

## **What the IT raids and CBI arrests do not reveal!**

A few days ago, Chairman of Medical Council of India (MCI) was arrested by CBI on charges of corruption and having assets disproportionate to known sources of income. Medical Council of India is charged with ensuring quality of medical education in the country and offering recognition to various medical courses in different Medical Colleges in India. A few months back, Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education was also in the dock. But now no one knows what has happened in his case or what steps have been taken by Government to prevent repeat of such actions! A couple of months back, Income Tax raids on certain IAS officers of Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh cadre had led to seizure of crores of rupees in cash and unaccounted money. Now IPL scam gate is being played out in the media and the public is lapping up the 'juicy' stories that are surfacing. A few days later everyone would move on to the next story.

All these cases point to the widespread malaise of 'corruption at the top'. However, as has been the trend so far, soon these raids will fade from public memory and maybe the cases will also get a quiet burial with some 'petty penalty' levied on the errant officers and the 'suspension' quietly withdrawn by the State Government.

If people strain their memory even a little bit, they will remember that cash being found in gunny bags, beneath the beds, being thrown out of houses when raids are conducted are neither extra-ordinary nor rare. A brief review of Press reports of even the last couple of years will reveal several such incidents. It seems that we have totally forgotten the case of a senior Collector of Customs Department, whose house was raided by CBI few years back leading to recovery of nearly ten crores of rupees in cash.

What is truly 'extra-ordinary' is 'our' 'tolerance' to corruption. There are instances galore where these 'ladies and gentlemen' belonging to different elite All India Services have not only 'survived' but have, on the contrary, 'flourished' with the support of the 'system' and have risen to occupy top-most slots in Government, whether at the Centre or in the States! It's clear why most of them tolerate it because they are with it.

The so called 'aam aadmi' or common man may rightly ask as to what were all the 'anti-corruption machinery and agencies' like the CBI, Central Vigilance Commission, State Vigilance Departments, Lokayuktas and, above all, the 'supervisory' officers doing who were regularly certifying the integrity of the officers in question! One needs to ask a question as to how come all the loot by these officers could never be noticed by any of our probe agencies and why and how did all the supervisory officers failed to notice their corrupt ways for so many years that allowed these greedy officers to amass wealth in tons.

Further, it is said, and rightly so, that reputation of a man travels faster than light! How come all the anti-corruption bodies and agencies remain oblivious of the reputation of these officers and those of their ilk! We know that none will come forward to answer any of these questions because the system per se has lost the will to counter this malaise and is in no position to do any thing about it.

The sad truth is that 'zero tolerance' of corruption in this country is a myth. It is the stated policy of all Governments but it is only for paying lip service! It is not matched by action. Experience suggests that Governments will not act till they are forced to act under public pressure. It is time all citizens mounted pressure on Government to weed out the corrupt who are looting public money, no matter what position they hold, which service or caste they belong to!