

Role of Ethics in Corruption Elimination: An Appraisal

Dr. Rajbir Singh Dalal,

Associate Professor,

Deptt. of Public Admn.,

CDLU, Sirsa

Ethics in public life is a parameter of good governance. However there is sharp decline of ethics from public life in India during the last six and half decades resulting into a number of problems like nepotism, favoritism, opportunism, delay in grievance redressal and service disposal, poor and in-effective administration, decline of credibility and integrity of persons assuming public offices and the corruption is major one. Corruption is prevailing in the rank and file of Indian polity. Hardly any day passes when we do not come across one case or the other of corruption. The number and gravity of corruption cases is increasing day by day whereby the high profile persons are indulging more in number. The scandals in 70s were of a few crore rupees, have turned into of Rs thousands crore in the LPG era. Moreover, the persons and areas which so far are considered averse of corruption are dampened with it. Bank Scam (1993) to Coalgate (2012), Tatratruck Purchase (2011) to 2G spectrum scam (2011), Stamp Scam (2003) to Augusta helicopter purchase (2012) and Railgate (2013) are the prominent ones reflecting the variety of sectors indulged in corruption. The constitutional and statutory bodies are suffering from parochial outlook and dominated by partisan interests. Accordingly, a loud cry for ethical governance emerged in the country from all corners including the civil society which launched a massive campaign in 2012 to establish the institutions of Lokpal and Lokayukta to curb the menace of corruption.

Corruption has put evil impact on governance in the country particularly on socio-economic development and welfare programs causing poor performance in spite of huge investment. The Global Slavery Index, a maiden ranking of 162 countries for their record in modern day practices of slavery (debt bondage, descent base slavery, trafficking, and forced and early marriage) says that there are 30 million slaves living in the world as of now, half of them in India (13.9m). India is in a shady league of countries like Mauritania, Haiti and Pakistan which top the slavery charts when it comes to the highest number of slaves per head of population. India is the 4th on the list after the abovementioned 3 countries. China (2.9m), Pakistan (2.1m), Nigeria (0.7m) and Ethiopia (0.6m) are the other countries following India so far the largest number of slaves is concerned¹. Moreover, the credit and rating of the country has fallen rapidly in international fora due to corruption and it has negative impact in the globalized era especially on FII and FDI, which is adversely affecting the GDP rate of economy. Weak and instable governments and their declining legitimacy among people are becoming the order of the day resulting into chaos all round. No doubt, the problem of corruption is deep rooted in Indian polity having multifaceted aspects, therefore, it can be rooted out by a multi-pronged strategy. Restoring and strengthening of ethics in public life is a vital one in this regard. As the issue of corruption and various ways out to meet it, is a live one and widely discussed both in public and private arena, therefore, an attempt has been made in the present paper to highlight the concepts of ethics and corruption, their interaction. The attributes of corruption in Indian polity and role of ethics in eliminating corruption have also been discussed.

Concept: Before proceeding further on the issue of interaction between ethics and corruption, it would be pertinent first to define the concepts of ethics and corruption. The term

ethics stands for values like sacrifice, dutifulness, honesty, integrity, commitment, objectivity and accountability hailed by someone. Plato in his great work 'The Republic' has described in detail regarding ethics in individual and public life. Similarly, the ancient Indian literature including Bhagwad Gita and the Great Epics are full of teachings regarding significance of ethics in individual and public life. When the government and administration of any country is run by persons acquainted with these values, it is called as ethical governance which is also a form of good governance. The character of the people, their education, culture and ethos play vital role in ascertaining the ethics in governance. As the politico- administrative culture of different countries varies, hence the possibility of ethical governance therein.

