

## **Lokpal and Lower Bureaucracy**

- India has about 20 million ( 2 crore) government employees (including Public Sector undertakings).
- Lokpal/ Lokayuktas should be high authorities addressing grand corruption, infusing confidence in public minds, and creating a climate of transparency and probity.
- If the top is cleaned up, it will be easy for the top leadership of any organization to clean up the rest of the machinery.
- Our goal should be to ensure that the top hundred corrupt people in politics or higher bureaucracy are convicted every year, and their properties are confiscated in each state and at the union level.
- If Lokpal/Lokayukta is inundated with innumerable complaints against millions of low level officials, its efficacy will be eroded.
- We have the mechanism of Vigilance Commission at the Central and state levels. If the CVC/VCS are entrusted the responsibility to control corruption in lower bureaucracy, the problem will be addressed.
- Second Administrative Reforms Commission has proposed the Chief Vigilance Commissioner as ex-officio member of Lokpal, and the Vigilance Commissioner in the state as ex-officio member of Lokayukta. If Central Vigilance Commission / Vigilance Commission are appointed in the same manner as Lokpal/Lokayuktas, and they became part

of these high institutions, the challenge of dealing with millions of employees can be met effectively. Lokpal/Lokayukta will not be burdened with small cases; and yet CVC/ VC will function under their guidance, and will have autonomy.

- Lokpal/Lokayukta can always investigate and act in any case relating to lower bureaucracy whenever they feel it is warranted. There should be no jurisdictional bar. Whenever large sums of money are involved, or a grave injustice/impropriety needs to be addressed, they can always intervene.
- But the focus should always remain on high functionaries at Lokpal/Lokayukta level.
- The same logic applies to grievance redressal also. Independent grievance redressal authorities should be created in each state/agency, and they should function under the overall guidance of Lokpal/Lokayuktas.
- Lokpal/Lokayukta should have powers to recommend removal of public servants after investigation. The Lokpal Round Table recommended that Article 311(2) should be suitably amended to facilitate removal of officials without any further enquiry, once Lokpal/Lokayukta give their findings.