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इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS

(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 8th January, 1999 / Pausa 18, 1920 (Saka)

THE CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION ORDINANCE, 1999

(No. 4 of 1999)

Promulgated by the President in the Forty-ninth Year of the Republic of India.

An Ordinance to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998 was promulgated by the President on the 25th day of August, 1998;

AND WHEREAS the said Ordinance was amended by promulgation of the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 on the 27th day of October, 1998;

AND WHEREAS the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 to replace the aforesaid Ordinances was introduced in the House of the People on the 7th day of December, 1998 but has not yet been passed;

AND WHEREAS Parliament is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action to give effect to the provisions of the aforesaid Bill;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 123 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to promulgate the following Ordinance:—

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

Short title
and com-
mencement.

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1999.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 25th day of August, 1998.

Definitions.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "appointed day" means the date on which the Commission is constituted under sub-section (1) of section 3;

(b) "Central Vigilance Commissioner" means the Central Vigilance Commissioner appointed under sub-section (1) of section 4;

(c) "Commission" means the Central Vigilance Commission constituted under sub-section (1) of section 3;

(d) "Delhi Special Police Establishment" means the Delhi Special Police Establishment constituted under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946;

(e) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Ordinance;

(f) "Vigilance Commissioner" means a Vigilance Commissioner appointed under sub-section (1) of section 4.

25 of 1999

CHAPTER II THE CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION

Constitution
of Central
Vigilance
Com-
mission.

3. (1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf, there shall be constituted a body to be known as the Central Vigilance Commission to exercise the powers conferred upon, and to perform the functions assigned to it under this Ordinance.

(2) The Commission shall consist of—

(a) a Central Vigilance Commissioner— Chairperson;

(b) not more than four Vigilance Commissioners — Members.

(3) The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners shall be appointed from amongst persons—

(a) who have been or are in an all-India Service or in any civil service of the Union or in a civil post under the Union having knowledge and experience in the matters relating to vigilance, policy making and administration including police administration; and

(b) who have held office or are holding office in a corporation established by or under any Central Act or a Government company owned or controlled by the Central Government and persons who have expertise and experience in finance including insurance and banking, law, vigilance and investigations;

Provided that, from amongst the Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners, not more than three persons shall belong to the category of persons referred to either in clause (a) or in clause (b).

(4) The Central Government shall appoint a Secretary to the Commission on such terms and conditions as it deems fit to exercise such powers and discharge such duties as the Commission may by regulations specify in this behalf.

(5) The headquarters of the Commission shall be at New Delhi.

4. (1) The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal:

Appointment of Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners.

Provided that every appointment under this sub-section shall be made after obtaining the recommendation of a Committee consisting of—

- (a) the Prime Minister — Chairperson;
- (b) the Minister of Home Affairs — Member;
- (c) the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People — Member.

(2) No appointment of a Central Vigilance Commissioner or a Vigilance Commissioner shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy in the Committee.

5. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-sections (3) and (4), the Central Vigilance Commissioner shall hold office for a term of four years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

Terms and other conditions of service of Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners.

(2) Subject to the provisions of sub-sections (3) and (4), every Vigilance Commissioner shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

(3) The Central Vigilance Commissioner or a Vigilance Commissioner shall, before he enters upon his office, make and subscribe before the President, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Schedule.

(4) The Central Vigilance Commissioner or a Vigilance Commissioner may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office.

(5) The Central Vigilance Commissioner or a Vigilance Commissioner may be removed from his office in the manner provided in section 6.

(6) On ceasing to hold office, the Central Vigilance Commissioner and every other Vigilance Commissioner shall be ineligible for—

(a) reappointment in the Commission;

(b) further employment to any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of a State.

(c) The salary and allowances payable to and the other conditions of service of—

(a) the Central Vigilance Commissioner shall be the same as those of the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) the Vigilance Commissioner shall be the same as those of a Member of the Union Public Service Commission:

Provided that if the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner is, at the time of his appointment, in receipt of a pension (other than a disability or wound pension) in respect of any previous service under the Government of India or under the Government of a State; his salary in respect of the service as the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner shall be reduced by the amount of that pension including any portion of pension which was commuted and pension equivalent of other forms of retirement benefits excluding pension equivalent of retirement gratuity:

Provided further that the salary, allowances and pension payable to, and the other conditions of service of, the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

Removal of
Central
Vigilance
Com-
missioner
and
Vigilance
Commi-
ssioners.

6. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3), the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner shall be removed from his office only by order of the President on the ground of proved misbehaviour after the Supreme Court, on a reference made to it by the President, has, on inquiry, reported that the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner, as the case may be, ought on such ground be removed.

