

No.006/PRC/1  
Government of India  
Central Vigilance Commission  
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Satarkta Bhawan, Block 'A',  
GPO Complex, INA,  
New Delhi- 110 023  
Dated the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

Circular No.21/8/09

**Subject:** References to the Commission for first stage advice – procedure regarding.

**Reference:** (i) Commission's circular No.NZ/PRC/1 dated 26.2.2004;  
(ii) Commission's circular No.NZ/PRC/1 dated 9.5.2005;  
(iii) Commission's circular No. 006/PRC/1 dated 13.3.2006; and  
(iv) Commission's circular No.006/PRC/1 dated 1.12.2008

The Commission receives preliminary inquiry reports from the Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) of Departments/Organisations, seeking the first stage advice. Reports for similar action also emanate from the CVOs in response to the Commission's directions for investigation issued u/s 8(1)(d) of the CVC Act, 2003. However, these reports are often found lacking in cogent analysis of misconduct or allegations, evidence on record and the recommendation of line of action. The supporting documents catered are also very often disjointed, casually arranged or unduly bulky, making the examination cumbersome and leading to protracted correspondence and delays.

2. With a view to improving the quality and focus of these investigation reports, the Commission has devised a new reporting format. Accordingly, it is directed that henceforth, a vigilance report should broadly conform to the parameters specified in Annexure A. Further, as the Commission lays utmost emphasis on facts, evidence and recommendations made by the CVOs, an investigation report should invariably be accompanied by an Assurance Memorandum (Annexure B) signed by the CVO, taking due responsibility and giving assurance of a comprehensive application of mind while submitting the report.

3. In supercession, therefore, of earlier instructions of the Commission on submission of investigation reports, the following instructions should be followed scrupulously while seeking the first stage advice:

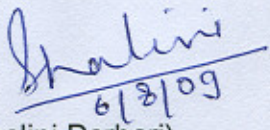
- (i) All vigilance reports of the CVOs should conform to the parameters prescribed in **Annexure-A**.
- (ii) They would be accompanied by an Assurance Memo, in the form of **Annexure-B**.

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- (iii) Bio-data of suspect officials, figuring in the investigation reports, should be enclosed as per the format provided at **Annexure-C**.
- (iv) Tabular statements, as prescribed vide the Commission's circular dated 1.12.2008, shall continue and be kept objective and precise.
- (v) Draft charge-sheets and imputation of charge in respect of suspect officials where disciplinary action, such as major penalty or minor penalty proceedings, is proposed, would accompany the investigation reports.

4. The CVOs would ensure that all documents/exhibits, constituting the basic evidence for the charge, are systematically identified and arranged. Superfluous and voluminous documents, with little or no relevance to the misconduct under examination, should be retained at the CVOs' end. In case any additional material or evidence is required, it can always be recalled by the Commission before an advice is tendered.

5. The aforesaid reporting procedure would become operative with immediate effect.

  
6/8/09  
(Shalini Darbari)  
Director

**All Chief Vigilance Officers**

**Encl: As proposed.**

**Vigilance Report**

**Title of the report**

**1. Source**

- Background of the report – whether based on source information, complaint referred to by the CVC, CTE/CTE type inspection or direct enquiry.

**2. Gist of allegations**

**3. Facts**

- The relevant facts relating to the issue under examination should be presented in chronological or activity-wise sequence.
- Each fact should be supported by documentary evidence (other forms of evidence may also be presented) denoted as E1, E2, and E3 etc. Since the facts occur in chronological order, the evidence E1, E2, E3, etc., should necessarily be arranged under the report in the same order, thus making it easier for reference.
- While annexing the evidence, the relevant portion of the document should be highlighted and annexed. For example, the evidence for educational qualifications for promotion should consist of the Xerox copy of only the clause prescribing the qualifications and not the whole 20 pages of the promotion policy.
- There may be several issues in a report which may be conveniently arranged as different paras viz. 2.1, 2.2 etc.
- All relevant facts needed to support the observations/conclusion should be gathered and presented. Irrelevant facts, bearing no consequence on the issues under inquiry should be avoided.
- Evidence presented should be credible and adequate.

