Research Article

GROWING MENACE OF CORRUPTION IN INDIA: REASONS AND WAY FORWARD

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	Corruption is an old problem and can be viewed from every aspect in our society. It is like skin disease in public life, which is spoiling or vanishing our society and nation. It is misuse of power for personal gain. It can be defined by different ways in different field of society. Author explains the meaning and concept of Corruption. I also elaborate the types and causes of the corruption. In this paper i also try to give remedies to cure this problem.

INTRODUCTION

Corruption is an age old phenomenon and can be seen everywhere now a days. It is like a cancer in public life, which has not become to rampant and perpetuated overnight, but is course of time. The word corruption means destruction, ruining or spoiling a society or nation. A corrupt society is characterized by immorality and lack of fear or respect for the law. It is the abuse of public power for private gain. Corruption comes under many different guises like bribery, extortion, fraud, embezzlement, misappropriations of public goods, nepotism (favouring family members for jobs and contracts) cronyism and influence pending. Corruption has prevailed in society since time immemorial.

Corruption has been defined in many different ways, each lacking in some aspect. A few years ago, the question of definition absorbed a large proportion of the time spent on discussion of corruption at conferences and feelings. However like an elephant, even though it may be difficult to describe, it is generally not difficult to recognize when observed. Unfortunately, the behaviour is often difficult to observe directly because, typically acts of corruption does not takes place in broad day light[1].

According to Oxford Dictionary – "perversion of destruction of integrity in discharge of public duties by bribery or favour is called corruption." The Webster's Dictionary defines corruption as "inducement to wrong by improper or unlawful means as bribery."

The most popular and simplest definition of corruption is given by the World Bank. According to this definition corruption is that it is the "abuse of public power for private benefit". From this definition it should not be concluded that corruption cannot exist within private sector activities. Especially in large private enterprises, this phenomenon clearly exists, as for example in procurement or even in hiring. It also exists in private activities regulated by the government[2].

Corruption is widespread in Indian Civilization and it has caused maximum suffering to the human kind. The paper discusses issues related to the nature, causes, consequences and possible remedial measures of corruption in Indian Society. It emphasizes that lack of transparency, morality, accountability and consistency as well as institutional weakness provided fertile ground for the growth of corruption in India. It also emphasizes that how corruption related to development issues in India and which kind negative effects are shown in Indian social, political and economic system. The paper also touches that which kind of reforms is necessary to fight against corruption in India.

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[1] U.Myint 2000; Corruption : Cause, consequences and cures; Asia – Pacific Development Journal Vol. 7, No. 2 December 2000.

[2] Ibid.

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Nature of Corruption

Under the Indian constitution, the government consists of three branches: the legislative, the executive and the judiciary with clear mandate for independent functioning of each branch. For the good governance it is compulsory that each of these units must function with integrity and efficiency. The legislators are elected representatives of the peoples and responsible for making laws. The executive branch consisting of ministers, bureaucrats and whole government machinery, which is responsible for the implementation of laws made up by legislative assemblies. The judiciary acts as an impartial watchdog to see if the people are governed as per the law. It lakes the power to frame any law, it can only interpret the laws passed by the law makers under the constitutional framework and give its verdicts. But when corruption invades, governance begins to degrade implying loss of integrity and efficiency both. Now a day's corruption is widespread in every segment of Indian government system and politics[3].

The behaviour of India legislators both at the union and in the state leaves a lot to be desired. Every time they act motivated by personal gain. Corruption in the assemblies as seen from this perspective implies floor crossing, case for vote taking money or other benefits to ask questions, framing rules under the influence of big corporate houses at the cost of common people. Criminalization of politics is yet another fact of corruption in the current parliament. These are over a quarter MPs with criminal records, many with serious charges against them. It also highlights an area where an electoral reform is urgently needed so that criminals don't enter in the parliament or state assemblies[4].

In the executive branch, ministers are placed at top of the hierarchy. They are responsible for the making policies for the public because the public trust on them and elected by votes to making government. In recent analysis we saw that the level of corruption in ministers is highest. 2 G spectrum scam, coal allotment scam, commonwealth games scam, fodder scam etc. are the best examples of it.

