI is now a federal investigative agency which can investigate most of the offences which affect public life in general and which have a direct bearing on the quality of life of common man.

The new office building for CBI in Mumbai has been our dream project and I am sure that the new facility would not only provide our officials with a convenient ambience but also encourage them to achieve higher efficiency. The convenience comes at the cost of tax payers' money. Hence, we should work harder to give better services and value for money to the common man by our hard work and responsiveness. Complainants and Informants should feel welcomed. Witnesses should feel safe and be protected and not harassed. The quality of evidence should be enhanced for the courts to try and decide cases quickly. Only then will we be doing justice and providing value for money to the taxpayer.

As you all know and can see, our motto is 3 'I's - "Industry Impartiality and Integrity". I would like to add 2 more watch words to them - "Innovation and Investigative-excellence".

I am sure that the new office complex would facilitate better coordination among the branches of CBI and promote esprit de corps and bonhomie among the staff members.

I hereby announce the formal Inauguration of the new Office building of CBI in Mumbai.

Jaihind !
