



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Quarterly

EDITORIAL

Neglected areas of corruption

The popular belief of corruption is only in terms of exchange of money when someone who needs a service pays to someone who provides it. Often the term is used for those who are in public positions of the state that confers upon them powers under law. Hence the expression of 'corrupt official' or 'corrupt politician'. The latter secures benefits either for himself or others through the use of public authorities by means of influence or proximity that he wields over the system. So there are two features – power and money.

Whereas accept of money concept is the most prevalent, others are equally important and must not be lost sight of. Although there is neither misuse of power nor exchange of money, yet these forms have a deleterious impact upon outcomes. In this category would fall the inefficient public official who does not contribute to the tasks because of his incompetence. This would also include a lethargic official who is indifferent to the outcomes and has no compunction in letting the matters lie dormant. He is also the one who is cruel with the resources of public and does not feel the pinch by diverting these to an infructuous use. He is profligate in spending without regard to its utility. One of the aspects

of corruption is when the official absents himself from duty, like a teacher in a rural area who has a casual proxy working for him, or a health worker who draws a salary without any contribution.

He too is corrupt who is negligent in performing his work, is unresponsive to the needs of people whom he is designed to serve. But no less corrupt is a law enforcement officer who under performs and permits impunity and lawlessness because he is unaware of happenings around. Similarly, he who does not supervise the work contributes to tampering with quality of work. And, lastly, he may, due to lethargy, absenteeism or inefficiency, delay the projects that result in escalation of costs, benefit to the contractor, and loss to public exchequer.

In all these cases, the public official may not accept money to show favors, but by not doing his work and not using his powers for which he is paid, he indulges in a corrupt practice for his personal benefit. However, in a different manner, this perspective on corruption too involves features of power and money as the official draws his salary without contributing and using his powers.

The warriors against corruption also need to focus on these aspects.

Board of Management Meeting

During the Meeting held on 13th Sept., the Chairman mentioned about Membership Accreditation Committee (MAC)* Team's visit in

*As per MAC's recommendation, TI India's Accreditation has been renewed for another three years with certain obligatory actions.

Transparency International India

Qr. No. 4, Lajpat Bhawan, Lajpat Nagar-IV,

New Delhi-110 024, India

Tel. (011) 2646-0826 / 4063-4797

Fax : (011) 2642-4552

Editor : P. S. Bawa

E-mail: info@transparencyindia.org

Website: www.transparencyindia.org

July and its discussions with members. Thereafter, it was decided that (i) in future the Action Taken Report (ATR) should be a part of the last BoM minutes; (ii) direct expenditure on projects and overhead expenditure be segregated to meet core expenditure; (iii) ED should put up a concept paper based on his experiences in Malaysia; (iv) efforts be made to get donations from UNDP and other agencies; (v) considering the comments received, the Performance Manual be finalized; (vi) any issue that transgresses the federal structured laws should not be pursued; (vii) Shri Razdan function as the Contact Person for the proposed Kashmir Chapter; (viii) BoM and AGM meetings would be held at 2 pm and 4 pm, respectively, on December 20, 2014 at BRMVB, GK-II, Delhi-48; (ix) amendments to TII's R&R should be drafted as per MAC's requirements; (x) a Grievance Redressal Cell be constituted with three members, namely, Shri U. S. Pandey as its Chairperson, Shri I C Srivastava and Shri M.S. Kochar as members to attend grievances in TII; and (xi) Shri Fali S Nariman be requested to deliver TII's Annual Lecture. The meeting also placed on record that dignity and decorum should be given the highest priority by all.

Five Board Members, namely, Dr Agarwal, Shri Pandey, Col. Dharmadhikary, Shri Omkar Razdan and Shri P. S. Bawa were due to retire in Dec., 2014 from BoM. Accordingly, nominations have been invited by Nov. 8 with ID proof of the proposer, seconder and the nominee.

INTEGRITY PACT :

The Stakeholders' Meet was organized on 12th Sept. to take feedback from different stakeholders so as to make a collaborative effort to promote good governance. There was an open house discussion on areas of collaboration to promote good governance in India. Its major speakers were (i) Shri R B

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Kushwaha, CSR Head, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited; (ii) Shri Somyajit Sethi from Deloitte, (iii) Ms. Sumeeta Banerjee from UNDP; (iv) Shri C.K. Vishwakarma from HAL; and (v) Ms. Tina Mathur from LOGIN. Shri Pankaj, Deputy Director made a power-point presentation on ALAC & PAHAL projects.

A **"Focus Group Discussion with Independent External Monitors"** held on 12th September. Initiating the discussion, Shri G M Garg, former Vigilance Commissioner in the CVC, mentioned that he has been a witness to the implementation of Integrity Pact since it was introduced in December 2007 and stressed that, given the fact, the total procurement in our country in terms of various contracts by central PSUs, government departments and state PSUs came up to around 25 per cent of the total GDP, the role of IP and IEMs assumed great significance. It was followed by an address of Mr. K. Subramaniam, Director (CVC) on the capacity of a public procurement resource person. He shared some of his experiences on IP's implementation. Shri Ashutosh Mishra, Executive Director, made a power-point presentation on roles and responsibilities of IEMs. The session was addressed by IEMs like S/Shri Vivek Mehrotra (ONGC), R.C. Agarwal (Oil India Limited), J.K. Khanna (Northern Coalfields Limited), V.K. Gupta (NDMC), P.N. Parashar (Coal India Limited), Suresh Kumar (RITES Limited), R.C. Panda (HPCL & NMDC), and H.S. Rajpal (Indian Oil Corporation Limited).