In Indian parliamentary system, the responsibility of execution of the policies making by government at ground level is taking hand over to the bureaucracy. But the report card of the Indian bureaucracy is also not very flattering. Bureaucratic corruption in India thrives on red tape, complicated procedures and discretionary power. Governance in India is characterized by the lack of transparency in rules, complicated procedures and a bureaucracy that enjoys broad discretionary power. According to a recent analysis of reports of bribery demands in India conducted by trace international was published in January 2009, 90% demand for bribe came from government officials of which over 65% for avoiding harassment, 50% bribery was for timely delivery of services to which the individuals were already entitled, about 10% were meant to provide any advantage[5].

Bureaucratic corruption pervades the Indian administration system with widespread practices of bribery, nepotism and misuse of official positions and resources.

Independence of the judiciary is guaranteed by constitution of India. But corruption is also rampant in Indian courts. According to Transparency International, judicial corruption in India is attributable to factors such as "delays in the disposal of cases, shortage of judges, and complex procedure, all of which exacerbated by a preponderance of new laws." Almost 3% respondents in India consider the judiciary to be corrupt[6].

Under Indian constitution, the government consists of three branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judiciary with clear mandate for independent functioning of each branch.

Therefore, for good governance each of these units must function with integrity and efficiency – this is the bottom line. The legislators or law makers are elected representatives of the people – their prime job is to frame clear, simple and effective laws.

The executive branch consisting of ministers, bureaucrats, and the whole government the report card of the rest of the bureaucracy is also not very flattering. Bureaucratic corruption thrives on red-tape, complicated procedures, and discretionary power. Governance in India is characterized by a lack of transparency in rules, complicated procedures and a bureaucracy that enjoys broad discretionary power. There is an exclusivist process of decision-making, overly centralized government, and the absence of effective internal control mechanisms[7].

A recent analysis of reports of bribery demands in India conducted by Trace International was published in January 2009. It provides an overview of the general pattern of corruption in the country. 90% demand for bribe came from government officials, of which over 65% for avoiding harassment. 50% bribery was for timely delivery of services to which the individuals were already entitled; only about 10% were meant to provide any advantage. These findings confirm the prevalence of the bureaucratic and administrative corruption when the public and public officials interact. Bureaucratic corruption pervades the Indian administrative system with widespread practices of bribery, nepotism, and misuse of official positions and resources. The Bertelsmann Foundation 2008 report states that India is characterized by a deeply rooted patronage system and pervasive corruption at all levels of the polity and administration[8].

The 2006 World Bank Enterprise Survey also confirms the prevalence of bureaucratic and administrative corruption in the country. Red tape and wide ranging administrative discretion serve as a pretext for extortion and almost 50% of the firms surveyed expected to pay informal payments to public officials to get things done. 26% respondents identified corruption as a major constraint for doing business in the country. Machinery is expected to implement the laws framed the legislative assemblies. The ultimate responsibility for running the administration rests with the elected representatives of the people which are the mini sters. These ministers are accountable to the legislatures which are also elected by the people

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[3] Vito Tanzi 1998; Corruption around the world : Cause, consequences , scope and cures : IMF working paper 1998.
[4] Sanjivi Guhan, Paul Samue, Corruption in India: Agenda for Action.
[5] Bardhan, Pranab. "Corruption and Development: A Review of Issues," Journal of Economic Literature,35 (1997)

[6] Jeevan Singh Rajak, IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 18, Issue 5 (Nov. - Dec. 2013),e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845.p21
[7] Ibid.
[8] Report of Transparency International 2012.

The third segment, the judiciary, acts as an impartial watchdog to see if the people are governed as per the law. It lacks the power to frame any law; it can only interpret the laws passed by the law-makers under the constitutional framework and give its verdicts accordingly. But when corruption invades, governance begins to degrade-implying loss of integrity and efficiency both. Situation in India is obviously far from ideal[9].

Corruption in Government Offices

In cities and villages throughout India, "mafia raj" consisting of municipal and other government officials, elected politicians, judicial officers, real estate developers and law enforcement officials, acquire, develop and sell land in illegal ways. Many state-funded construction activities in India, such as road building, are dominated by construction mafia, which are groupings of corrupt public works officials, materials suppliers, politicians and construction contractors. Shoddy construction and material substitution (e.g. mixing sand in cement while submitting expenses for cement) result in roads and highways being dangerous, and sometimes simply washed away when India's heavy monsoon season arrives. In government hospitals, corruption is associated with non- availability of medicines, getting admission through back-door, consultations with doctors and availing diagnostic services illegally. Civil servants /public officials were rated by 13 of respondents as the second most corrupt institution in the country. Other institutions were polled including Parliament/ legislature, the private sector, media and the judiciary. The Barometer, now in its sixth edition, surveyed 73,132 people in 69 countries including 12 countries from Asia Pacific. In India, the survey was conducted in five metros – Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore[10].