So far the corruption is concerned it has been defined differently by different thinkers. According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, "Corruption means being immoral, dishonest or depraved". In everyday life, it stands for the misuse of authority by a civil servant to obtain an extra income from the public. It is always an exploitation of the public which occurs only because the civil servants constitutionally occupy an independent position vis-à-vis the public. Broadly speaking, corruption refers to perversion of power or the violations of a country's legal system, the destruction or perversion of the integrity or fidelity of a person in his discharge of public duties. The corruption can be defined as moral depravity, misuse of one's official position for his personal gain or for the benefit of his nears and dears, etc. at the cost of the public. Corruption can be of different type. Broadly it can be divided into six types-Transactive, Extortive, Defensive, Investive, Nepotistic and Facilitative². Thus corruption and ethics are closely related and inversely proportional to each other as and when ethics decline in public life corruption will increase and vice-versa.

Interaction between Ethics and Corruption: The lack of ethics in governance is more or less responsible for the prevailing mal-governance in the country. Corruption exists and acts in many forms like misuse of public office for personal and pecuniary benefits, not to perform ones duty ordinarily or extend political patronage to partisans or family members or relatives in cash or kind. The lack of serious debates in legislative functioning and domination of petty partisan interests therein, chaos and repeated adjournment of legislatures, boycott by the entire opposition or suspending it by the Chair for the rest of session, have become the order of day in India. The ministers both union and state levels are becoming more and more parochial in their outlook and public functioning. Their main motive remains to keep their vote bank intact by all means irrespective of its consequences on society as well as the national security and integrity. Persons with criminal background are coming in the forefront and politics has become a far cry for honest and upright persons. As both the Executive and the Legislative have failed to perform their constitutional duties, hence the judiciary has to step in to meet out the mounting public pressure through PILs and judicial activism. Though it provided some relief to the layman of the country and restored public faith in governmental set up of the day to some extent but simultaneously it not only violated the very fabric of the constitution but also resulted into huge backlog of pending cases (over 3 crore) in courts at different levels. The position of other constitutional and statutory functionaries is not an exception.

The people are somehow responsible for deterioration in the status and dignity of legislative bodies by electing their representatives (MLAs and MPs) with corrupt and criminal background. The data collected by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), set up in 1999 to strengthen democracy and electoral reforms, on the number of pending cases and convictions declared by sitting MPs, MLAs and contesting candidates since 2008 Parliament and State Assembly elections shows the deep malaise in the polity. Remarking on the low rate of convictions, the ADR surmised that one reason was the slow pace at which hearings proceed in courts. Also, a candidate

may refrain from declaring his conviction in affidavit if his appeal challenging the conviction is admitted in a higher court.

The ADR filed a PIL with the Delhi High Court asking for disclosure of the criminal, financial and educational backgrounds of the candidates contesting elections. Based on this, the Supreme Court in 2002 and subsequently 2003, made it mandatory for all candidates contesting elections to disclose the above information before the polls by filing an affidavit with the Election Commission. Since 2008 Lok Sabha and Assembly poll 4807 MPs and MLAs were elected of which 1460 (30%) are facing criminal cases and 688 (14%) are indulged in serious offences whereas the conviction was declared only by 24 (0.5%). The total number of contestants during this period were 47389 of which 8041 (17%) are facing criminal cases and 3759 (8%) are facing serious criminal cases³. Thus the tendency of election of more people with criminal background is on the rising side.

The governments of the day are implementing various programmes for development and welfare without acknowledging the ground reality and such decisions lack of rationality too. The main motive behind these schemes remains the vote bank politics. No doubt, food security to the people is an appreciable step but the way the UPA-II government and some state governments enacted and implemented it (Food Security Act), smacks the hidden agenda or ulterior motives behind it. The governments concerned are introducing the food security scheme (costing about 1.42 lakh crore per annum to the union government) at the moment when the General Election, 2014 and many states Assembly elections are due and their fiscal health is not allowing it. The Current Account Deficit of GOI is more than 4.8% in September, 2013 and many state governments are at the verge of bankruptcy. Not only the government, but also the citizens lack of ethics in their personal life. That's why they do not hesitate in tax evasion or extracting maximum benefits from the system. The CBDT accepted that taxes of Rs 4.82 lakh crore are due towards various companies and individual taxpayers of which 97% (Rs. 4.66 lakh crore) is difficult to recover due to legal complexities, problem of payment or company's bankruptcy and accurate address of defaulters.⁴ It indicates the mentality of tax payers and gravity of tax evasion in the country which cannot take place without prevailing corrupt practices on one hand and lack of ethics on the other.

