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POLICY DEBATE ON ISSUE OF SUBSIDIES

Debraj Bagchi

Subsidy refers to a transfer of resources by the government to the buyer or seller of a good or service that has the effect of reducing the price paid by the buyers, increasing the price received by the sellers, or reducing the cost of production of the good or service. Thus, only those government expenditures are considered as subsidy that reduce the market price of a good or service through any of the ways mentioned above; government spending for public provisioning of education, healthcare, and rural infrastructure etc. are not considered subsidies. The government in India has been subsidizing crucial items like food, fuel etc. since Independence. These subsidies have been very important in the Indian context where a significant share of the population (both in rural as well as urban areas) is not always capable of affording even the necessary goods and services at the market prices. However, in recent times, in the wake of the relatively high levels of Fiscal Deficit incurred by the Union Government, many in the policy community in the country have been asking whether subsidies are putting too much pressure on the budget of the Union Government and whether the money being provided for subsidies is getting

utilized well.

Union Government spending on Subsidies

In the Union Government spending on subsidies (which accounts for a very large share of total government spending on subsidies in the country), subsidies on food, petroleum and fertilizer make up for over 90 per cent of the total subsidies (as per data from 2000-01 to 2012-13), with Food Subsidy accounting for the highest average share (44 per cent). The average annual growth rate of the Union Government spending on subsidies has been about 14 per cent from 2000-01 to 2012-13, with the growth rate during 2006-07 to 2012-13 being higher as compared to the previous phase of 2000-01 to 2005-06 (due to an overall increase in food prices as well as higher expenses towards petroleum subsidy over the last few years). In fact, inflation is often seen as one of the major reasons for heavy subsidization by the government, which results in the widening of the fiscal deficit. The Union Government spending on subsidies has increased from 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2000-01 to 1.3 per cent of GDP in 2006-07 and subsequently to 2.6 per cent of GDP in 2012-13 (Revised Estimates). The magnitude of Food Subsidy provided from the Union

Budget has increased from 0.6 per cent of GDP in 2006-07 to 0.9 per cent of GDP in 2012-13. The magnitude of Fertilizer Subsidy from the Union Budget has gone up from 0.6 per cent of GDP in 2006-07 to 0.7 per cent of GDP in 2012-13. The Union Government spending on Petroleum Subsidy has registered a sharp increase from 0.1 per cent of GDP in 2006-07 to almost 1 per cent of GDP in 2012-13. However, there has been a decline in total allocation towards subsidies in the latest Union Budget compared to allocations in last year's budget; the amount of total subsidy in 2013-14 (Budget Estimates) is Rs. 2,31,084 crore (2.03 per cent of GDP), which is lower than the Rs. 2,57,654 crore (2.57 per cent of GDP) in 2012-13 (Revised Estimates).

Divergent Views on Subsidies

Subsidies provided by the Union Government have been criticized both on account of the upward pressure they have put on the level of expenditure and consequently on the level of borrowing by the government (i.e. the Fiscal Deficit) and also due to the views held by many that these expenditures are not benefitting the poor as intended because of flaws in the design of some of these subsidies or loopholes in their

implementation. The Kelkar Committee is an example of this school of thought, which opined that a gradual removal of subsidies would not only enable the government to spend more on economic growth oriented projects but would also help in attracting private investments. Further, the 12th Five Year (2012-2017) has also recommended some control over the subsidies (without harming the interests of the lower sections of the society), emphasizing on the need to reduce the share of subsidy in the GDP from 2.4 per cent in 2011-12 to 1.5 per cent by 2017.. On the other hand, some of the economists advocating for an expansionary fiscal policy for the country have argued that government spending on Food Subsidy would raise the purchasing power of the poor as they would no longer need to purchase food at the market price and this additional purchasing power with the poor is likely to be spent on other local goods, thus raising employment and output in the economy.

Fuel subsidies are criticized on the grounds of inefficiencies and poor targeting. In a recent paper by Rahul Anand and others the authors have suggested that, in India, most of the

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JOB HIGHLIGHTS

RAILWAY

- Northern Railway, New Delhi requires 5679 Pointsman, Trackman, Khalasi, Helper etc.

Last Date : 10.02.2014

SAIL

- Steel Authority of India Limited requires 710 Management Trainee.