Corruption in the Private Sector

Almost 9 per cent of those surveyed considers business and private sector to be corrupt. The private sector used bribes to influence public policy, laws and regulations, believe over half of those polled for the survey. The business-related findings of the Barometer send a powerful signal to the private sector to prove that they are clean and to communicate this clearly to the public. Forty-five of those polled felt that the existing channels for making corruption-related complaints were ineffective. Very few lodged formal complaints, demonstrating serious defects in the perceived legitimacy and effectiveness of channels for reporting and addressing bribery[11].

Corruption in Police

Despite state prohibition against torture and custodial misconduct by the police, torture is widespread in police custody, which is a major reason behind deaths in custody. The police often torture innocent people until a "confession" is obtained to save influential and wealthy offenders. G.P. Joshi, the programme coordinator of the Indian branch of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative in New Delhi comments that the main issue at hand concerning police violence is the lack of accountability on the part of the polices[12].

Corruption in Religious institutions

In India, corruption has also crept into religious institutions. Some members of the Church are making money by selling baptism certificates. A group of church leaders and activists has launched a campaign to combat corruption within churches. Among Indian Muslims, the recent "cash for fat was scandal" was a major affair that exposed the Imams of the Islamic ulama accepting bribes for issuing random, often nonsensical fatwas. The chief economic consequences of corruption are loss to the exchequer, an unhealthy climate for investment and an increase in the cost of government-subsidised services. The Transparency International (TI) India study estimates the monetary value of petty corruption in 11 basic services provided by the government, like education, health-care, judiciary and police to be around Rs.21,068 crores. India still ranks at the bottom quartile of developing nations in terms of the ease of doing business, and compared to China and other lower developed Asian nations, the average time taken to secure the clearances for a start-up or to invoke bankruptcy is much greater. According to Transparency International, Bihar is the most corrupt state in India. The Economist magazine said in 2004 that "Bihar [had] become a byword for the worst of India, of widespread and inescapable poverty, of corrupt politicians indistinguishable from mafia-dons they patronise, caste-ridden social order that has retained the worst feudal cruelties"[13].

Corruption and Economic Growth

The world would be a better place without corruption and it does impose a cost on the economy. But the contention, that it is our biggest problem and we need to eliminate it before meaningful change can occur, is not supported by evidence. We need to look beyond the simple answer to figure out what else is holding back economic growth in our country. Just as there are people who believe that overpopulation is our biggest problem, there are others who attribute most of our difficulties to corruption. There is no doubt that corruption is a pervasive and aggravating phenomenon but even a cursory comparative analysis should make one sceptical of the assertion that it is a major cause of our underdevelopment. The issue of corruption is very high on the political agenda of the Chinese government. But despite corruption the economy has expanded continuously over the past fifteen years at historically unprecedented rates of growth. Today China is being spoken of as a major economic power of the future[14]. The concern with corruption stems less from its impact on growth and more from the social discontent it causes and which negatively impacts the credibility of the government. Indonesia is another country where considerable economic development occurred despite very high levels of corruption that are well documented. The country was very much a part of the East Asian miracle whose momentum was broken by the financial crisis in 1997. While the other regional economies have recovered, Indonesia is lagging not because of corruption but because of the political instability that ensued after the fall of the Suharto government. The East Asian crisis raises interesting issues related to corruption. Many analysts were quick to attribute the crisis to the high levels of corruption

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[9] Reterieved From: http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/%cpapers3%5cpapers219.htm
[10] A. Abdulraheem, Corruption in India: An Overview (Causes, Consequences and Remedial Measures), social action vol. 59 october – december 2009,p1.
[11] Ibid
[12] Supra352

[13] Supra353.
[14] Alam, M. Shahid, "Some Economic Costs of Corruption in LDCs," Journal of Development Studies 27 (1991).

