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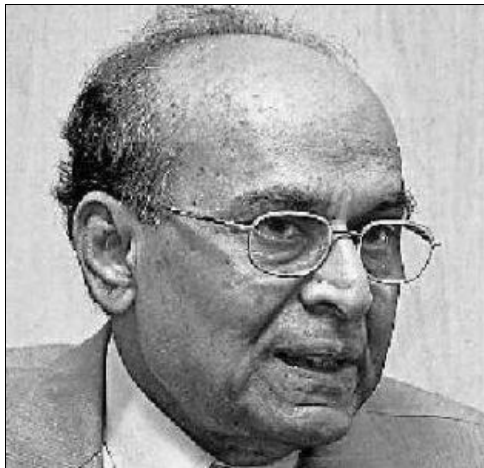
Karnataka - [Hassan](#)



Bureaucrats blamed for increase in corruption

Staff Correspondent

Lokayukta N. Venkatachala criticises Chief Secretary B.K. Das for 'shielding corrupt officials'



HASSAN: Taking exception to the stand taken by Chief Secretary B.K. Das with regard to granting of sanction for prosecuting three senior officials, Lokayukta N. Venkatachala said the Government's silence in the matter shows that it concurs the "position" taken by the Chief Secretary.

Speaking to presspersons here on Tuesday on his way to Srikrishetra Dharmasthala to participate in "Sarvadharm Sammelana", Mr. Venkatachala regretted the Government's response to his request regarding granting sanction to prosecute P.B. Ramamurthy, an IAS officer and former Director of Horticulture, Bangalore; C. Somashekar, a KAS officer and former Managing Director of Devaraj Urs Truck Terminus, Bangalore; and Kempaiah, Inspector-General of Police who was the Deputy Commissioner of Police (West), Bangalore. The Government, while rejecting the permission for prosecuting the three officials, pointed out that, the investigation officers had not considered several factors before booking cases against the officials.

Terming Mr. Das's stand as "impudent", the Lokayukta said the statement made by former clearly shows that it is bureaucrats who are running the Government, not the elected representatives. "It is unfortunate that a senior official such as Mr. Das is taking such decisions. By doing so, he is doing injustice to democratic principles," he said.

He said the Government's silence over the issue only forces people to conclude that there is an unholy nexus between bureaucrats and elected representatives.

The situation has reached a stage where Ministers and elected representatives cannot function independently.

Government's weakness misused

Not hesitating to criticise the coalition Government, Mr. Venkatachala said there are inherent contradictions in the Government and Chief Minister N. Dharam Singh is admitting the

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limitations of the coalition experiment in public. On every occasion, Mr. Dharam Singh notes that it has become inevitable for him to run the Government "cautiously". Though Working President of Janata Dal (S) H.D. Kumaraswamy said an independent agency should look into the allegations levelled against people in top posts, Mr. Dharam Singh has not taken any action.

Holding the bureaucrats responsible for the problems being faced by the people, he said that despite Lokayukta recommending action against corrupt officials, the bureaucrats are not prepared to initiate action.

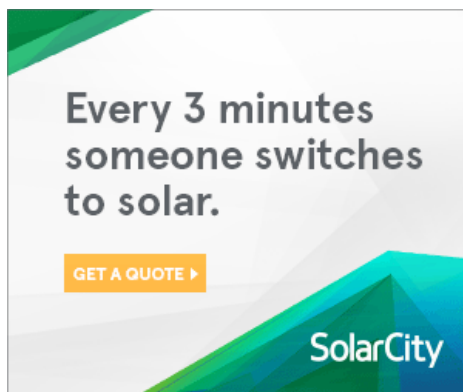
It is therefore necessary for the Government to accord authority to Lokayukta to review the works of bureaucrats on receiving complaints and act on the findings by initiating disciplinary action.

Disciplinary cases should be handed over to district judges, he said.

Hoping that introduction of Lokpal Bill will help contain corruption, Mr. Venkatachala said the authority to prosecute corrupt officials and elected representatives should be given to an independent agency.

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