

No.006/PRC/1
Government of India
Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, Block 'A',
GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi- 110 023
Dated the 21st September, 2006

Circular No. 34 /09/06

Subject:- Delay in completion of departmental proceedings - reg.

Reference: Circular No.14/3/06 - F.No. 006/PRC/001 dt. 13.3.06

The Commission has been emphasising the need for completing the departmental inquiry proceedings expeditiously so that errant officials are punished at the earliest. It has been observed that one of the major causes for delay lies in making the listed documents available for the inquiry. Sometimes, poor drafting of the charge sheet also creates confusion about the documents relied upon. The Commission has also noted with serious concern, that while advice of the Commission is sought on the basis of indicated lapses/irregularities and the suspected public servants' role, the charge-sheets are not drafted properly to reflect the seriousness of the lapses. The lapses are not covered precisely in the articles of charge and certain lapses, on the basis of which advice is obtained, are not included in the charge-sheets, thereby limiting the areas of operation/effectiveness of the Inquiry Officer. There are also cases where there was no credible evidence to back the charge, as a result of which, the said charge could not be proved during the inquiry. This not only results in errant officials escaping punishment, but also causes avoidable embarrassment to the Vigilance Administration and the Commission.

2. It is with a view to checking such occurrences that the Commission has been emphasising that while seeking Commission's advice, wherever disciplinary proceedings are proposed, references, complete in all respects, including the draft charge-sheets with supporting evidence, should be made to the Commission. While this was not to be construed as vetting of the charge-sheets by the Commission, it was intended to ensure that the specific lapses were duly reflected in the charge-sheet before it was decided to proceed against an officer. It may be pointed out that in Para 2.14.1(v) of Chapter II of the Vigilance Manual (Vol.I), it has been clearly stipulated that the CVO is required **"to ensure that the charge-sheets to the concerned employees are drafted properly"**. It is needless to say that this includes the different aspects of the charge-sheet mentioned in the aforesaid para. Accordingly, the CVOs are directed to carefully scrutinise the draft charge-sheets before sending their proposals, suggesting departmental proceedings and seeking Commission's advice on the same. **The Commission may take an adverse view on a CVO, who sends incomplete references, besides being constrained to return such proposals.**

3. Another cause for concern is the transfer of officials appointed as P.Os., while the inquiry is in progress, and appointment of new P.Os. in their place. In certain cases, it has been observed that the P.Os. were changed a number of times, leading to avoidable delay. Appointment of very junior official as P.O. also defeats the purpose of the inquiry against a senior officer, as such a P.O. is not able to present the case confidently.

4. After due consideration, the Commission has directed that the Disciplinary Authority should consider all relevant aspects about the official to be appointed as I.O./P.O. in a particular case, with particular reference to his/her continued availability to complete the inquiry proceedings. It should be ensured that only such officials, who are not likely to be transferred during the pendency of the inquiry proceedings, are appointed as P.Os./I.Os. In extreme cases where the transfers are unavoidable, it should be ensured that the I.Os./P.Os. complete the inquiry proceedings as expeditiously as possible, before they are relieved or at the earliest after their relief. It should also be kept in view, that to the extent possible, an official of appropriate seniority, with reference to the status of the charged official, is appointed as the P.O.

5. The CVOs may also apprise the competent authority of these instructions in their respective organisations.



(V. Kannan)
Director

To

All Secretaries of Ministries/Departments in GOI.
All Chief Vigilance Officers
All CEOs/CMDs of PSUs/PSBs