

Editorial

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Checking corruption: a flop show in Manipur

Rumours are spreading around about fillers of those in power at the state government searching for candidates who are on strike demanding declaration of the result of the re-recruitment test for Manipur Police Constable (Male) - 2013 batch assuring them selection on payment of Rs. 8 to 10 lakhs for the post of Police Constable and Rs. 4 to 5 lakhs for the post of followers. Many candidates had come across those filler coming directly to them and some already started paying the demanded money. The unfortunate part is that those fillers never mention on whom to pay the amount collected. Those who are not ready to pay the demanded money narrated the way these fillers came to them. When asked to file compliant against the practice, it finds hard for them to show direct evidences nor they could file complaints against the authority as these people coming to them did not disclosed the identity of the authority concern asking for the amount.

An enquiry committee constituted by an order of the Manipur High Court has been investigating over the matter and government is helpless to declare or intervene in the matter until the court gives directives after the submission of the inquiry conducting. It is likely that the committee of enquiry will submit the findings of what went wrong in the selection process by January next year. And one can expect the declaration of the result after this as the Manipur High Court will surely give a verdict regarding this.

Some of the candidates of this batch, who does not want to disclose their identity, had already stated that they had already paid some huge amount of money to the concern authority to make sure their selection. Some had openly stated that they are facing tough time as they can't afford the interest as they borrowed or mortgage their properties for the purpose. This was also stated by former Retired SP of Nagaland Police P. Sonamani during a discussion hour at a local TV channel.

When the present government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh came to power, people expected some hopes as he himself had shown immense intention to the problem of corruption.

On March 24, 2017, When the Chief Minister open Anti Corruption cell, there were some hopes thinking that corruption will be somehow checked. The first 2/3 months sees hopes but after 8 months one wander the purpose of setting up this cell to check corruption.

The media in Manipur having faith in the new government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had pointed several mistakes and massive corruption being underway with hopes that the government will act and punish those responsible for the misappropriation of public money.

Under the heading "Irregularities in transmission of raw water from Maphou Dam to Chingkeiching likely to cause artificial flood and disaster at many villages" this newspaper had published on how the authority implementing the project had misappropriated the public money (as anything is taken up with the taxes collected from the public). So far no action has been initiated to any of the individuals involved.

The government had also instituted to investigate on why the electronic traffic signal and the CCTV camera installed at various places of Imphal have failed. Mr. Chief Minister had stated that he had received the all the report. But one wanders why he is not initiating any action against those involved in the misappropriation of fund.

With the way things are going on it seems like the menace of corruption will continue to hunt the people of the state.

Driving License lost

I have lost my driving license issued by the DTO Thoubal, on the way between Kakching Khunou to Kakching on September 23, 2017. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Rinku Khumukcham
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai
Imphal West.

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By: Tanvir

All luxury corrupts either the morals or the state - Jobert

Corruption in the Indian society has prevailed from time immemorial in one form or the other. The basic inception of corruption started with our opportunistic leaders who have already done greater damage to our nation. People who work on right principles are unrecognized and considered to be foolish in the modern society. Corruption in India is a result of the connection between bureaucrats, politicians and criminals. Earlier, bribes were paid for getting wrong things done, but now bribe is paid for getting right things done at right time. Further, corruption has become something respectable in India, because respectable people are involved in it. Social corruption like less weighing of products, adulteration in edible items, and bribery of various kind have incessantly prevailed in the society.

In today's scenario, if a person wants a government job he has to pay lakhs of rupees to the higher officials irrespective of satisfying all the eligibility criteria. In every office one has either to give money to the employee concerned or arrange for some sources to get work done. There is adulteration and duplicate weighing of products in food and civil supplies department by unscrupulous workers who cheat the consumers by playing with the health and lives of the people. In the assessment of property tax the officers charge money even if the house is built properly according to the Government rules and regulations. Political corruption is worst in

Corruption In India

India. The major cause of concern is that corruption is weakening the political body and damaging the supreme importance of the law governing the society. Nowadays politics is only for criminals and criminals are meant to be in politics. Elections in many parts of the country have become associated with a host of criminal activities. Threatening voters to vote for a particular candidate or physically prevent voters from going in to the polling booth - especially weaker sections of the society like tribals, dalits and rural woman occurs frequently in several parts of the country. Recently, the Government increased the salary of the M.P.'s from Rs.16,000 to Rs.50,000, that is 300% increase to the existing salary. But many of them are unhappy with rise and want the Government to increase the salary to a much more extent. This clearly shows how the politicians are in constant thirst for monetary benefits and not caring about the welfare of the people. Tax evasion is one of the most popular forms of corruption. It is mostly practiced by Government officials and politicians who lead to the accumulation of black money which in turn spoils the moral of the people.

