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ANTI-CORRUPTION FRAMEWORK IN INDIA – BALANCING ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

N Hari Sanjana

Abstract

Imagine a public officer or a Politician asking you for money, which is actually their duty to perform, sounds odd, right? That's a bribe. When in a democratic country everyone is equally accountable, and only a democratically elected leader has power, what if the same leader is part of corruption? Then comes the legal framework into the box. This problem of corruption has existed since independence. The first official framework for corruption is the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947, which dealt with bribe gifts in the name of service, which created accountability on the side of public officers. In this blog, one can understand the framework of corruption laws in India, with real-life examples like the Anna Hazare movement, which created administrative efficiency.

Back ground

I would like to address the popular Anna Hazare movement, which shook the nation due to corruption led by Anna Hazare which also gave foundation to the Aam Aadmi Party. This protest, led by Anna Hazare, started as Anna Hazare was a hunger strike and also included Aravind Kejriwal and the first woman IPS officer, Kiren Bedi, which happened at the capital, Delhi, Jantar Mantar. This happened after exposing the scams like common wealth scam and 2G spectrum scam. According to NDTV, 2011 reports alleged more than 1.76 lakh crores was misused in the 2G spectrum scam and also many officials from government, parties were involved which created a tension in national level, in the year 2010 India hosted common wealth games for the first time, mismanagement, irregularities and contracts were given to closed connections, CAG estimated in coal allocation loss of 1.86 lakh crore of Indian rupees then came this movement questioning accountability by officers, to answer the public outrage and this created trust among the people then came Lokpal and Lokpukthi Act, 2013 which enquires corruption among alleged public officers.

Legal framework

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 was the first framework against corruption, later the framework against corruption was strengthened after the Santhanam commission, later in the year 1988 prevention of corruption act was introduced later it was amended and prevention of corruption act, 2018 was introduced, later government understood the need for protection of

people who exposes the scam then came whistle blowers [protection act, 2014 which protected people who exposes the scam and corruption, among this framework the strongest and most successful is right to information act, 2005 which access to the people into public records and accounts, fund allocation etc, so this created transparency to people, transparency reduce opportunity to any scam and corruption. In the evolution of the framework against corruption, these are the acts.

People's movement against corruption

Jp movement

One of the earliest movement, which happened in the year 1974, was against corruption, inflation of ongoing prices and governance issues, and this led to political accountability and better administration. This movement was started by Jayaprakash Narayan

Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) movement

This was before the RT Act commencement, which happened in the 1990s, led by Aruna Roy in the state of Rajasthan. The main demand was transparency; people's access to public records was demanded in the movement, which laid a strong foundation for the Right to Information Act

Right to information act RTI movement

The main demand was access to government documents, records and accounts of funds allocation and how they were spent, which created transparency to the public and less scope for corruption.

Critical analysis

In my view, all public officials, politicians, and bureaucrats must maintain an account, updating all their day to day account same way we use Snapchat to maintain our streaks, because that creates evidence of their work and accountability. All the people who are in service to the people must have both integrity and accountability. In the popular 2 G spectrum scam, the trial court acquitted all the accused due to insufficient evidence. Evidence and later punishment play a very key role in proving trust among the public, when the government has access to most of our personal details, so should we have the same in return, at least to some of their official information and their conduct.

Conclusion

To conclude anti corruption framework help us to avoid scam and also create accountability against corruption, but questioning ourselves whether we report to official when we witnessed any scam is also important, mere silence also becomes part of it, so questioning and demanding answers to your questions create a constant fear among the officials side which bring accountability in their working hours, imagine if we can manage this, the most populated country becomes no corruption country, it brings wonders in our daily life, next time we can witness that zero corruption in international media not in any political manifesto.

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