Last Date : 21.01.2014

NAVAL DOCKYARD

- Naval Dockyard, Mumbai requires 349 Tradesman (Skilled)

Last Date : 03.02.2014

BSF

- Directorate General Border Security Force requires 58 Sub-Inspector (Works)

Last Date : 30 days after Publication

PGCIL

- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Gurgaon requires 31 Dy. Manager and Accounts Officer

Last Date : 01.02.2014

UPSC

- Union Public Service Commission invites applications for various posts.

Last Date : 30.01.2014

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Following item is available in the Web Exclusives section on www.employmentnews.gov.in :

1. Virtual Currency

IMPORTANCE OF CURRICULUM VITAE

Rajeev Bhardwaj

In today's competitive era of employment a good Curriculum Vitae (CV) is always instrumental in getting a job of one's choice. A CV is nothing but a brief description of one's educational qualifications, working experiences and skills. The purpose of a CV is to demonstrate that the job seeker possess the qualification, experience and skills to do the job he/she is going to apply. Through a CV, one job seeker can avail the opportunity to create a positive and good impression for him/her to the prospective employer.

Preparation of a CV is not a difficult task when the prospective employer furnishes a prescribed format of the CV. But when it is asked to submit in a plain paper, the job seeker has to work hard as he/she needs to know what to include in the CV and what to not. Under such circumstances, the job seeker needs to adopt utmost care in choosing the best format of CV suited to him/her as per his/her qualifications, skills and experiences and in mentioning the relevant information in the CV. This process needs specialized skills, continuous practices and good analytical skills.

Hiring a staff is an important affair for a prospective employer from commercial and financial points of view. The employer always considers the benefits to be derived from the appointment of a hired employee and looks for a package of the qualifications, experience and skills to do the job. Hence the job seeker through his/her CV should try to highlight the contribution he/she can give to the prospective employer through his/her skills, knowledge and personal qualities in each of these areas.

Different employers may have different preferences and hence the job seeker needs to take up utmost care when preparing the CV so that it gives a positive and favorable impression about him/her to the prospective employer.

Steps in preparing a CV

One should carefully study of the job advertisement, job profile, prescribed educational qualifications, experience, skills, company profile etc. and abstract what the prospective employer is looking for, note down for what the prospective employer values and mention the job seeker's skills, experi-

ence, qualifications, achievements should match with the expectation of the prospective employer.

General principles in drafting a CV

It should be concise and have consistent layout throughout the document, one should ensure that contact details are easy to find and read and abbreviation and jargons should be avoided, It is important that vital information is in a prominent position, including mentioning of any awards, scholarships, achievements etc.

What format of CV to be used

There are different types of CVs, used for different purposes. Technically CV can be classified in Traditional and Non-Traditional CV. Further the traditional CVs are classified into three board categories namely Chronological CV, Functional or Skill-based CV and Combined CV.

Chronological CV: it is widely used and preferred form of CV. In this form of CV, the most recent work experience is listed in first position followed by work history in reverse chronological order. Functional or Skilled-based CV: It focuses on skill and working experience of a job seeker rather than chronological work history. Combined CV: In this format of CV, the skill and working experiences are highlighted first and then employment history. It highlights the skills relevant for the job applied for.

In addition to these formats of CV, some other forms of CV are being used as per the requirements. These forms are CV with Profile, Targeted CV, Mini CV etc.

CV with Profile: Summary of the job seeker's skill, experience and goal as those relevant to the job applied for are mentioned in this form of CV. Targeted CV: In this form of CV, the experience and skills specially related to the job applied for are highlighted.

Mini CV: It is a brief summary of career highlighting the qualifications, experiences.

Non-Traditional CV: It is the web-based version of one's CV which includes photo, graphics, graphs and other visuals relating to the educational qualification, working experiences, achievements etc.

