



Epitome Journals

International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research

CORRUPTION IN INDIA



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Research Paper :

INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a major and widespread aspect of our public life today. It is one of the biggest threats to the well-being of a society. Corruption degrades the quality of the services and also ruins the life of the common man. India is one of the countries highly affected by this threat called corruption. Political parties who promised to stop and take steps to eradicate corruption have being voted

power. This shows the significance of corruption free society and government. Unlike like developed countries, corruption is at high rate in India. The causes of corruption in India are many and quite complex.

DEFINITION OF CORRUPTION

One of the difficulties to study corruption is its definition, while it may be appeared to be a semantic issue. According to Transparency International India (TII) it is generally speaking as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”.

KINDS OF CORRUPTION

Corruption can be classified as grand, petty and political, depending on the amounts of money lost and the sector where it occurs.

GRAND CORRUPTION

Grand corruption consists of acts committed at a high level of government that distort policies or the central functioning of the state, enabling leaders to benefit at the expense of the public good.

PETTY CORRUPTION

Petty corruption refers to everyday abuse of entrusted power by low- and mid-level public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens, who often are trying to access basic goods or services in places like hospitals, schools, police departments and other agencies.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION

Political corruption is a manipulation of policies, institutions and rules of procedure in the allocation of resources and financing by political decision makers, who abuse their position to sustain their power, status and wealth.

- voting irregularities
- nepotism and cronyism
- rule of a few
- false political promises
- paying journalists for favourable coverage of candidates and parties
- influencing voters by the distribution of money, food and drink

- Holding on to power against the will of the people.

Corruption in India

The first huge corruption in Independent India is Jeep Purchase Scam (1948).....80 lakhs rupees scam. Free India's corruption graph began with V. K. Krishna Menon who was the Indian high commissioner to Britain, bypassed protocol to sign a deal worth Rs 80 lakh with a foreign firm for the purchase of 200 army jeeps. Indian government had placed an order for 200 jeeps with a London-based firm that had false credentials. While most of the money was paid up front, just 155 jeeps landed. The case was closed in 1955 and soon after Menon joined the Nehru cabinet.

VYPAM SCANDAL

The vyapam scandal rocked the entire country in a state of very rare events dates back to 2007, with investigations in the case starting after some details came to light in 2013. Officers of the MPPEB (Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board) or VYAPAM (Vyavsayik Pareeksha Mandal) found to have been rigging a variety of eligibility tests for courses and recruitments for close to six years, perhaps for an even longer period. These included tests for medical entrance, and for those aspiring for government employment as police constables, teachers, banking officials and so on. Over Rs.2, 000 crore is believed to have been exchanged as bribes. The State police have arrested some 2000 people, and are looking for about 700 more. Those allegedly involved include politicians and bureaucrats across the board, as well as the office of Governor Ram Naresh Yadav. The scale of the scandal was shocking enough but it largely escaped national attention until recent reports brought to light a particularly disturbing set of developments more than 40 of the accused persons or witnesses in the case have died, according to media reports. The State government's Special Investigation Team recently admitted before the Madhya Pradesh High Court that 23 of these were 'unnatural' deaths. Many of

the dead were between the age of 25 and 30, and 'road accidents' cited as the leading cause of death. It all points to serious and persisting foul play

CASH-FOR-VOTE

Election to the Telangana Legislative Council under MLAs' quota from the Assembly constituency is underway to fill up six vacant seats. Based on a complaint by nominated MLA Stephenson, ACB officials took TDP MLA Revanth Reddy and two others caught allegedly handing over Rs 50 lakh as bribe to the nominated MLA. Revanth Reddy and his aide allegedly offered a bribe of Rs 50 lakh as advance, as part of the Rs 5 crore deal. The TDP MLA and his aide had gone to the residence of Stephenson at Lalaguda in Secunderabad to allegedly hand over the cash when ACB sleuths caught them offering the bribe. After the voting, the remaining Rs 4.5 crore was to be paid. The denouement of the cash-for-vote soap opera, which entertained the people of both states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, cannot be trivialised. But, surely the state's demeanour is giving rise to innumerable doubts whether its moves in this case have been legally diligent and politically dexterous.