35 out of 77 Union Ministers of UPA government did not give any information regarding their property and liabilities to the Prime Minister. The list includes Gulam Nabi Azad, Union Health Minister; Ajit Singh, Civil Aviation Minister; Kapil Sibal, Law Minister; SriParkash Jaiswal, Coal Minister; MM Pallam Raju, HRD Minister and Harish Rawat, Water Resource Minister. Thus 18 of 32 Cabinet Ministers, 7 of 12 Ministers of State with independent charge and 17 of 33 Ministers of State have given the detail of their property and liabilities within the prescribed time period (up to 31 August 2013)⁵. If it is the position of top leadership of the country, then what can be expected from their subordinates and ordinary citizens.

The GOI has spent over Rs 60,000 crore on NRHM in the last 7 years (2005-12) and is spending Rs 40,000 crore per annum on MNREGS, Rs 1.45 lakh crore per annum as subsidy on petroleum products, but the real picture of the beneficiaries and scenario on all these aspects is more or less the same as was before initiating these programmes. The reason behind is lack of ethics in governance and implementation of these programmes or massive prevalence of corruption therein. Despite of spending Rs 750 crore and implanting 42 crore saplings during the last 8 years (2005-13) in Haryana, the covered area under forest or greenery could not increase more than 6 per cent of its total area. The situation of other welfare and development schemes in the state is more or less the same. Thus, India has failed to meet its commitments towards tackling climatic changes mainly due to bureaucratic hurdles while China, the world's biggest polluter, has a better record, pointed out Dali Limaye of the Energy Services Company (ESCO) in International ESCO Finance Conference in Johannesburg. He further stated, "The strategy is there, the plan are there, the funding is there, but the problem is that they (Indian) are not deploying the funds which are in tune of Rs 6000-8000 crore."⁶ The funds allocated for development programmes are hushed

up by some people in connivance to the existing nexus or their output remains very poor. Thus ethics in governance can be instrumental eradicating corruption and mal-administration in the country.

14 IAS and 21 PCS officers in Punjab will face action for alleged mis-appropriation of wealth by accepting bribes, for causing losses to the state exchequer and committing irregularities while discharging their duties. The Deputy Secretary (Yog Raj Sharma) in the Personnel Department had been sitting on these files for more than a year and when he was transferred these files went missing. The Chief Secretary ordered that an FIR be registered against Sharma for his conspicuous role in missing these files⁷. Thus the missing of case files of these officers, recommending disciplinary action, from the Personnel Department last year shows how strong the nexus of bureaucrats and politicians is prevailing and the gravity of corruption thronging in public offices.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) constituted to enquire into 2G spectrum scam could not reach on any concrete conclusion even after the expiry of more than two years due to warring political faction in it. It has given a wrong message regarding the functioning of constitutional bodies like JPC. The Chairperson of JPC Sh. P.C. Chako and other Congress Party members wanted to exonerate their party leadership from the stain of this scam whereas the members from the BJP, CPM, CPI, DMK, AIADMK, and BJD, were of contrary opinion. It indicates that our political parties are hollow so far the principles or ethics are concerned. It has denigrated the dignity and status of Parliament. It also put question marks on constitution of JPCs in future to investigate crucial matters. It was a high low of decline of ethics in public life.

