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/CONFIDENTIAL/

M.N. VIJAYAKUMAR, IAS
Secretary

Hyderabad Karnataka Area
Development Board,
Mini Vidhana Soudha Complex,
Gulbarga 585 102.

DO No.HKDB/SECY/INS/1/97-98
Dt:19.11.1997

Dear

I would like to bring to your notice certain news items and articles which have appeared in THE HINDU about the state of affairs in the State. Certain passages in the articles have been highlighted.

The highlighted portion in news item at Annexure-I is reproduced below:

"The Chief Minister said corruption was rampant and only 30 percent of the funds provided for development reached the targets. The rest was siphoned off by corrupt officials with the connivance of the contractors, he added." (page 4)

The seriousness of the statement need not be stressed and also requires an explanation from the head of the bureaucracy. I also would like to draw attention to the highlighted portion in Annexure-II which is reproduced below:

"Mr.Siddaramaiah said there was need for an assessment of where the country's planners had failed in their objective to attain economic self-sufficiency and contain the unemployment." (page 5)

I personally feel reply to the observation made by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister is contained in the observation made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

I am also enclosing herewith certain observations made by me after inspecting 50 works financed by HKADB (Annexure-V). These inspections have been done during the last 2 months period by me. From the observations made by me it may be seen that there is a major failure of technical supervision. (page 8-15)

If the fact that almost no fresh quarries have been notified by the PWD in the last 30 years is taken into account we can see the major loophole present and exploited to the detriment of society. The general observations made in the beginning of my inspection notes (like showing wrongly that materials have been brought from the quarry when in fact materials were procured from a nearby place, using less than 50% of the materials like asphalt, cement and other things mentioned in the notes) also require critical action by the Government. As monitoring and supervision of works by

technical officers at the site has not given the desired result, use of technology to do some of the critical supervision has now become a necessity. Another well known "secret" is the quantity of cement used to obtain a specific strength has remained same inspite of improvement in the quality of cement available. It appears that "the thumb rule presently used" is to use 50 to 25% less cement than what is indicated in the SR. Infact when tests are conducted, only strength of the product is determined and not the quantity of cement used that too in works costing more than Rs. 50 lakhs. Regarding notifying new quarries, I have asked Deputy Commissioners to send proposals. For some other measures I am placing certain issues before the Implementation Committee (Please see Annexure-VI).

(Page 20-32)

Today we as a general customer insist on quality product when the cost of the product is not even worth Rs.100/-. But unfortunately, when it comes to assets created by government which cost lakhs of rupees, today we don't have a quality control unit except for those assets which cost more than Rs.50.00 lakhs. It is hightime that quality consciousness is introduced and relevant amendments are made to the PWD and other Codes irrespective of the cost of the work as quality checking measures like taking photographs, videographs and non-destructive testing have become very cheap.

Even the nearly more than 150 year old technique of photography is not used either for monitoring or quality control. When I was the Director (ADP) I had insisted on taking photographs which however appears to have been discontinued after I left. When such is the case, use of Video camera, non-destructive testing equipments and computers by the Engineering Department may be asking for too much. Same thing applies to use of non-destructive quality and quantity checking equipments. Fortunate thing is that all these things are possible and the unfortunate thing is that none of them are used. The main reason of not using such methods seems to be the delay going to be caused in the execution of works. But considering the fact that a work which should last for 6 years shows signs of major deterioration in the very first year, the reason given cannot be accepted. It is hightime that PWD Code and the tender agreements are suitably amended at the earliest as we have come to a stage where human supervision is not giving the desired results as is evident from the statements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

With the recent developments in Science & Technology, certain things which were unthinkable just a few years back have now become possible. The use of non-human monitoring methods is one such example. To be more precise using the GPS and Remote Sensing Technology it is today possible to monitor the activities in all the quarries (stone and murrum) and also to check the physical stock of asphalt stored by the engineering department at various places in the State without any person visiting the site. Further we can have a multipurpose mobile VSAT in each district and a stationery VSAT at Divisional head quarters. With this it should be not only be possible to see the work as it is getting executed but also get the advise of experts who are available in large numbers at Divisional head quarters.

I am also enclosing herewith articles on corruption at Annexure-III and IV which give some practical methods for handling certain things. Most of the suggestions including those given by me above can be introduced even without requiring amendments to Acts.

(Page 6-7)

I also feel that as Head of the Bureaucracy the Chief Secretary should also issue proper clarification to the general public. In a situation like this just planning will not solve the problems. I may not be exaggerating if I say today we are planning more for spread of corruption, and if a plan holiday for expenditure is declared and in that year if the entire machinery works for planning to fight corruption we would be accelerating the development process(I am fully aware of the fact that suggestions such as these are unacceptable to most of the people). A workshop may be arranged involving scientists,tecnologists and administrators to find methods to fight corruption using the latest scientific techniques available,to start with within the existing Codes.

I also would like to write to THE HINDU (as a letter to the editor) the following,

"Bureaucracy is being blamed for the present ills by people belonging to various walks of the society. Suggestions are also being given as to how Bureaucracy should be made more responsive and accountable to the public. In this connection, articles of Shri K.N.Raj (11.11.97 and 12.11.97) and Shri K.A.Chandrasekaran (11.11.97), are very important. I am personally of the view that with the expertise available with the Bureaucracy and Scientists and Technologists finding ways of implementing most of thesolutions suggested are possible without amending any Act or Rule."

I request Government to permit me to write the above.

I am also sending a copy of this letter along with the enclosures to the Secretary, Planning Department.

Yours

To

U24/10/95

Shri B.K. Bhattacharya, IAS
 Chief Secretary to Government,
 Government of Karnataka,
 Vidhana Soudha,
 BANGALORE 560 001

Dv

Copy with enclosures to Mrs.Renuka Viswanathan, IAS, Secretary Planning Department, MS Building, Bangalore

U24/10/95

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