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UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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INVITES ONLINE RECRUITMENT APPLICATIONS (ORA*) FOR RECRUITMENT BY SELECTION TO THE FOLLOWING POSTS (*: by using the website <http://www.upsconline.nic.in>)

(Vacancy No. 14015101611)

Four Engineer & Ship Surveyor cum Deputy Director General (Technical) in Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping. Of the four posts, one post is reserved for Scheduled Tribes Candidates, two posts are reserved for Other Backward Classes Candidates and remaining one post is Unreserved. **QUALIFICATIONS: ESSENTIAL: A. EDUCATIONAL:** Certificate of competency of marine Engineer Officer Class-I (Steam and Motor or Combined Steam and Motor) as specified in section 78 of the Merchant Shipping Act-1958 (44 of 1958) or equivalent as specified in section 86 of the said Act. **B. EXPERIENCE:** Five year's service at sea of which one year service as Chief Engineer or Second Engineer. **NOTE: Certificate of competency is required to be valid as on closing date for submission of online application. DESIRABLE:** One year experience in survey and inspection of merchant ship and one year experience in survey inspection and examination of merchant ship. **DUTIES:** Work in connection with Survey and Inspection of Machinery boiler and other mechanized equipments, testing of materials used in ships, construction, repairs and inspection, examination of Engineers & Engine Driver, performance of other statutory duties under M.S Act, 1958 and Indian Steam Vessels Act, 1917. **HQ:** D.G. Shipping, Mumbai/Mercantile Marine Departments, but liable to be posted anywhere in India. **PROBATION:** One year.

IMPORTANT

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE RECRUITMENT APPLICATION (ORA) THROUGH ORA WEBSITE IS **23:59 HRS ON 11.03.2014**

THE LAST DATE FOR PRINTING OF COMPLETELY SUBMITTED ONLINE APPLICATION IS UPTO **23 :59 HRS ON 12.03.2014**

DATE FOR DETERMINING THE ELIGIBILITY OF ALL CANDIDATES IN EVERY RESPECT SHALL BE THE PRESCRIBED CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE RECRUITMENT APPLICATION (ORA). THE APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO FILL IN ALL THEIR PARTICULARS IN THE ONLINE RECRUITMENT APPLICATION CAREFULLY AS SUBMISSION OF WRONG INFORMATION MAY LEAD TO REJECTION THROUGH COMPUTER BASED SHORTLISTING APART FROM DEBARMENT BY THE COMMISSION.

DATE FOR THE INTERVIEW ON WHICH THE SHORTLISTED CANDIDATE IS REQUIRED TO BRING THE PRINTOUT OF HIS/HER ONLINE APPLICATION ALONG WITH OTHER DOCUMENTS AT UPSC SHALL BE INTIMATED SEPARATELY.

NOTES:

- a) Candidates are requested to apply only Online against this advertisement on the Online Recruitment Application (ORA) website <http://www.upsconline.nic.in> and NOT write to the Commission for Application forms. They are also requested to go through carefully the details of posts and instructions published below as well as on the website <http://www.upsconline.nic.in>.

- b) **NATURE OF POST:** Posts are permanent.
- c) **PAY SCALE & CLASSIFICATION:** (Figures in bracket at the end of the pay scale indicate the approx Total Emoluments (per month) (T.E.) . Rs.15,600-39,100 (PB 3) + Rs.7,600 (Grade pay) (T.E. Rs. 44,080/-),+ TA and HRA as admissible, General Central Service, Group 'A', Gazetted, Non-Ministerial, for the above posts.
- d) **AGE LIMIT AS ON CLOSING DATE:** Not exceeding **50 years** for the posts mentioned above.
- e) The age limit shown above is the normal age limit and the age is relaxable for SC/ST/PH candidates upto 5 years and upto 3 years for OBC candidates in respect of vacancies reserved for them. SC/ST/OBC Candidates have to produce a caste certificate in prescribed proforma. For age concession applicable to other categories of applicants please see relevant paras of the "Instructions and Additional Information to Candidates for Recruitment by Selection".
- f) A candidate will be eligible to get the benefit of community reservation only in case the particular caste to which the candidates belong is included in the list of reserved communities issued by the Central Government. If a candidate indicates in his/her application form that he/she belongs to SC/ST/OBC/General category but subsequently writes to the Commission to change his/her category, such request shall not be entertained by the Commission.
- g) Physically Handicapped (PH) Persons or Persons with disabilities, as indicated against various item(s) in the VACANCY DETAILS, can apply to the respective posts even if the post is not reserved for them but has been identified as Suitable. However, such candidates will be considered for selection to such post by general standard of merit. Persons suffering from not less than 40% of relevant disability shall alone be eligible for the benefit of reservation and other relaxations as permissible under the rules. Thus, Physically Handicapped (PH) persons can avail benefit of :
- h) Reservation and other Concessions & Relaxations as permissible under the rules only when degree of physical disability is 40% or more and the posts are reserved for PH candidates.
- i) Other Concessions & Relaxations as permissible under the rules only when degree of physical disability is 40% or more and the posts are suitable for PH candidates.
- j) **HEADQUARTERS:** At places specifically stated against certain posts, otherwise anywhere in India.

