

## ***Our Demands for Curtailing Corruption***

The following note is put in this website to enable the organizers of the demonstrations on 26-8-2011 against corruption, to understand the main points in our fight against corruption.

### **1. Strong and effective Lokpal Bill to curtail corruption**

- a) The Lokpal Should be a completely independent, accountable, transparent, fact finding body that receives complaints, enquires, investigates and forwards cases to Special Courts where there is a prima facie case of corruption. It should oversee the entire machinery related to corruption cases at the Central Government level.
- b) The definition of the act of corruption should not be restricted to the misuse of Public power for private gain. It should also include the misuse of Public Power to benefit an entity like a Private Company (for example causing loss to the exchequer by selling PSUs), and also the acts of the Corporates gaining undue benefit by influencing those in power. (Neither the Government's Lokpal Bill nor the Jan Lokpal Bill of team Anna focus against this unholy nexus between Corporates and Government. The Janlokal bill defines the act of corruption as "willfully giving any undue benefit to any person or obtaining any benefit from any public servant in violation of any law or rules". But this needs to be modified as "willfully giving any undue benefit to any person or entity or obtaining any undue benefit from any public servant in violation of laws or rules", so that giving undue benefit to private companies and the private companies getting undue benefit by influencing the authorities- both are included in the definition of the act of corruption.)
- c) The Prime Minister should be included under the purview of the Lokpal
- d) Bring the Members of Parliament under the purview of Lokpal by amending the article 105 of the Constitution or by suitable legislation so that the freedom of speech and vote in the parliament protected by the Article 105 does not come in the way of taking action against the acts of corruption of MPs.

### **2. Separate law on the issue of judicial accountability**

The independence of the judiciary is guaranteed by the Constitution and hence it cannot be brought under the purview of the Lokpal. For inquiring into the complaints of corruption against Supreme/High Court judges a National Judicial Commission should be created and such National Judicial Commission should also take care of the appointments in the High Courts/Supreme Courts. For this suitable legislation has to be enacted.

### **3. Grievance redress mechanism for citizens, supported by law**

Lokpal should focus on corruption and hence the redressal of the grievances of citizens about citizens' charter should be covered by a separate mechanism supported by law.

### **4. Break the Corporate-Politician-bureaucrat nexus which breeds corruption**

While the corruption cases earlier were involving swindling of tens or hundreds of crores of rupees, after the advent of the liberalization-privatisation-globalisation policies, the amount swindled in the corruption cases increased to thousands and lakhs of crores of rupees. The big corporate companies are the largest gainers of this loot of the assets of the nation. The telecom scams, the selling of PSU scams under NDA and UPA, the 2G scam, KG basin scam, CWG scam etc under UPA, the mining scam in Karnataka under BJP rule etc are examples of this enormous loot of public assets by the big corporates by managing the politicians and bureaucrats to invent policies suitable for this loot. This unholy nexus between the Corporate-politician-bureaucrat is the fountain head of the corruption in the present era of liberalization. Without breaking this unholy alliance, corruption cannot be curtailed. It is not enough to limit the action against politician or bureaucrat in such cases. The Lokpal should have the powers to investigate such acts of the Corporates, to recommend cancellation of licenses/contracts obtained by such corrupt methods and to recommend for taking concrete steps to recover the loss caused to the

exchequer by such Corporates. The big capitalist controlled media is doing its level best in making propaganda in such a way so that the corruption of the government employees becomes the only target of the anti-corruption movement and the fountain head of the corruption, which is, the big corporates looting natural resources and gaining undue benefit to the extent of lakhs of crores of rupees as in case of 2G scam, KG scam, CWG scam, mining scam etc is not at all targeted. It appears that the media succeeded in this regard. Unfortunately the anti-corruption movement lead by Anna Hazare also is not focusing enough on this issue of corruption by big corporates. Hence it is necessary to clearly define the act of corruption by including the act of the private companies getting undue benefits, under its ambit.

**5. Unearth the black money**

It is estimated that India has Rs 60 lakh crores of black money in Swiss Banks. Besides, there is a lot of black money in India. This was obtained by exploiting and looting India. The Government should take necessary action to unearth and bring back this black money and utilize it for the development of India.

**6. Condemn the undemocratic methods of the government suppressing the rights of the people including the arrest of Anna Hazare**

The arrest of Anna Hazare on the eve of the starting of his hunger fast was nothing but curtailing of the fundamental rights, by the Government. We condemn such undemocratic methods. He was subsequently released due to pressure from the people and political parties. The Government is trying to curtail the democratic rights of the working class and the people in order to carry forward its agenda of privatization policies to enable big corporate to loot the country. Therefore it is necessary to fight for protecting democratic rights in order to strengthen the struggles of the working class and the people.

Besides the above demands, we also demand suitable legislative measures for curtailing the role of money power in elections and Lok Ayukta in each state to curtail corruption in the machinery of state governments.

The Government's lokpal bill is spineless and ineffective in curbing corruption. Hence it should modify its bill or bring fresh bill to make the Lokpal strong and effective and discuss it in the Parliament and enact it. It should not be allowed to evade this responsibility. Besides enacting Lokpal, the other measures demanded above should also be implemented in order to curtail corruption.

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