



Loksatta Party and civil society demands for 'Empowered Lokayukta' within 100 days: calls for Suo-Moto Powers to LokAyukta

27th June 2010

To,

Shri B S Yediyurappa

Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka

Sub: Karnataka calls for Suo-Moto powers to LokAyukta

Dear Sir,

Corruption is the most widespread demonstration of poor governance and lack of accountability in Indian society; unfortunately its perpetration at all levels has made it a reality and a way of life. A 2007 survey with a focus on BPL households in the country by Transparency International India found that the nation's poor had 'paid' about INR 824 crores (\$206 million) for public services that should otherwise have been available free. Despite initiatives in the past to improve the governance and public service delivery levels and expand democratic space with powerful laws such as the Prevention of Corruption Act (1988) and Karnataka LokAyukta Act (1984), they have failed due to inadequate powers given to the enforcing authorities. Further, lack of 'political will' and inadequacies in the laws have not effectively been able to punish and convict the guilty. Needless to mention that the people of Karnataka are victimized by the tentacles of corruption and even the presence of the LokAyukta, in its present form, is inadequate to curb this menace.

As you are aware LokAyukta was formed on the recommendations made by the First Administrative Reforms Commission for the purpose of improving standards of public administration by looking into complaints against the administrative actions, including cases of corruption, favouritism and official indiscipline in administrative machinery. With this second letter to you, we urge you again to take pressing steps to empower the Lokayukta:-

- Grant 'Suo Moto' powers to LokAyukta to bring the corrupt to justice
- Repeal Section 19 (Chapter V) of Prevention of Corruption Act and remove the need for sanctions
- Establish a Whistle Blowers Act to protect complainants
- All elected representatives and government officers must be considered as public servants and anti-corruption laws must apply to them

We strongly believe that there is an overwhelming need to empower LokAyukta and formulate an enforceable law. We approach you with great hope and wholeheartedly believe that you will follow up

with utmost urgency. We believe that the Government must take the aforementioned steps to bring in true transparency and good governance in the state.

Yours faithfully,

Citizens of Karnataka

Loksatta: Government *by* the people

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