

No.3 (v)/99/2
Central Vigilance Commission

**Satarkta Bhawan, Block 'A',
GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi- 110 023
Dated the 29th June 1999**

Subject: Improving vigilance administration - no action to be taken on anonymous/pseudonymous petitions/complaints.

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By virtue of the powers invested in the CVC under para 3(v) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training Resolution No.371/20/99-AVD.III dated 4th April 1999, the CVC is empowered to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration of the various Ministries of the Central Government or Corporations established under any Central Act, Government Companies, Societies and local authorities owned or controlled by that Government.

2. One of the facts of life in today's administration is the widespread use of anonymous and pseudonymous petitions by disgruntled elements to blackmail honest officials. Under the existing orders, issued by Department of Personnel & Training letter No.321/4/91-AVD.III dt.29.9.92, no action should be taken on anonymous and pseudonymous complaints and should be ignored and only filed. However, there is a provision available in this order that in case such complaints contain verifiable details, they may be enquired into in accordance with existing instructions. It is, however, seen that the exception provided in this order has become a convenient loophole for blackmailing. The public servants who receive the anonymous/pseudonymous complaints, generally, follow the path of least resistance and order inquiries on these complaints. A peculiar feature of these complaints is that these are resorted to especially when a public servant's promotion is due or when an executive is likely to be called by the Public Enterprises Selection Board for interview for a post of Director/CMD etc. If nothing else, the anonymous/pseudonymous petition achieves the objective of delaying the promotion if not denying the promotion. These complaints demoralise many honest public servants.

3. A person will resort to anonymous or pseudonymous complaints because of the following reasons:

- i. He is an honest person who is a whistle blower but he is afraid to reveal his identity because of fear of consequences of the powerful elements in the organisation.
- ii. He is a blackmailer who wants to psychologically pressurise the public servant complained against

4. There could be a view that if the anonymous/pseudonymous complaints contain an element of truth and if no action is to be taken on them then an important source of information will be lost. To that extent, corrupt practices may get a boost. At the same time the Central Vigilance Commission has initiated a number of steps to provide a channel of communication against the corrupt public servants. These measures include the following:

- i. Under CVC's order No.8 (1)(h)(1) dated 18.11.98, even junior officers can complain to the CVC in cases of corruption against the seniors;
- ii. The CVC has issued instructions that the name of the complainant will not be revealed when the complaint is sent to the appropriate authorities for getting their comments or launching inquiries;
- iii. Under CVC Order No. 8(1)(g)/99(4) dated 12th March 1999, in every office there should be public notice displayed directing that no bribe should be paid. If any bribe is demanded, the complaint should be made to the appropriate authority like CVO, CVC etc.; and
- iv. The CVC is now available on web - <http://cvc.nic.in> If anybody wants to complain they can easily lodge complaints on the website of CVC and also through e-mail - **vigilance@hub.nic.in**

5. In view of the above measures taken, there is very little possibility that genuine cases of corruption will not be brought to the notice of the appropriate authorities by those who were earlier resorting to anonymous/pseudonymous complaint route.

6. **It is, therefore, ordered under powers vested in the CVC under para 3(v) of the DOPT Resolution No.371/20/99-AVD.III dated 4th April 1999 that with immediate effect no action should at all be taken on any anonymous or pseudonymous complaints. They must just be filed.**

7. This order is also available on web site of the CVC at <http://cvc.nic.in>

All CVOs must ensure that these instructions are strictly complied with.



29.6.99

(N. VITTAL)

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSIONER

To

- (i) The Secretaries of All Ministries/Departments of Government of India
- (ii) The Chief Secretaries to All Union Territories
- (iii) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India
- (iv) The Chairman, Union Public Service Commission
- (v) All Chief Vigilance Officers in the Ministries /Departments/PSEs /Public Sector Banks/Insurance Companies/Autonomous Organisations/Societies
- (vi) President's Secretariat/ Vice-President's Secretariat/Lok Sabha Secretariat/ Rajya Sabha Secretariat/PMO