People look toward judiciary for justice against any excesses committed by the state establishment or by private individual. If the judiciary itself is indulged in corrupt practices or it is not fair in its functioning, then whom to blame and how to? The fees of advocates and prolonged trials have deprived the laymen from their constitutional and legal rights. The situation in lower judiciary is worse where the clients and the fate of their cases remain at the mercy of the judicial officers and advocates who are normally reinless resulting into huge backlog of pending cases. The justice delivery system with 'uncle judges' and their relatives as law officers works as an ambivalent mechanism for both the advocates and the government. Besides getting hefty salary from the government, the law officers (AAG, DAG etc.) are allowed private practice as long as the cases are not against the government. They got experience and practice at the public exchequer. The government also benefitted by taking undue benefits from the Benches through their relatives. More often than not the AG office comes across a situation where a judge is critical of the government's functioning. Replies are often filed late; court orders are not comprehended and if understood, not implemented. As a result, the law officers too are reprimanded and government officials are summoned to court. Instead of streamlining the processes an attempt is possibly made to escape or dilute the consequences of functions asking the relatives of some judge to appear in the case. In Haryana alone, 10 Additional Advocate General (AAG) are related to sitting and retired judges of Punjab and Haryana High Court and other courts are not the exception. The Law Ministry's move to take an undertaking from judges at the time of their elevation that they will not function in courts where their relatives are practicing has proved to be a lost cause.⁸ If it is the position of temples of justice, then how the other organs of government and layman of the land can be expected to be fair and upright in their functioning.

The Supreme Court while disposing of PILs filed by Lilly Thomas and Lok Prahari an NGO, struck down the sub-section (of section-8) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 that protected the sitting law makers against immediate disqualification upon conviction. The provision is ultra vires the constitution as article 101(3)(a) and 190(3)(a) of the constitution expressly prohibits Parliament to defer the date from which the disqualification will come into effect in case of sitting members. MPs, MLAs and MLCs will now automatically lose their membership if sentenced to jail for not less than 2 years by the trial court. The verdict will however not effect

convicted legislators who have already filed appeals against their conviction according to a survey, as many as 162 sitting MPs and 1460 MLAs are facing criminal charges.⁹ However, all the political parties got united on this issue to nullify the impact of this decision by constitutional amendment and the UPA government recommended a Draft to the President to promulgate ordinance promptly without caring for the public opinion, though it aborted prematurely under the pressure of civil society, BJP the main opposition party and media. However, Rahul Gandhi, the Vice President of Congress Party appeared before the media in a dramatic manner and called the decision of its own party cabinet as a nuisance regarding recommendation for ordinance. The Congress also made a big claim to give its credit to Rahul efforts. The voters cannot escape from their responsibility to elect such tainted representatives owing to some vested petty interests.

Additional District and Session Judge, Ropar sentenced Ravi Sidhu, former chairman of PPSC for 6 years jail with a fine of Rs. 1.50 lakh on 16-07-2013 for accepting illegal gratification of Rs. 5 lakh from an Assistant Excise Inspector as part of a Rs. 35 lakh deal to select him as a PCS officer in March, 2002. He was also awarded 4 years imprisonment along with a fine of Rs.50,000 in the same case under Section 7 of Anti-Corruption Act. Both the sentences will run concurrently. How the bureaucrats and politicians in nexus with mafia are grabbing public resources can be appraised from this single instance of Paramdip Singh Gill, former DGP, Punjab who grabbed 1200 Kanals of Shamlati land in Kharar tehsil in vicinity of Chandigarh by illegal and erroneous ways. The same has also been endorsed by Justice Kuldeep Singh panel probing into allegations of land grab by VIPs and others on the periphery of Chandigarh. The report embarrassed the SAD as Gill was not only picked by the government for the DGPs post but he had also unsuccessfully contested the Assembly Elections from the Moga constituency on the party ticket. The panel also prima facie found a deliberate attempt to create forged document in case of land given on 33 years lease to JTL Education Foundation, allegedly run by relatives of Pawan Kumar Bansal, former Railway Minister who had to quit when serious charges of corruption against his nephews surfaced in 2013. This report was submitted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.¹⁰ Though courts are trying to curb this menace of corruption but their attempts are too little to the gravity of the problem.