THE TOP TEN SCAMS IN OUR COUNTRY

❖ Indian coal allocation scam (2012)

While many think that 2G scam remains the biggest one in size in India. But this coal allocation scam dwarfs it by the amount involved. This scam is in regards to Indian government's allocation of nation's coal deposit to PSU's and private companies. The scam happened under Manmohan Singh government and came out in 2012. The basic premise of this scam was that wrongful allocation of coal deposits by government without resorting to competitive bidding, which would have made huge amounts to the government to tune of 1.86 lakh crore. However, the coal deposits were allocated arbitrarily.

2.2G spectrum scam (2008)

We have had a number of scams in India, but none bigger than the scam involving the process of allocating unified access service licenses. At the heart

of this 1.76 lakh crore worth of scam is the former telecom minister A Raja who according to the CAG, has evaded norms at every level as he carried out the dubious 2G license awards in 2008 at a throw away price which were pegged at 2001 prices. In some respect, this remains the biggest scam in India if you consider the inflation. The 2G spectrum allocation happened 5 years earlier than coal scam which came out in 2012. The cases are still going on against many people including A. Raja

M. K. Kanimoli and many telecommunication companies as well.

3. Wakf Board Land Scam (2012)

In March of 2012, Anwar Maniapddy, the chairman of Karnataka state minorities commission submitted a sensational report which alleged 27,000 acres of land, which was controlled by Karnataka Walkf Board had been allocated illegally or misappropriated. The value of land which was misappropriated was in tune of 1.5 to 2 lakh crore rupees. The land managed by walkf board, a Muslim charitable trust, is typically donated to under-privileged and poor people of Muslim community. However, the report alleged that nearly 50 percent of the land owned by wakf board was misappropriated by politicians and board members in conjunction with real estate mafia at fraction of actual land cost.

4. Ali khan tax default (2008-09)

Pune Billionaire Hasan Ali Khan leads the list of top ten income tax defaulters in financial year 2008-09 in the country, who together owe more than Rs.50,000 crores in taxes the government.

5. Commonwealth Games Scam (2010)

Another feather in the cap of Indian scandal list is common wealth games loot. Even before the long awaited sporting bonanza could see the day of light grand event was soaked in the allegation of corruption. It is estimated that our Rs.70000 crore spent on the games, only half the said amount was spent on Indian sportspersons. The central Vigilance commission, involved in probing the alleged corruption in various Commonwealth Games related projects, has

found discrepancies in tenders like payment to non-existent parties, will-full delays in execution of contracts, over-inflated price and bungling in purchase of equipment through tendering and misappropriation of funds.

6. Telgi Scam (2002)

As they say, every scam must have something unique in it to make money out of it in an unscrupulous manner and telgi scam had all the suspense and drama that the scandal needed to thrive and be busted. Abdul Karim Telgi had mastered the art of forgery in printing duplicate stamp papers and sold them to banks and other institutions. The tentacles of the fake stamp and stamp paper case had penetrated 12 states and was estimated at a whopping Rs. 20,000 crore plus. The Telgi clearly had a lot of support from government departments that were responsible for the production and sale of high security stamps.

7. Scorpene submarine scam (2005)

The Scorpene submarine scandal is once again a black mark to India which involves a bribery of about Rs. 500 crores which has been reportedly said to be paid to the deciding authorities of the government by Thales, a French based company who were the makers of the Scorpene submarine. In the year 2005 in the month of October the submarine contract worth Rs 19,000 crores was approved by the then Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee with Thales. In the history of India, the Scorpene deal scam is supposed to be one of the largest bribery corruption scandals of India. It is reported that nearly 500 crores was given as bribery to the decision maker representing the Indian government by the French Company Thales.

8. Satyam Scam (2009)

What Business Demands The scam at satyam computer services is something that will shatter the peace and tranquillity of Indian investors and shareholder community beyond repair satyam is the biggest fraud in the corporate history to the tune of Rs. 14000 crore. The company's disgraced former chairman Ramalinga Raju kept everyone in the dark for a decade by fudging the books of

accounts for several years and inflating revenues and profit figures of satyam. Finally, the company was taken over by the Tech Mahindra which has done wonderfully well to revive the brand satyam.

9. Bellary mining scam

The scandal in Karnataka, which led to the resignation of former chief minister yeddurappa involved mining barons, the Reddy brothers. It was alleged that G Karunakar reddy and G Janardhan reddy had paid money to bag contracts for their mining company, Obulapuram mining company, in Ballary. A report published by former Lokayukta of Karnataka justice Santhosh Hegde said that yeddurappa and his family members had accepted bribes in the form of donations to trusts from mining companies in exchange for issuing mining leases. The Karnataka government suffered a loss of Rs 16,085 crore.