NOTE: INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO CANDIDATES FOR RECRUITMENT BY SELECTION & PRESCRIBED PROFORMAE ARE SAME AS PUBLISHED UNDER ADVT.NO.01/2014 IN THE SAME EDITION OF EMPLOYMENT NEWS AT PAGE NOS. 49 to 55.

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POLICY DEBATE ON ...

Continued from page 1

fuel subsidies are enjoyed by the people in the high income groups who have greater per capita consumption of fuel and have higher shares of expenditures going towards fuel consumption. However, they do not recommend a complete removal of the fuel subsidies and estimate that doing so would reduce the real income of the Indian households by about 4 per cent. It is also argued by many that higher fuel costs would aggravate the problem of inflation in the country by pushing up the costs for transportation of most of the goods. Fertilizer subsidies are criticized on the distributional aspects. In a paper by V. P. Sharma and Hrima Thaker the authors have suggested that although inter-state disparity of subsidy distribution has reduced over the years (with higher concentration in states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh), it still is high. However, they also indicate that the distribution of the fertilizer subsidy has been equitable with small and marginal farmers having a larger share of the subsidy. Also, the share of the subsidies used for the unirrigated land has increased over the years. They have also suggested that reductions in fertilizer subsidies could have an adverse impact on farm production and incomes as farmers do not always benefit from higher output prices but are certainly helped by lower input prices.

According to the National Sample Survey (NSS) data for 2011-12, in the monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) of households in the country, 53 per cent gets spent on food items for rural households and 43 per cent for urban households. With several regions across the country still reporting a high extent of hunger and malnutrition, ensuring food security has rightly been taken up as a priority by the Union Government. In this context, doing away with the Public Distribution System (PDS) for foodgrains and a gradual shift to direct cash transfers to the poor has been put forward as a policy option for enabling better utilization of the Food Subsidy. However, lack of adequate banking infrastructure in the country, a high share of rural population and other such constraints have made some sections skeptical of the effectiveness of the proposed direct cash transfers mechanism. On the other hand, some states like Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh have managed to reduce the leakages in the PDS significantly by adopting appropriate transparency and accountability measures; thus, it could be argued that the PDS for foodgrains can be improved significantly for effective utilization of the Food Subsidy. A similar kind of argument holds for the petroleum subsidies as both rural and urban households spend close to 10 per cent of their monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) on fuel and light. So given the inflationary trends in fuel prices, any drastic reduction in petroleum subsidies could again be socially undesirable at the current juncture. The preceding section attempts to capture the

divergent views pertaining to subsidies in India, which implies that the issue of subsidies needs a lot more scrutiny and that the policy debates in this regard are far from being resolved. However, it may be worthwhile to add here that instead of focusing solely on the expenditure side of the budget, a lot more emphasis could be laid on the revenue mobilized by the government. Not many would disagree with the view that for a large developing country, India's tax - GDP ratio at less than 17 per cent is low and it needs to be stepped up to enable the government meet its expenditure commitments to a better extent.