Director (IP) participated in a Bidders' Meet in Bhalai on 20th September. Applications under the RTI Act were also sent to various ministries and departments.

FK Exchange Fellows : After completing their tenures, Shri Ajay Kumar returned from Bangladesh to TII, and Shri Atiqure Rahman went back to Bangladesh. In 2014-15, Ms Neena

Shamsun Nahar of Bangladesh will join TI India and Shri Pankaj Kumar from TII has gone to Sri Lanka.

Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre

During July – Sept., 313 complaints were received at TII's various Anti-corruption Helplines/ALAC Walk-in Centres/Mobile ALAC. The complaints of (i) Shri Arun Mishra from ISGEC Heavy Engineering Ltd. against Central Organisation for the Modernisation of Workshops (COFMOW), against one reputed Trust of Delhi, (ii) a RTI user of Bihar seeking help against threats being received by him, and (iii) Shri Rajeev Kunwar alleging police inaction in FIRs are in process by ALAC wing.

Publications:

RTI Act – A Guide : This handbook affords a practical guide for the common man to make effective use of Right To Information Act. It contains appropriate forms for various petitions and mentions various websites from where needed formalities for information can be downloaded. It also provides a lists of RTI Activists and information on Central and State Information Commissions.

RTS Act - A Guide : While the central “Citizen’s Charter & Grievance Redressal Bill-2011” is still pending, 19 states have so far enacted their Acts to introduce hassle-free delivery of public services. This book provides details of all these Acts and the services they cover. Considering the need to widen the awareness about these acts, this book has been prepared.

PROJECT PAHAL

Two TII officials, namely, Shri Pankaj and Shri Manish Mangla from Delhi Office organized RTI/RTS awareness camps in panchayats of four districts, namely,

Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Supaul in project areas of Bihar on ill effects of corruption in availing of villager’s entitlements under welfare schemes and legal ways to get their dues without bribing. They also distributed Calendar – 2014 containing TII Anti Corruption Helpline numbers. Citizens' Report Card survey has been in progress in Jhanjharpur Panchayat and Panchayat of Supoul in Bihar.

The completion report of Pahal has been submitted to the IDRF of USA which have sponsored the project.

Corruption-free Development Pact

A review meeting on the “Role and Possibility of Development Pact, Citizens’ Report Card and Civil Societies to Improve Transparent System and Good Governance” was organized with Jhanjharpur Vikas Samitee and Society (JVSS) on 24 August. In this meeting, participants shared facts, problems and experience on corruption which they were facing. They also questioned, and demanded from, local representatives and concerned officials the pact's implementation, and whether it had any impact on governance in general, education system and school management, road/construction, power supply, public grievance, public distribution system, other government schemes & entitlements, toilet, cleanliness, etc.

Lt. Col. K R Dharmadhikary, Member of TII’s Board, was involved in the CSR for skill development, water and sanitation in cooperation with Dept of Skill Development, MCED Maharashtra along with a few volunteers. He also proposed to the Indian Society of Health Professionals the need for tele medicine and potable water filters in affected areas of Maharashtra.

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All members are requested to attend next AGM scheduled to be held on Dec. 20, 2014 at Balwantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan, Grater Kailash, Part-II, New Delhi - 110048 at 4 pm

State Chapters' Activities

Rajasthan Chapter spread its activities in rural areas. Debates and plays had resulted in effective communication of the message among the youths, college/school students.

Chapter Chairman, Shri I. C. Srivastava addressed the officers on Ethics and Morality in Administration at HCM Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration. The members of the Chapter also addressed students of Jyotiba Phule University.

UP Chapter : The Chapter was engaged in seeking information under the RTI Act. The Chapter held its Annual Generalbody Meeting on 15 September 2014.

Karnataka : As per decision taken in the Exec Committee meeting, elections were held to elect the Chapter's new office bearers in July to revive the State Chapter and its activities. Accordingly, S/Shri V. Balasubramanian (Chairman); S.R Hiremath (Vice-Chairman); Mathews Philip (Secy); Smt G. Suchitra Rao (Treasurer); S/Shri Lukose Vallatharai; Sridharan Pabbisetty; Y. G. Muralidharan as Members were declared elected unopposed.

Request

We depend upon our well wishers to provide financial support of any amount. We value their contributions, which may be sent to Transparency International India, Qr. No-4, Lajpat Bhawan, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110 024, by cheque or draft alongwith your PAN Card Number. Such contributions are exempted from Income Tax under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act.

Applications for Active Membership

TI members, who are desirous to become Active Member, are requested to send their duly filled-in prescribed Application Form with details of their activities. This Form can either be downloaded from its website www.transparencyindia.org or may be obtained from its Delhi office.

TI INDIA'S DONORS

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2. Shri M.L. Kumar 132, Nilgiri Apartments, Alaknanda, New Delhi - 110019	1107	2,500/-
3. Shri V. Balasubramanian #4/1, Hall Road, Richards Town, Bangalore - 560005	1108	10,000/-
4. Shri Gangadas Anandani 40, Uday Park, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110049	1109	3,000/-

TI India's Advocacy & Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) Anti-Corruption Help-Lines

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