The financial institutions like Banks and insurance companies are not fair and just in their working. The RBI imposed penalty of Rs. 50 lakh to 3 crore on 22 prominent banks in the country on lapses of rules Know Your Customers (KYC). The matter was exposed by Web Portal Cobrapost, a private bank in a sting operation two months ago (August, 2013). Similarly, the decline of ethics in our representatives can be assessed from this sole fact narrated by the Parliamentary Committee on Conduct headed by Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav while taking a suo motto notice of grafting of public funds by MPs and keeping their relatives as PAs from this fund. It is noteworthy that MPs are paid @ Rs. 30,000 per month as honorarium for office expenditure for keeping personal assistant/s (PA). As per media reports, 146 MPs kept their family members or relatives as their PAs to engulf the above public funds. The committee stressed on the need of taking appropriate steps to maintain and retain the integrity and dignity of Parliament as well as public life. After China War (1962), Indian Air Force purchased about 900 MIG-21 planes of which about 50% crashed due to one reason or the other. Even in some cases the pilots have to lose their life.¹¹ It indicates the poor maintainability and callous attitude towards vital public resources and lack of ethics is largely responsible for it.

The public appointments in most of the states are made purely on extraneous considerations rather merit. That's why these appointments do not sustain before the court when challenged. We have a number of instances regarding quashing of public appointments made by the states like Punjab, Haryana and Bihar. The persons at the helm of affairs are taking all odd benefits and do not hesitate even to twist the rules and established procedures to extend patronage to their near and dears or partisans. The Punjab and Haryana High Court questioned the rationale of Teachers Recruitment Board constituted by Haryana government to recruit more than 15000

teachers particularly at the moment when the Constitutional body, the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC) meant for the purpose is lying defunct. Only two members are there whereas the sanctioned strength of the Commission at present is 8 including the Chairman. The court directed the Haryana Government to submit a detailed affidavit on this issue within 7 days and even remarked why not the case be admitted with stay on declaration of results.¹² Accordingly, the government appointed 5 new members in the HPSC in September, 2013 of which 3 are the district office bearers of the Congress Party, 1 wife of former Principal Secretary to CM and 1 brother of Union Minister of the Congress and defeated MLA of the Party. It is the climax of decline of ethics from public life and none of the member was selected on merit. From this existing Commission how it can be expected that it will make public appointments on merit or without being prejudice. It indicates the politico-administrative culture prevailing in the country.

The appointments made by Haryana Government are challenged and quashed by the courts repeatedly varying from guest teacher, PTI and lectures to Haryana Teacher Selection Board, Patwari and Railway Police recruitment. Recently the selection of 110 drivers recruited in Haryana Roadways is under the lens of High Court alleging serious charges of corrupt practices and irregularities¹³. It reflects that the government is not serious to ascertain transparent, free and fair recruitment based on merit rather interested in appointing their partisans. It also give a poor reflection of government functioning and its credit outside. Similarly a scam of forgery in allotment of HUDA plots reserved for military persons, Ex-servicemen, widows and families of martyr by submitting forged affidavit by some well connected people in connivance with HUDA officials has exposed (2013). Taking advantage of the mess prevailing, some persons became owner of ten plots each. As this scam exposed widely in media, therefore, the HUDA has cancelled the allotment of all 375 plots grabbed by forgery and initiated criminal cases against the offenders. It is noteworthy that the premium on HUDA or Housing Board plots are very high in main cities. It has been generally observed that during the draw of plots or shops of above agencies, the number of property dealers remains even more than the number of applicants on the spot. The exchange, sale and purchase of plots start instantly on the spot after the declaration of draw results and the authorities present thereby could not do anything against them.¹⁴