in the regional economies and "crony capitalism" emerged as a popular explanation for what happened. This may or may not be correct but from our perspective the relevant aspect of the East Asian miracle is the tremendous economic development that took place prior to the crisis. That suggests that significant economic growth is possible despite high levels of corruption[15]. Therefore, we need to continue searching for the causes of the lack of similar development in Pakistan. Closer to home, the Indian economy has picked up steam and the country has begun to be mentioned in the same league as China. And no one has attributed the acceleration of the rate of growth to a sudden decrease in corruption in India. It would be hard to argue that the level of corruption in India is significantly different from that in Pakistan. And if someone does argue the case, it would be of considerable interest to go into the reasons for the difference. A discussion of the causes of corruption could yield some valuable pointers regarding the measures that could contribute to reducing its prevalence. A focused discussion of corruption would benefit from defining it narrowly as the abuse of public office for private gain. This would distinguish it from other criminal acts like fraud, embezzlement, extortion and blackmail, all of which can be committed by private individuals not holding public office. It would also help to consider separately the phenomena of low and high level corruption, respectively[16]. Low-level corruption (best characterised as "chai paani" corruption) is what the common citizen encounters every day and what colours his perception of its importance. The social frustrations caused by having to run around and pay extra money for virtually everything can understandably make it seem the cause of all our problems. In fact, "chai paani" corruption may not have major negative consequences for economic growth. It constitutes more a transfer of money from one pocket to another in a society where many public officials are not paid a living wage and where bureaucratic procedures remain archaic, cumbersome and slow. Its incidence inevitably diminishes with economic growth and modernisation as both the needs to demand small bribes and the opportunities to manipulate procedures decrease. High-level corruption (the domain of big people and big businesses playing for big stakes), on the other hand, can have much more lasting effects if public resources are diverted from economically useful to economically useless activities. But the fact remains that there are economies that have continued to grow even in the face of such corruption[17]. In South Korea, family members of the former President have gone to jail, and Prime Ministers have been indicted in Japan on charges of corruption. Nevertheless Japan is among the richest countries in the world and South Korea has vaulted into the ranks of developed countries within the period of a few decades. This is not a defence of corruption. The world would be a better place without it and it does impose a cost on the economy. But the contention that corruption is our biggest problem and we need to eliminate it before meaningful change can occur is not supported by evidence. We need to look beyond the simple answer to figure out what else is holding back economic growth in our country[18].

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[15] Jain, Arvind K., (Ed.). Economics of Corruption (New York: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1998).
[16] Ibid.
[17] Stapenurst, Rick, and Sahr Kpundeh (Eds.). Curbing Corruption (Washington DC: World Bank Economic Development Institute, 1998).
[18] Supra355-356.

Corruption in the Legislative Branch

The behaviour of Indian legislators both at the Centre and in the States leaves a lot to be desired. Every time they act motivated by personal gain (unfortunately, it is more common than it should be), they betray their constituencies that elected them.

Corruption in the assemblies as seen from this perspective implies floor crossing, cash-for-vote, taking money or other benefits to ask questions, framing rules under the influence of big corporate houses at the cost of common people, etc. When the government is running on thin majority, potential defectors can take the government to ransom. The collapse of the Janata Party Government (1977-80), fall of V. P. Singh and Chandrashekhar Government (1990-91), turning his minority Government into majority by Narsimha Rao by buying JMM MPs, split in Telugu Desam Party (1994), defection of Ajit Singh with his supporters to Congress (1993), defection of S. S. Vaghela from BJP, maneuvering defection by Kalyan Singh to keep the BJP led Government in power in UP are some of examples to prove that a sizeable number of our politicians are not immune to corruption. The most recent example is the 2008 case of cash for vote scandal where some BJP MPs claimed to have been offered cash to vote Manmohan Singh's government. The supposed mastermind, Amar Singh, and two BJP MPs are in Jail and case is being investigated. Criminalization of politics is yet another facet of corruption. In the current parliament, there are over a quarter MPs with criminal records, many with serious charges, against them. It also highlights an area where electoral reform is urgently needed so that criminals don't enter in the parliament or state assemblies[19].