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NEWS DIGEST

- Arup Raha takes over as the 24th Chief of the Air Staff. He succeeds IAF Chief N.A.K. Browne, who retired. The new Air Chief who is an experienced Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) holding 'A2' instructional category and had been commissioned into the Flying Branch in December 1974.
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill has got President assent. The Bill, which was passed by Parliament in the just-concluded winter session, provides for creation of anti-graft ombudsman to investigate corruption charges against public functionaries
- PARAM Yuva II supercomputer, developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has been rated as among the most power efficient computer systems in India by Green 500 List. PARAM Yuva II stands ninth in the Asia Pacific Region and 44th in the world in terms of power efficiency. This announcement was made at the Supercomputing Conference in Colorado, USA.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) celebrated its Diamond Jubilee recently. The Prime Minister addressed the sixty years celebrations and lauded the efforts of UGC in contributing to transform of the higher education system in the country. UGC has proposed to institute awards in the name of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for individual excellence in the areas of Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Technology, Fine Arts and Culture to promote high quality research.
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved :**
 - 1 Setting up of a unified system at the national level (National Vehicle Security and Tracking System) and State level (City Command and Control Centre) for Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking of the location of emergency buttons in and video recording of incidents in public transport vehicles, in 32 cities of the country with a population of one million or more according to the 2011 census. The scheme has been formulated to improve security for women in public road transport in the country by using information technology.
 - 2 Centrally sponsored scheme for establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals. The approval was given for establishment of 58 new medical colleges by upgradation of existing district hospitals in deficient states with intake capacity of 100 MBBS seats in each medical college. This will result in an increase of about 5800 seats. The central assistance share will be of Rs. 8457.40 crore and State/UT share of Rs. 2513.70 crore.
 - 3 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved amendments in the Mega

- Power Policy 2009 for provisional Mega Power projects. The objective is to increase power availability to boost overall growth of the country and also ensure that consumers are reasonably charged for electricity supplied.
- **The Union Cabinet has accorded approval for the following:**
 - 1 Policy Guidelines for Land Management by Major Ports, 2014. The policy will be made applicable to all the major Port Trusts and Ennore Port Limited, except for land relating to the township areas of Kandla, Mumbai and Kolkata Ports. Land Policy is one of the most significant policy frameworks guiding the overall functioning and development of the port sector.
 - 2 Operationalization of the Power System Development Fund (PSDF), the scheme formulated for utilization of funds deposited therein based on the procedure laid down in the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). The Fund will be utilized for creating necessary transmission systems of strategic importance based on operational feedback by Load Dispatch Centers for relieving congestion in Inter-State Transmission Systems (ISTS) and intra-state system which are incidental to the ISTS and for renovation and modernization of transmission and distribution systems for relieving congestion. The PSDF will be operationalized within three months.
 - 3 Conversion of Perpetual Non-Cumulative Preference Shares (PNCPS) held by Government of India (GOI) in Indian Bank, UCO Bank and Vijaya Bank amounting to Rs.400 crore, Rs.1,823 crore and Rs.1,200 crore respectively into Equity Shares of these banks in favour of GOI, subject to approval of shareholders and also Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and other authorities.
- Farooq Sheikh, actor, philanthropist and a popular television presenter, died following a cardiac arrest at Dubai. His major contribution was in Parallel Cinema or the New Indian Cinema though he also continued to act and excel in mainstream cinema. Farooq Sheikh began his career in Bollywood with the film 'Garam Hava' and his roles in classics like Satyajit Ray's 'Shatranj Ke Khiladi', 'Umrao Jaan' and 'Bazaar' earned him critical fame. He hosted a popular talk show, 'Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai', and a long-running play 'Tumhari Amrita'.
- The Reserve Bank of India has cautioned the users, holders and traders of Virtual currencies (VCs), including Bitcoins, about the potential financial, operational, legal, customer protection and security related risks that they are exposing themselves to. (**web exclusive-about Virtual Currency**).

LOKPAL ACT

Chakshu Roy and Shreya Singh

The idea of creating an anti corruption ombudsman, in the form of a Lokpal, was first conceptualized in 1968 in the fourth Lok Sabha. Thereafter in 1971, 1977, 1985, 1989, 1996, 1998 and 2001 efforts were made to enact legislation to create the institution of Lokpal, but these efforts remained unsuccessful. Over the last few years the issue of enacting a law to create Lokpal has seen active citizen engagement. Continued civic engagement with the issue resonated with the government and the legislature and led to the passing of the Lokpal Bill in the recently concluded winter session of Parliament. The bill has received parliament's assent on 01 Jan 2013. This has been one of the few pieces of legislation in recent years which has been extensively debated publicly and received in depth parliamentary scrutiny. Before the bill was introduced in parliament, a joint committee made up of government and civil society representatives had made an attempt to draft the Bill. This effort remained inconclusive and the government introduced a Bill drafted by it in Lok Sabha. This Bill was examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice and passed by the Lower House in 2011. The Bill was then referred to a Select Committee of Rajya Sabha. Based on the recommendations of the Select Committee, the government made amendments to the Bill before it was passed in Rajya Sabha. Lok Sabha then approved these amendments leading to its passage in Parliament. Some of the key provisions of this Bill relate to the jurisdictions of Lokpal, its selection, autonomy of Central Bureau of Investigation and the creation of Lokayukta's in states.