Conclusion and Suggestions: Lack of ethics in governance is greatly responsible for corruption and it is a serious problem today but not impossible. As the problem is multipronged, hence its solution can be sorted out from various angles. If it is ascertained, then it will prove vital in eradicating corruption from the polity. Ethics in governance will enhance efficiency, efficacy, economy, equity and egalitarianism in governance. It is worth mentioning that in any organization men is the only live component having wide potentiality to use and abuse the money and materials. That's why the quality of men or public functionaries becomes paramount and ethics plays a vital role in getting this desired brand who have the potentiality to attain the desired goals effectively and efficiently. If each and every individual perform ones duty honestly and sincerely, then things will change overnights in a positive direction. MCI has got a bad name when its Chairman was caught red handed with huge cash and kind in 2009. This premier regulatory body became the den of corruption. Taking action on the constant complaints of fraud and playing with future of students, the MCI headed by Prof K K Talwar recommended the Union Health Ministry to shutdown 6 Medical colleges including 5 from Uttar Pradesh and 1 from Haryana. These colleges were issued show-cause notices first of all in 12.10.2011 after receiving complaints of fraud and other irregularities there-in.¹⁵ Such steps need to be followed by other regulatory bodies like the UGC, NCTE, AICTE and BCI against the erring institutions only then, the quality of education can be ascertained in the country. The people can be instrumental in this regard by avoiding admission in such low profile institutions or co-operating the regulating bodies in exposing and curbing their excesses.

Former Air Marshal of IAF, S.P.Tayagi allegedly involved in VVIP helicopter purchase scam has to resign from the 'think tank' of Defence Ministry as member of executive council of Institute of Defence & Strategic Affairs in June, 2013 after booking by the CBI in this case. Thus, the integrity of persons occupying the constitutional and strategically important positions should be above board. The EPFO worked on a plan to rapidly dispose of the applications of pensions and other shares of about 5 crore contributors within 3 days. It includes account transfer and cash withdrawal like schemes. About 1.2 crore such claims are likely to be received in fiscal 2013 and total 5.39 lakh such claims are lying with the organization as on 11.06.2013 whereas 1.08 crore claims were settled in 2012-13.¹⁶ The government has to enhance and make more transparent its service delivery mechanism in all the sectors and e-governance and ethics in governance will be instrumental in this regard. No doubt, we have good number of plans, policies and programmes, what we need is to implement these in true spirit and ethics motivates us for this.

Constitutional and statutory provisions like RTI Act, Citizen Charter, amendment in People Representation Act, Lokayukta Act etc. have played crucial role in ascertaining ethics in public life. What is required?, is to clean the August for which recruiting agencies like Railway Recruitment Boards, State Public Service Commissions and Subordinate Boards should be toned up or these agencies should not only be fair and free in their functioning but the same should reflect in public. The incumbents of such prestigious posts as well as persons at the helm of affairs should be men of high dignity and integrity.

The Supreme Court has played a vital role in curbing corruption by monitoring various scams like 2 G Spectrum, Coal, Fodder, JBT Recruitment etc and upholding the ethics in public life and putting offenders behind the bars through its decisions. In Narendra Champaklal Trivedi vs. State of Gujarat (Criminal Appeal No. 97/2012).with Harjibhai Devji Bhai Chauhan vs. State of Gujarat (Cr. Appeal No. 98/2012) decided by the Apex Court on 29-05-2012 while interpreting Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 section, 7 and 13 (2) held that minimum sentence prescribed under statute and awarded by courts below can not be reduced irrespective of this fact that the amount of gratification being paltry (Rs. 50/-), convicted has lost his job and long lapse of time (18 years). The court ruled that no sympathy is warranted against such offenders of public trust and breach of faith.¹⁷ In another judgement delivered by the Apex Court on 31-10-2013 on a PIL filed by 83 retired bureaucrats including former Cabinet Secretary, former Chief Election Commissioners and Ambassador, held that Political Executive should refrain from giving verbal orders to the civil servants and they should be provided a minimum fix tenure of service at every place of their posting. The Bench observed that there must be some record of every direction received from the political bosses. It is a big move by the court to save the bureaucrats against the whims and fancies of ruling party and to improve governance. The Court also directed the Union and the State governments to set up within 3 months Civil Service Boards (CSBs) to provide guidance on the postings, transfers and disciplinary action against the civil servants. As the role of civil servants has become very complex and onerous in present political scenario, that's why all this is required to ascertain good governance.¹⁸ These are historic decisions towards accountability, purity and ethics in public life.