Corruption in the Executive Branch

Ministers are at the top of the hierarchy of the executive branch. The most blatant recent case of corruption at the highest level is the 2G spectrum scam which forced telecom minister, A. Raja to resign and is now in jail along with another DMK law-maker. Sukhram was another minister in the nineties in the same ministry to go to jail. Fodder scan in Bihar is another scandal for which Laloo Yadav is being tried; however, few people expect conviction. But such exposures and trials are rare; often only the smaller fishes get caught. Collision between the top bureaucrats and ministers is unfortunately not rare in India. The report card of the rest of the bureaucracy is also not very flattering. Bureaucratic corruption thrives on red-tape, complicated procedures, and discretionary power. Governance in India is characterized by a lack of transparency in rules, complicated procedures and a bureaucracy that enjoys broad discretionary power. There is an exclusivist process of decision-making, overly centralized government, and the absence of effective internal control mechanisms[20]. A recent analysis of reports of bribery demands in India conducted by Trace International was published in January 2009. It provides an overview of the general pattern of corruption in the country. 90% demand for bribe came from government officials, of which over 65% for avoiding harassment. 50% bribery was for timely delivery of services to which the individuals were already entitled; only about 10% were meant to provide any

[19] Ibid
[20] Ramakrishna, P.V. Anti-Corruption Laws in India (Hyderabad: S.Gogia, 1998).

advantage. These findings confirm the prevalence of the bureaucratic and administrative corruption when the public and public officials interact. Bureaucratic corruption pervades the Indian administrative system with widespread practices of bribery, nepotism, and misuse of official positions and resources. The Bertelsmann Foundation 2008 report states that India is characterized by a deeply rooted patronage system and pervasive corruption at all levels of the polity and administration. The 2006 World Bank Enterprise Survey also confirms the prevalence of bureaucratic and administrative corruption in the country. Red tape and wide ranging administrative discretion serve as a pretext for extortion and almost 50% of the firms surveyed expected to pay informal payments to public officials to get things done. 26% respondents identified corruption as a major constraint for doing business in the country[21].

Corruption in the Judiciary

Independence of the judiciary is guaranteed by the Constitution. India is ranked at 26th of 131 countries on indicators of judicial independence in the Global Competitiveness Report 20072008. However, political interference in judicial decisions involving powerful individuals, just as in investigation, is a sure possibility. In spite of the various legal provisions in place, the appointment of judges is not always free from political interference. Recent Global Integrity Report also rates judicial accountability as weak. High court and Supreme Court judges can only be removed through impeachment in the parliament; this makes fighting corruption in higher judiciary rather impractical. Recent impeachment of Justice Saumitra Sen in the Rajya Sabha is a rare event[22]. There are other cases of corruption at higher level such as that of Justice Dinakaran of Sikkim High Court and justice Nirmal Yadav of the Uttarakhand High Court. The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, prescribes judicial inquiry followed by impeachment. In the case involving Supreme Court Judge Justice V. Ramaswamy, the inquiry indicted him but the impeachment motion fell through in Parliament in 1992. There has been a wide-spread corruption scandal – Rs 23 crore Ghaziabad PF scam – involving a Supreme Court judge (now retired), 7 Allahabad High Court Judges, 12 judges from the subordinate courts, and 6 retired high Court judges. The key accused died in jail mysteriously in October 2009. The recent charge of Supreme Court lawyer, Shanti Bhusan that many former Chief Justices of India were corrupt has given a new twist to judicial corruption. The huge backlog of cases (there are over 3 crore pending cases), slow and complicated court procedures are another course of corruption in the judiciary[23].

Political Corruption

People's trust in democratic processes is seriously undermined by opaque financing of electoral processes, various forms of corrupt practices, and misuse of power. Although politicians are regularly involved in major corruption scandals, investigations of their activities are rare and conviction of politicians and civil servants are rarer. Circumstantial evidences of buying votes of legislators with bribe or promises of "lucrative positions" are fairly common in Indian politics[24]. According to the 2007 Global Corruption Barometer, Indian citizens perceive the political parties as amongst the most corrupt in the country – India got a score of 4.6 on a 5 point scale. Freedom House 2008 reports that the electoral system relies on black money obtained by dubious means, including tax evasion. According to a 2009 Global Integrity report, the country struggles with promoting transparency and accountability in the financing of political parties and candidates. For instance, there are currently no regulations that require parties or candidates to disclose donations. Lack of transparency in electoral funding and entry of criminals into the electoral process are two major sources of political corruption that is at the root of several other corrupt practices in the country[25].