The Bill as passed by Parliament creates a Lokpal at the centre which shall consist of a chairperson and up to eight members. Half of these members should have higher judicial experience and the other half should have experience in public administration, finance, insurance and banking laws, anti corruption and vigilance. It also provides that half the members of Lokpal shall be from amongst scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward castes, minority communities and women. The chairman and members of Lokpal shall be appointed by a selection committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or a sitting supreme court judge as nominated by the CJ and an eminent jurist to be nominated by the President based on the recommendations of the other members of the selection committee. The Bill specifies that the office of Lokpal shall investigate and prosecute cases of corruption. The jurisdiction of Lokpal extends to the Prime Minister, Ministers, current and former Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies, government employees and employees of companies funded or controlled by the central or state government. Lokpal shall also have jurisdiction over institutions receiving foreign donations in excess of ten lakh rupees per year or such higher limit as specified. The Bill excludes, any allegation of corruption against a Member of Parliament in respect of anything said or a vote given in Parliament, from the jurisdiction of Lokpal. It specifies a time limit of 60 days for completion of inquiry and 6 months for completion of investi-

gation by the Central Bureau of Investigation. This period of 6 months can be extended by the Lokpal on a written request from CBI. Lokpal is also required to hear the explanation of the public servant before ordering an investigation. This however would not interfere with any search and seizure required to be undertaken by any agency. The bill also specifies that any inquiry against the Prime Minister has to be held in-camera and approved by two third of the full bench of the Lokpal. The Bill gives Lokpal the power of superintendence over CBI with respect to cases referred by it to CBI. It also specifies that CBI officers investigating cases referred by the Lokpal can only be transferred with the approval of the Lokpal. It proposes establishment of a Directorate of prosecution within CBI to be headed by Director who is an officer not below the rank of joint secretary for conduction prosecution of cases under the Lokpal Bill. The director of prosecution shall be appointed by the government on the recommendation of the Central Vigilance Commission. The CBI with the consent of Lokpal is empowered to appoint a panel of advocates, other than government advocates for conducting cases referred by Lokpal. The central government is entrusted with the responsibility of making funds available to CBI for conducting investigation into Lokpal referred matters. All expenses of Lokpal shall be charged to the Consolidated Fund of India. The legislation provides an imprisonment of up to seven years for public servants on grounds of corruption. Criminal misconduct and habitually abetting corruption has a higher penalty and would result in imprisonment up to ten years.


Making false and frivolous complaints to Lokpal would result in a fine of up to one lakh rupees and imprisonment of up to one year. In addition a person who is convicted for having made a false complaint shall be liable to compensate the public servant against whom the false complaint was made. However complaints made in good faith, that is with due care, caution and a sense of responsibility will be excluded from penalty. A number of political parties had raised the issue that provisions relating to establishment of state lokayuktas were not in line with the federal nature of governance as envisaged in the constitution during the debate in Lok Sabha. The Bill that as passed by Lok Sabha specified that provisions related to state lokayuktas would only be applicable to states that gave their consent. However, when the bill reached Rajya Sabha and was scrutinized by the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha, the committee recommended that the states should have the freedom to determine the nature and type of lokayukta depending on their requirements. It also recommended that

states have to mandatorily have a lokayukta in place within a period of one year from the passing of the Lokpal Bill. Both these recommendations of the select committee were incorporated into the Lokpal Bill which was passed by Parliament. While the Lokpal bill has been passed by Parliament, a number of other supporting bills which address issues related to tackling corruption are still pending in Parliament. Bills related to citizen charter and electronic public service delivery, public procurement, whistle blower protection, judicial accountability, benami transactions are pending in Parliament. These bills when passed would ensure that the institution of Lokpal does not get flooded by day to day complaints of administrative inefficiency and corruption. And while enacting a law is the first step towards curbing corruption, the effectiveness of the law would depend on how well it is implemented on the ground.

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