

Retd IAS official bats for Whistleblower's Protection Act

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Former Home Secretary, Mr GK Pillai's revelations in connection with the controversial Ishrat Jahan case, have brought into focus the repeated demands for making it mandatory for senior officers to blow the whistle.

Infact, in this connection retired Karnataka bureaucrat, Mr Vijaykumar, had even written to Rajya Sabha MPs on 8 December requesting them to ensure that the Whistleblowers Protection Act, as proposed by the department of Personnel and Training, was not weakened.

The Upper House was set to discuss the bill before a series of disruptions stalled the move. Mr Vijaykumar said that if whistle blowing had been made mandatory, as was suggested to differ-

ent government departments earlier, it would not have been possible for senior officials to force their juniors to file false affidavits before the courts.

He told *The Statesman* here that recent media reports about Mr Pillai's revelations after six years that false affidavits were filed under political pressure by junior officers in the Ishrat Jahan's case, had only endorsed the repeated plea for making whistleblowing by senior officers mandatory.



The DOPT had been ignoring this.

He quoted from a letter which the ministry of law had written to the department of Personnel and Training on 19 December 2014 to initiate suitable steps to prevent conscious contemptuous actions by senior officers who abused their position for personal gains; even forcing the juniors to file false affidavits.