10. Chopper scam (2013)

Better known as Chopper gate, the scam involves several politicians and defence officers, who have been accused of having accepted bribes from Augusta Westland to clear a contract to supply 12 Augusta Westland AW101 helicopters to India. India had signed a contract to purchase 12 Agusta Westland AW101 helicopters in February 2010. The Rs3600 crore scam came to light on February 12, 2013, when Finmeccanica CEO Giuseppe Orsi was arrested by Italian authorities for bribes allegedly paid to secure the sale of 12 helicopters to India.

CORRUPTION INDEX-2014

Transparency International conducts an annual research into the corruption perception of different countries, and as per the 2014 report released. There is some good news for India as we have improved our ranking by two places. Compared to 2013 when India was ranked 94 out of 177 countries, in 2014 India ranked 85 out of 175 countries this year, climbing up 9 places.

Corruption Perception Index (CPI) extracts a score based on various factors related with fighting corruption, and India has received a CPI score of 38, which

were 36 last year. On a scale of 0-100, 0 is perceived as being highly corrupt and 100 is considered as least corrupt.

Denmark, with a CPI score of 92 has been ranked #1 while North Korea and Somalia are ranked worst with CPI scores of 8. In fact, out of 195 countries surveyed and analyzed, more than two-thirds have a score below 50, which is quite alarming.

THE MODI EFFECT?

When PM Modi took an oath as India's 15th Prime Minister this year, this focus on creating a corruption-free India is not hidden. In every speech and presentation he gave, supporting anti-corruption movement was one of the most important goals of his government.

However, the report clearly mentions that all data and facts collected for 2014 year's survey happened before the new government took over, hence there is very little effect of PM Modi in improving India's ranking.

Having said that, the report also mentions that the new Government elected on the anti-corruption mandate, on the possibility of some new reforms and a hope for a better India.

And the current CPI index score and the improved ranking reflect just that.

Main reason of corruption

According to Chanakya, a king can reign only with the help of others. One wheel alone does not move. Therefore a king should appoint advisers (as councilors and ministers) and listen to their advice.

Moral: Even an honest king cannot give rule properly until there is a team honest and efficient ministers and bureaucracy to assist him.

The India corruption study (2005) has named seven key factors that stand out as responsible for a widespread corruption in the system. These are.

- ❖ Lack of transparency and accountability in the system.
- ❖ Lack of an effective corruption reporting mechanism.
- ❖ Lack of honesty in officials in the Government.

- ❖ Acceptance of 'Bribe' as a way of life, custom and culture.
- ❖ Ineffective anti-corruption institutions, including Police and Judiciary.
- ❖ Poor economic policies.
- ❖ Inadequate training and orientation of Government officials.
- ❖ Review of literature

The studies related to the significance and the status of media coverage on corruption in India context is discussed in this division.

- ❖ Corruption and Government- by Susan Rose-Ackerman(1999)

Susan Rose-Ackerman's Corruption and Government is a fine study of a costly phenomenon affecting countries at all levels of development. It is a rich survey of the economics and politics of corruption, with attention to apparent cultural differences and a tough effort to commend devices for reform. The author offers accounts of successful programs of ending or massively reducing varied forms of corruption, and she gives reason to believe that, once corruption is overcome, the practice of clean government can be very stable.

- ❖ The India Corruption Study(2008)-----by The CMS

Center for Media Services (CMS) conducted India corruption study in 2008 collaboration with the Transparency International India. It selected eleven public services. It focused on BPL households, mostly in rural India. The coverage of this study includes all parts of the country. The eleven services are Public Distribution System (PDS), Hospital Service, School Education, Electricity Service and Water Supply Service, Land Records/Registration, Housing Service, Forest, NREGS, Banking Service and Police Service. In this study the total bribe amount involved during the 2007-2008 in BPL households availing the eleven services covered in this study is estimated as Rs. 8,830 million. In this study the school education was the last rank among eleven services. The police service stood number one corroborates the general impression. The rest of the services in sequences Land Records/ Registration, Housing, Water Supply Service, NREGS, Forest, Electricity, Health, PDS, Banking.

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