

**Sub: Minutes of the Annual Zonal / Sectoral review meeting with Chief Executives and CVOs of Social & Commerce Sector held on 10.08.2011 in Satarkta Bhawan, CVC, New Delhi.**

Shri Pradeep Kumar, Central Vigilance Commissioner chaired the meeting. Shri R. Sri Kumar, Vigilance Commissioner and Shri J.M. Garg, Vigilance Commissioner also participated.

A list of the participants is at Annex.

**A. Introductory Remarks**

Shri Pradeep Kumar, Central Vigilance Commissioner, (CVC) highlighted the importance of the meeting which is being held at the time when there is general outburst of anger in the public about the corruption. He suggested that the task of combating the corruption is not possible alone by the Commission and active cooperation is required from all concerned. However, he advised that there should not be any witch-hunt while dealing with corruption cases. Further CVC mentioned that it was observed that there is delay in dealing with corruption cases in Ministries. Therefore, CVOs must take personal interest to deal with enormous task. He highlighted the steps taken by the Commission particularly, for leveraging technology. With the help of technology, the administration can be toned up and other steps, for example, e-procurement, e-payment, VIGEYE and guidelines for integrity pact may be useful to curb the corruption so that general public should not get impression that nothing is being done to fight corruption.

Shri R. Sri Kumar, Vigilance Commissioner, (VC(S)), in his opening remarks emphasized on the uses of technology, particularly, mobile technology, photo-uploading, VIGEYE GPMS etc. He was of the view that the problems related to food security, warehouses, storage losses etc., can be dealt with efficiently by improving the system. He advised that introduction of online system for quality and service could minimize the delay.

**B. Organisation Specific:**

**1. M/o Food Processes Industries**

Shri Ajit Kumar, JS & CVO, M/o Food Processes Industries informed that financial assistance is provided by the M/o Food Processing for setting up food processing units. He stated that the status of applications can be seen on the portal of the Ministry and proper benchmarking for food processing technology has been done as the same is also available on the portal. He further, informed that RTGS system will be operated by the next month in the Ministry.

On inquiry from CVC about the nature of complaints received in the Ministry, the CVO explained that the complaints are mainly related to the pending applications for getting the funds under the schemes.

On query from VC (G), whether there were any middle men between the banks and the applicants, the CVO, explained that no such system is allowed by the ministry and there is no discretion either on the part of the Ministry or on the part of the bank that any out of turn application is entertained.

**2. D/o Food and Public Distribution (D/o F&PD)**

Shri T. Jacob, JS & CVO, D/o F&PD informed about the steps taken by his department like – introduction of file monitoring system, weekly review and monitoring of vigilance cases at his level, rotational transfers are made as part of preventive vigilance etc.

**3. D/o Consumer Affairs**

Shri Pankaj Aggarwal, Addl. Secretary, D/o Consumer Affairs stated that the department deals with Consumer Protection Act and Essential Commodity Act. The Consumer Protection Act relates to complaints from the consumers and their redressal. Essential Commodities Act is dealt with by the State Govts. as these matters are State subjects. However, Deptt. is dealing with other areas like forward marketing/trading, etc. Further, the department handles matters of test houses which were set up, whereas now many new modern laboratories in the field have come up. Regarding disciplinary cases, he submitted that the cases related to administrative matters like LTC claim etc. On this issue, the CVC suggested that the department should work on manuals coding etc., for forward marketing/trading activities.

**4. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):**

Shri Sharad Gupta, DG, BIS informed that BIS's main job is to issue certificates for standards of various products which is done through a participative process by manufacturers, users, scientists, academia etc. He informed that the organization has their own labs but from last year some private labs for specific tests/ standard certificates were recognized by BIS.

CVC advised that in specific cases where it was strongly felt by the DA, they may come again to the Commission with their view for review / reconsideration by the Commission.

Ms. Harjot Kaur Bamhrah, CVO, BIS informed about shortage of staff and that in many cases, inspection is done by chartered staff/ agencies due to staff shortage. She informed that majority of cases of complaints are for certification standards which are made by outsiders only. She admitted that they have lot of pending cases / advices of CVC, but due to shortage of inquiry officers, inquiries could not be conducted and thus, the cases are pending. Further, she informed that 73 complaints were pending with them which were mostly related to the allegation of disproportionate assets. On this, CVC advised that the CVO should look into all the pending cases, particularly which are pending for the last 3-4 years and get the pendency reduced.

VC (G) stated that Chief Executive and CVO are invited together in the Annual Zonal /Sectoral Meetings so that the administrative problems of the CVO can be discussed and sorted out. However, CVO can take up their problems with their management in their regular structured meetings.

VC (S) observed that as far as the standards and quality of various products is concerned, it is found that the products are not up to the mark and therefore, BIS should think from the point of view of consumer welfare. VC(S) also suggested the CVO, BIS to take a closer view on the complaints received about the sub-standard and poor quality products.

