



D.O. No. : DPE Secy/3963 /2006

DATED : 14.8.2006

Dear Sir,

- Reference: 1) DPE JS 2679/2006
2) DPE/16 MMIR 2006
3) DPE/99/SPU/2005

I am reproducing below some extracts from my D.O.letter No.EN/SS/PR/PS/OJ/319 dated 4/7/05 addressed to Sri K.K.Misra, your predecessor:

...Bureaucratic environment could be changed so that corrupt practices among top bureaucrats are discussed very frequently and freely. This will go a long way in addressing issues like Transparency International branding Karnataka as 4th most corrupt State in the country and World Bank reporting it as the most risky and low performing State in the country. It may be noted that corruption at filed level cannot exist unless seeds of corruption are sown at the top level. India itself is branded as one of the most corrupt countries in the World, and Karnataka as one of the most corrupt State in the Country, implies that Karnataka is one of the most corrupt places on earth...The Chief Secretary would be doing a good service before laying down the Office, if he comes out with the problems that he faced in fighting corruption while discharging duties as Chief Secretary...As head of the bureaucracy the Chief Secretary has the responsibility to own the results, as finally he is the authority to accept the Confidential Reports of all Senior Officers.

I am also reproducing below an extract from the suggestions I had given as Secretary in charge of Bangalore District in my letter dated 6.5.2006 reference DPE/Secy/3431/2005-06 addressed to the Chief Secretary.

In all the major issues listed above, the root cause can be traced to corrupt practices. Therefore corruption should be first recognized as the major issue and should be explicitly addressed while issuing administrative sanctions, government orders, prescribing formats etc. Suggestions given under item 2 could be easily modified and extended to other areas like health, education and other welfare activities also. Involving citizens by voluntarily providing information in such a format as to curb corruption is also envisaged in the Right to Information Act and to make it more effective Government should supplement this by an incentive scheme to reward citizens and government servants who help to fight corrupt practices

In the files under reference to this letter I have given the grave situation of the present office in which I am working. As can be seen there is violation of almost every thing in the Department of Public Enterprises. It is very sad to note that as the Public Information Officer (PIO) and Secretary of the Department I do not have access to information in my own office. In fact I had to resort to the Right to Information Act to get information about PSUs from my own office. To end the farce I have sent a note to the Principal Secretary (DPE) to make some other official as the PIO (Annexure-II). The blatant irregularities done by the Principal Secretary for other than public interest have been highlighted in the files under reference already brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary and was earlier brought out clearly in my letter to the Chief Secretary DO No. DPE/Secy/3641/2006 dated 7/6/06 even before the DPAR issued the Order dated 27/6/06 (which I have stressed in the files sent to the Chief Secretary not being as per the Government Policy). The Principal Secretary's dependence on a Section Officer officiating as Under Secretary excluding all other Senior Officers in the Department further confirms his intentions and the quality of their joint decision is highlighted in the letter issued to a PSU (Annexure III) in which "Dividend to officials" is indicated (even though no employee in the PSU holds any share!) See also Annexure-IV regarding the extent to which the Principal Secretary goes to do what he wants to do. I am also aware of the fact that he will go to any extent against me to escape from being acted upon on my report. He had already threatened some junior officers with immediate transfer if they were to speak to me (See Annexure V) and through them had hinted at using physical force, lodging false complaints etc.

The DPAR has communicated a questionnaire regarding D.O letter No.3 (9)ARC/05, dated: 22.6.2006 issued by the Administrative Reforms Commission and what is interesting is the very first question raised by the Commission, which is reproduced below:

What mechanism is required to ensure that the most suitable persons are appointed to key public officers in government?

I feel the information given above clearly tells who should not be given.

The effect of corruption can be better understood by noting that Denmark, which has less than one-tenth geographical area and population compared to Karnataka gives financial aid to many countries in the world including India! What is important to note is the fact that Denmark is the least corrupt country in the world. Karnataka with 10 time's geographical area than Denmark and having better natural resources should not be struggling to show more and more people below the poverty line. Unfortunately because of corruption in the state, the true potential of the state is never emphasized. This not only makes me to lose heart and feel sad but also almost makes me angry at the continued efforts of some of the bureaucrats to keep it like this. Just being honest and sincere under the present circumstances is not enough. In fact on a similar occasion this is what the previous Chief Secretary had recorded on 21/7/05 on a note sent to me asking me to discuss the issue further

... both Principal Secretary to Chief Minister and I are aware of your sincerity and honesty and would not like you to feel bad or lose heart

How this has been put to put to practice is given in the annexure-I to my letter dated 6 5 06(also website <http://202.138.101.166/bangaloreurban>) and can be also seen in the formats designed by me and put to in use in Bangalore Urban District in handling Public Grievances (Annexure I).