**4. Observations**

- Ordinarily, observations are logical deductions arrived at through a set of facts. They are in the nature of objections or anomalies observed with reference to the gathered facts. There may be several observations arising out of the analysis of facts.

- Observations are also arrived at by evaluating the facts against certain criteria viz. rules, regulations, policies, procedures, norms, good practices or normative principles. Evidence of these criteria (extracts of rules, procedures, etc.) should also be presented as E1, E2, etc.

## **5. Response of the officials concerned**

- It is necessary to elicit the reasons and clarifications of the management or the officers concerned for the anomalies pointed out in the observations. Every deviation from rules or procedure cannot be attributed to a malafide/corrupt intent. There may be situations where it may be difficult to achieve the objectives of a task by strictly abiding by the rules. Rules may be circumvented, while expediting the work or in the larger interest of the work, with good intentions. It is, therefore, essential for Vigilance to distinguish between acts of omission and acts of commission. Therefore, obtaining the response of the officers concerned is essential in order to arrive at an objective conclusion.
- Response of the management is also necessary in order to clarify differences in interpretation or an understanding of the issues between vigilance and the management.

## **6. Counter to the response**

- In order to sustain the observations made by Vigilance, it is necessary to counter the defence given by the management/officers concerned with facts and supporting evidence. It should be clearly and convincingly brought out why the explanation given by the management is not tenable.

## **7. Conclusion**

- Conclusion is the logical summation of the observations. The observations denoting various counts of irregularity, lapses or impropriety should finally lead to a logical conclusion on whether the case involves commission of irregularity/impropriety with the intention of corruption.
- Undue favour given to a party or obtained for self and its adverse impact on the government or the citizens in terms of

additional cost, poor quality or delayed service should be clearly highlighted.

#### **8. Responsibility of officials**

- Having determined the vigilance angle in the case, the next step is to fix the accountability of the individuals involved in the misconduct. Name of officers should be clearly stated in this para.
- The role of each officer should be judged with reference to his prescribed charter of duties. In case the tender committee is responsible for the misconduct then, as far as possible, all members should be equally and collectively held responsible.
- Comments of Disciplinary Authority should invariably be included.

#### **9. Recommendation for action**

- Recommendation for closure of the case in case there is no discernable vigilance angle or criminal misconduct, should be clearly spelt out.
- Bio-data of the officials reported against in the investigation report should be included in the given format.

#### **10. Recommendation for systemic improvement**

- Punitive action on detection of corruption does not by itself lead to a logical conclusion unless it is able to prevent recurrence of the lapse. Any fraud, corruption, irregularity or impropriety indicates a failure of control mechanism or gaps in systems and procedures. Therefore, each case throws up an opportunity to identify these control failures and suggest ways of plugging them to prevent recurrence of the lapse. Therefore, at the end of the report the CVO should also try to recommend systemic improvements in order to prevent the risk of a recurrence of the lapse/misconduct.

**ASSURANCE MEMO**

This is to provide reasonable assurance to the Commission:

- (a) That all necessary facts and relevant evidence have been gathered.
- (b) That all facts and supporting evidence have been duly verified.
- (c) That contested evidence, if any, have been conclusively handled with reference to the facts at the disposal of Vigilance.

Chief Vigilance Officer

**Format of Bio-Data of officer(s) against whom Commission's advice is sought**

**(To be incorporated in the Vigilance Report of the CVO)**

1. Name of the officer :
2. Designation  
(a) At present :  
(b) At the time of alleged misconduct :
3. Service to which belongs :  
(Cadre and year of allotment in case of officers of the organized/All India Services)
4. Date of birth :
5. Date of superannuation :
6. Level/group of the present post and pay scale :
7. Date of suspension [if under suspension] :
8. Disciplinary Rules applicable to the officer :

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