MESSAGE

Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed every year, since 2000. This year, the week is being observed from 6th November, 2006.

2. The fight against corruption is becoming increasingly complex and painstaking and requires a concerted effort by all concerned, including the common citizens, who are the worst victims of this malaise. The Central Vigilance Commission and Chief Vigilance Officers in Government departments, PSUs and Banks, can at best serve as the focal points in this fight, but it is only when the citizens at large become fully aware of their rights, become sensitized to the need to resist and fight the corrupt public servants and, in a constructive and positive manner, come up with suggestions, which would reduce the scope for corruption, that this social and economic evil can be challenged seriously.

3. Since 12th October 2005 the Right to Information Act has come into force in the country and there is need for the citizens to fully understand the power of this landmark legislation and make full-use of it to empower themselves, ask for the best conduct from the public servants and Government institutions, and join the crusade for good governance. The Right to Information Act can indeed be a very potent weapon against corrupt public servants.

4. The CVC has been appealing to all vigilance functionaries not to use the Vigilance Week merely for taking the annual pledge or discussing among themselves issues relating to corruption, but, instead, reach out to their stakeholders and, with an open mind, discuss with them the issues that really concern the latter and identify effective measures, which would lead steadily towards the elimination of corruption in administration. The Commission hopes that the fight for transparency and corruption-free administration would be carried forward with greater vigour during the current year and the underlying objectives of the Vigilance Awareness Week would soon develop into a part of our normal day-to-day existence.

(Sudhir Kumar) 31.10.06
Vigilance Commissioner

(Pratyush Sinha)
Central Vigilance Commissioner