Further Sri K.K.Misra had spoken to me twice on his own in the month of August 2005. During the first meeting, he asked me whether I was not afraid of the officers against whom I had leveled charges of encouraging corrupt practices. I had earlier sent a detailed report giving supporting documents giving in detail various omissions and commissions that had happened many times in the past and the details of persons who were responsible. Sri Misra made amply clear that he was afraid of these officers, as they would go to any extent to harm me and asked me to be cautious with these officers. *However I don't know the fate of the report I had given.* I also made it clear that I would be continuing to expose such corrupt practices. Sri K.K.Misra also informed me that he had discussed with the Principal Secretary to the Chief minister regarding posting me to a place where I will have more potential to curb corrupt practices or to utilize my expertise in computers. Later on, on another occasion he suggested that I could join the Hon'ble Lokayukta office as Registrar and he also told me that he had spoken to Hon'ble Lokayukta about me and that I should meet him. As per his advice I met the Hon'ble Lokayukta and he spoke to me on some serious issues and alternative methods he is thinking about to address these issues. I happily agreed to work under him and informed the Government in writing about my willingness to work as Registrar in the Lokayukta Office By this time, Sir, You had become the Chief Secretary. However I did not again here anything from the Government. Later, when I spoke to Sri K.K. Misra, who by this time had become the Chief Information Commissioner, he informed me about certain developments and I was not surprised.

Earlier also, in 2004, a similar thing had happened: A Chairman of a statutory Commission asked me to join the Commission as there were many big scandals in some of the organizations it was overseeing. I gave my willingness orally. The Chairman in turn spoke to the Chief Secretary. The Chief Secretary informed the Chairman that my posting order would be issued on the same afternoon. In turn the Chairman asked me to report for duty the next morning. However the order was never issued. On the other hand, the Government after many days posted some other Officer. The chairman refused to allow the person to join his office and insisted that I should be posted. However in the end Government issued a statutory directive to the Authority to take on duty the officer posted by it.

I would like to highlight the following, which have been recorded by me in my own Annual Confidential Reports. In the ACR for 2004-05 I have shown under achievements savings to the Government and the Public to the tune of about Rs 350 Crores. In the ACR for 2005-06 I have shown my primary function as introducing systems to fight corrupt practices. In the ACR of 2006-07, I will be most probably reporting recurring savings to the Government and the Public to the tune of Rs 500 to 700 Crores. I am already half way through in achieving this.

Because majority of the bureaucracy is well organized and coordinated with almost an assurance that nothing will happen to them even if a person like me reports to the Chief Secretary. I am going on record with my experience so that the right persons in the society can act against such bureaucrats not working in the interest of the society. I may also send copies of this letter to some of the eminent persons in the country. This is also necessary because all my efforts over last 25 years should not go waste if some thing should happen to me (as per the warning given to me by the previous Chief Secretary)

While welcoming the Chief Secretary's letter making it mandatory to attend the Independence Day function and similar such other functions, the Chief Secretary could also have issued a circular regarding implementation of the Right to Information Act. Today, everyone knows that without the right to information there cannot be true democracy and participation in Independence Day will have better meaning if information is not suppressed. It is to be emphasized that the Right to Information Act has been enacted taking into consideration the fact that the Act symbolizes the majority of Bureaucracy's unwillingness to fight corruption. It should not prevent any Chief Secretary from encouraging the handful of officers who are willing to fight corruption within the system. To make things easy for the Chief Secretary I am enclosing a draft Circular at Annexure-VI.

It may be noted that the right to access file notings by the public is the only protection available to honest officers. Depending on whether Government of India amends the provision regarding giving access to file notings or not, I will also decide on whether to continue or leave the service to get actively involved in the fight to curb corrupt practices in the government.

with regards

Yours Sincerely

[Signature]
14/12/06

Sri B.K.Das, IAS
Chief Secretary,
Government of Karnataka
Vidhana Soudha,
Bangalore.



Encl: 6 Annexures.