G.E.Vahanvati, Attorney General, GOI advised the Government to declare vacate the seats of Lalu Yadav, RJD supremo and Jagdish Sharma, JDU both MPs from Lok Sabha instantly, otherwise it will amount contempt of Supreme Court. It is noteworthy that both have been convicted in fodder scam by the CBI court in September, 2013. Similarly, the process to declare the seat of Rashid Masood, MP of Congress (Rajya Sabha) convicted in medical scam and sentenced for 5 years imprisonment, has been initiated by the Secretariate of Rajya Sabha. The AG clarified that the notification regarding forfeiting of membership of convicted representatives declaring one ineligible will be issued by the concerned House without any delay. He further stated that the

MP/MLA concerned becomes ineligible to hold the office on the very day, punished or convicted by the court.¹⁹ This move will prove vital for eliminating corruption from public life and ascertaining ethics therein. India needs to shed the notion of 'Soft State' as earmarked by Gunnar Myrdal in his work 'Asian Drama'.

The Speaker, Ms Meera Kumar, returned the report of Public Account Committee, headed by Dr M M Joshi of BJP on 2-G Spectrum. The rejection of this report by the Speaker is indeed a serious matter which reflected her partisan behaviour and degraded the sanctity of such a prime and constitutional body (PAC) to regulate and control public expenditure.²⁰ Therefore, the persons holding constitutional posts should be man of integrity and perform their duties with utmost sincerity without any fear and favour. To maintain and uphold the sanctity of the constitution, should be their sole goal as a strong and developed democracy is one in which institutions are sound, not the individual. The attempt by Mrs Partibha Patil, former President of India, to declare her property is an appreciable step which other functionaries need to follow to ascertain transparency and openness in Indian Polity.²¹

The intelligentsia can play an important role in inculcating values and ethics in public life. Indian history comprises of adequate instances when the individuals like Vishnu Gupta, Akabar and Mahatma Gandhi have turned its course. What required is to take the step instantly and at one's own level, not to hope that the others will come and settle the all wrongs. Persons at the helm of affairs should perform their duties with honesty, dedication and sincerity. If it will be adhered, then the rest of things will settle accordingly and positively. Existing education system needs overhauling to meet out the challenges. Plato, the Great Greek Philosopher has aptly stated. 'The State should concern for education and it will take care of the rest of things'. If I rectify myself and try to improve the others then the individual steps will become a collective step to rule out the oddities of corruption and to ascertain ethics in public life.

References :

1. *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 20.10.2013, pp.1-2.
 2. Rajbir Singh, 'Corruption in Indian Politics', *Punjab Journal of Politics*, Vol. XXVII, No 2, 2003, p.70.
 3. *The Sunday Tribune*, Chandigarh, 06.10.2013, p.11.
 4. *Dainik Jagaran*, Hisar, 24.06.2013, p.09.
 5. *Dainik Jagaran*, Hisar, 16.10.2013, p.13.
 6. *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 04.06.2013, p.18.
 7. *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 10.10.2013, p.1.
 8. *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 11.07.2013, p.5.
 9. *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 11.07.2013, p.1.
 10. *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 16.07.2013, p.1.
 11. *Dainik Jagaran*, Hisar, 16-07-2013, pp.1 & 10.
 12. Ibid, p.3
 13. *Dainik Jagaran*, Hisar, 15.10.2013, p.6.
 14. *Dainik Jagaran*, Hisar, 12.10.2013, p.6.
 15. *Dainik Jagaran*, Hisar, 06.06.2013, p.6.
 16. *Dainik Jagaran*, Hisar, 20.06.2013, p.11.
 17. (2012) 7 SCC 80.
 18. *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 01.11.2013, p.1.
 19. *Dainik Jagaran*, Hisar, 20.10.2013, p.15.
 20. *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 05.06.2013, p.2.
 21. *The Tribune*, Chandigarh, 11.07.2013, p.1.
-