Major Factors Responsible For Corruption:

1. The most important factor is the nature of the human being. People in general, have a great thirst for luxuries and comforts and as a result of which they get themselves involved in all unscrupulous activities that result in monetary or material benefits.
2. Moral and spiritual values are not given utmost importance in

educational system, which is highly responsible for the deterioration of the society.

3. The salary paid to employees is very less and as a result of which they are forced to earn money by illegal ways.
4. The punishments imposed on the criminals are inadequate.
1. The political leaders have spoiled the society completely. They lead a luxurious life and do not even care about the society.
2. People of India are not awakened and enlightened. They fear to raise their voice against anti-social elements prevailing in the society.

Measures To Control Corruption:

There are some specific measures to control increasing corruption.

1. The Right to Information Act (RTI) gives one all the required information about the Government, such as what the Government is doing with our tax payments. Under this act, one has the right to ask the Government on any problem which one faces. There is a Public Information Officer (PIO) appointed in every Government department, who is responsible for collecting information wanted by the citizens and providing them with the relevant information on payment of a nominal fee to the PIO. If the PIO refuses to accept the application or if the applicant does not receive the required information on time then the applicant can make a complaint to the respective information commission, which has the power to impose a penalty up to Rs.25,000 on the errant PIO.

2. Another potent check on corruption is Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). It was setup by the Government to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the areas of vigilance. If there are any cases of corruption or any complaints thereof, then that can be reported to the CVC. CVC also shoulders the responsibility of creating more awareness among people regarding the consequences of giving and taking of bribes and corruption.

3. Establishment of special courts for speedy justice can be a huge positive aspect. Much time should not elapse between the registration of a case and the delivery of judgment.

4. Strong and stringent laws need to be enacted which gives no room for the guilty to escape.

5. In many cases, the employees opt for corrupt means out of compulsion and not by choice. Some people are of the opinion that the wages paid are insufficient to feed their families. If they are paid better, they would not be forced to accept bribe.

The one thing that needs to be ensured is proper, impartial, and unbiased use of various anti-social regulations to take strong, deterrent, and timely legal action against the offenders, irrespective of their political influences or money power. Firm and strong steps are needed to curb the menace and an atmosphere has to be created where the good, patriotic, intellectuals come forward to serve the country with pride, virtue, and honesty for the welfare of the people of India.

(Courtesy: Civil Service India)

National & International News

Amtrak train on new route hurtles onto highway, kills 3

AP
Dunport, Dec 19: An Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster new route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle and spilled some of its cars onto the highway below, killing at least three people, injuring dozens and crushing two vehicles, authorities said.

Attention quickly turned to the train's speed. A website that maps location and speed using data from Amtrak's train tracker app showed the train was going 81.1 mph (129 kph) about a quarter of a mile from the point where it derailed, where the speed limit is significantly lower. There were 80 passengers and five on duty crew when the train derailed and pulled 13 cars off the tracks. Authorities said there were three confirmed deaths. More than 70 people were taken for medical care including 10 with serious injuries. About two hours after the accident, a US official who was briefed on the investigation said he was told at least six people were killed. The official said he had no new information to

explain the discrepancy in the numbers.

The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

A track chart prepared by the Washington State Department of Transportation shows the maximum speed drops from 79 mph (127 kph) to 30 mph (48 kph) for passenger trains just before the tracks curve to cross Interstate 5, which is where the train went off the tracks.

The chart, dated Feb. 7, 2017, was submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration in anticipation of the start of passenger service along a new bypass route that shaves 10 minutes off the trip between Seattle and Portland.

It was not clear how fast the train was moving at the precise moment when it derailed. National Transportation Safety Board investigators were at the scene trying to determine the derailment's cause.

Kimberly Reason with Sound Transit, the Seattle-area transit agency that owns the tracks,

confirmed to the AP that the speed limit at the point where the train derailed is 30 mph (48 kph). Speed signs are posted two miles before the speed zone and just before the speed zone approaching the curve, she said.

Positive train control technology that can slow or stop a speeding train wasn't in use on this stretch of track, according to Amtrak President Richard Anderson.

He spoke on a conference call with reporters, said he was "deeply saddened by all that has happened today."

Bob Chipkevich, a former NTSB director of railroad, pipeline and hazardous materials investigations, told The Seattle Times the crash looked like a high-speed derailment based on television images.

In a radio transmission immediately after the accident, the conductor can be heard saying the train was coming around a corner and was crossing a bridge that passed over Interstate 5 when it derailed. Dispatch audio also indicated that the engineer survived with bleeding from the head and both eyes swollen shut.

2 unidentified militants killed in encounter in J-K

PTI
Srinagar, Dec 19: Two unidentified militants were killed in an overnight encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said today.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Wanipora area of Shopian yesterday evening

following information about presence of militants in the area, an Army official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter as militants opened firing towards the security forces.

"Two militants have been killed so far and the operation is still in progress," the official said.

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