(2) The President may suspend from office the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner in respect of whom a reference has been made to the Supreme Court under sub-section (1) until the President has passed orders on receipt of the report of the Supreme Court on such reference.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the President may by order remove from office the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner if the Central Vigilance Commissioner or such Vigilance Commissioner, as the case may be,—

(a) is adjudged an insolvent; or

(b) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude; or

(c) engages during his term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or

(d) is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body; or

(e) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a Central Vigilance Commissioner or a Vigilance Commissioner.

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(4) If the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner is or becomes in any way concerned or interested in any contract or agreement made by or on behalf of the Government of India or participates in any way in the profit thereof or in any benefit or emolument arising therefrom otherwise than as a member and in common with the other members of an incorporated company, he shall, for the purposes of sub-section (1), be deemed to be guilty of misbehaviour.

7. The Central Government may by rules make provision with respect to the number of members of the staff of the Commission and their conditions of service.

Power to make rules by Central Government for staff.

CHAPTER III
FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION

8. (1) The functions and powers of the Commission shall be to—

Functions and powers of Central Vigilance Commission.

49 of 1988.

(a) exercise superintendence over the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment insofar as it relates to the investigation of offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988;

49 of 1988.

(b) inquire or cause an inquiry or investigation to be made on a reference made by the Central Government wherein it is alleged that a public servant being an employee of the Central Government or a corporation established by or under any Central Act, Government company, society and any local authority owned or controlled by that Government, has committed an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988;

49 of 1988.

(c) inquire or cause an inquiry or investigation to be made into any complaint against any official belonging to such category of officials specified in sub-section (2) wherein it is alleged that he has committed an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988;

49 of 1988.

(d) review the progress of investigations conducted by the Delhi Special Police Establishment into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988;

49 of 1988.

(e) review the progress of applications pending with the competent authorities for sanction of prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988;

(f) tender advice to the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government on such matters as may be referred to it by that Government, said Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government or otherwise;

(g) exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration of the various Ministries of the Central Government or corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by that Government.

(2) The persons referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1) are as follows:--

(a) Group 'A' officers of the Central Government;

(b) such level of officers of the corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and other local authorities, owned or controlled by the Central Government, as that Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf;

Provided that till such time a notification is issued under this clause, all officers of the said corporations, companies, societies and local authorities shall be deemed to be the persons referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1).

Proceedings of Commission.

9. (1) The proceedings of the Commission shall be conducted at its headquarters.

(2) The Commission shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of the business as may be provided by regulations.

(3) The Central Vigilance Commissioner, or, if for any reason he is unable to attend any meeting of the Commission, the seniormost Vigilance Commissioner present at the meeting, shall preside at the meeting.

(4) No act or proceeding of the Commission shall be invalid merely by reason of--

(a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Commission; or

(b) any defect in the appointment of a person acting as the Central Vigilance Commissioner or as a Vigilance Commissioner; or

(c) any irregularity in the procedure of the Commission not affecting the merits of the case.

Vigilance Commissioner to act as Central Vigilance Commissioner in certain circumstances.

10. (1) In the event of the occurrence of any vacancy in the office of the Central Vigilance Commissioner by reason of his death, resignation or otherwise, the President may, by notification, authorise one of the Vigilance Commissioners to act as the Central Vigilance Commissioner until the appointment of a new Central Vigilance Commissioner to fill such vacancy.

(2) When the Central Vigilance Commissioner is unable to discharge his functions owing to absence on leave or otherwise, such one of the Vigilance Commissioners as the President may, by notification, authorise in this behalf, shall discharge the functions of the Central Vigilance Commissioner until the date on which the Central Vigilance Commissioner resumes his duties.

Power relating to inquiries.

11. The Commission shall, while conducting any inquiry referred to in clauses (b) and (c) of sub-section (1) of section 8, have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and in particular, in respect of the following matters, namely:--

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;

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- (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents; and
- (f) any other matter which may be prescribed.

2 of 1974.
45 of 1860

12. The Commission shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purposes of section 195 and Chapter XXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and every proceeding before the Commission shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193 and 228 and for the purposes of section 196 of the Indian Penal Code.

Proceedings before Commission to be judicial proceedings.

CHAPTER IV
EXPENSES AND ANNUAL REPORT

13. The expenses of the Commission, including any salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of the Central Vigilance Commissioner, the Vigilance Commissioners, Secretary and the staff of the Commission, shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

Expenses of Commission to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

14. (1) It shall be the duty of the Commission to present annually to the President a report as to the work done by the Commission.

Annual report.

(2) The report referred to in sub-section (1) shall contain a separate part on the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment insofar as it relates to sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

25 of 1946.

(3) On receipt of such report, the President shall cause the same to be laid before each House of Parliament.

CHAPTER V
MISCELLANEOUS

15. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Commission, the Central Vigilance Commissioner, any Vigilance Commissioner, the Secretary or against any staff of the Commission in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Ordinance.

Protection of action taken in good faith.