Corruption in India

Corruption is widespread in India. India has been ranked 94th out of 176 countries in Transparency International's 2012 corruption perception index (CPI). Corruption has taken the role of a pervasive aspect of Indian Politics and Bureaucracy. The economy of India was under socialist, inspired policies for an entire generation from the 1950s until the 1980s. The economy was shackled by extensive regulation protectionism and public ownership, leading to pervasive corruption and slow growth[26].

Since 1991, economic liberalization in India has reduced red type and bureaucracy, supported the transition towards a market economy and transformed the economy with high growth rate. However, although the Indian economy has become the 4th largest in the world, the growth has been uneven across social and economic groups and poverty is still on issue. Endemic and deep rooted corruption is a major factor for most social and political ills. It is a serious threat not just too sustainable economic growth, but also to the socio-political fabric of the country.

In Indian civilization, corruption has caused maximum suffering to the humankind. In ancient Indian history the great Indian philosopher Kautilya says "just as it is not possible, not to taste honey or poison put on the surface of the tongue, so it is not possible for the government servant dealing with money not to taste it in however small a quantity[27]."

On the difficulties of corruption detection Kautilya says "just as a fish moving under water cannot possibly be found out either as drinking or not drinking water, so government servant employed in the government works cannot be found out taking money.

After the independence corruption is widespread in Indian bureaucratic and political system fill lust small point to apex. According to an international report, the much amount of Indian black money deposited in Tax Heaven Foreign banks, if which is come out in India. Then the annual budget of India can be made without tax lies to next 30 years. It is surmisal that

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[21] Ibid

[22] anthanam Committee (India) (1964) Report of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, New Delhi: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

[23] Supra p14.

[24] Basu, K. (2007) "Let the cream percolate," Outlook Special Issue: State of the Nation, New Delhi, 47(15): 28.

[25] Ibid.

[26] Dwivedi, O.P. (1967) "Bureaucratic corruption in developing countries," Asian Survey, 7(4): 245–53.

[27] Ibid.

the is how much widespread in present India after independence probably that high profile scandal was the jeep scam in 1948, when jeeps were required for the army operation in Kashmir. Other notable scandals include the Mudgal case (1951), Mundra case (1957 – 58), Malviya – Sirajuddin Scandal (1963)[28].

The governing climate in those days can be gauged from the many observations. A.D. Gorwala committee, set up to suggest ways to improve the system of governance. The Santhanam committee (1962) examine the problem of corruption observed in 1964 that "there is widespread impression that failure of integrity is not uncommon among ministers and that some ministers, who have held office during the last sixteen years have enriched themselves illegitimately, obtained good jobs for their sons and relations through nepotism and have reaped other advantages inconsistent with any notion of purity in public life." In later years corruption will be gradually widespread in Indian society and no effective measures have yet been installed that curb the menace. The lokpal bill could not be passed in last decades; it speaks for the utter lack of political will in the country[29].

In recent years so many major scandals involving high level public officials have shaken the Indian public services. These scandals suggest corruption has become a pervasive aspect of Indian political and bureaucratic system. Some of them major scams are following –

1. Coal Allotment Scam (Cost – 186000 Crores)
2. G Spectrum Scam (Cost – 176000 Crores)
3. Commonwealth Games (CWG) Scam (Cost – 70000 Crores)
4. Mega black money laundering Scam (Cost – 70000 Crores)
5. Adarsh Housing Scam (Cost – 18978 Crores)
6. Stamp Paper Scam (Cost – 20000 Crores)
7. Boforce Scam (Cost – 400 Million)
8. Fodder Scam (Cost – 950 Crores)
9. Hawala Scam (Cost – 8000 Crores)
10. Satyam Scam (Cost – 14000 Crores)
11. Stock Market Scam (Cost – 3500 Crores)
12. Madhu Koda Scam (Cost – 4000 Crores)[30].

The resounding success of Munnabhai MBBS, a Bollywood film about fighting corruption in public life through Gandhian principles (Gandhigiri) shows how the public at large associates itself with day-to-day experiences of corruption. CMS (2005: 1-4) mentions that 62 percent of respondents said that they had personal experience of paying bribes or "using contacts" to get jobs done in public offices. The same survey revealed that three-fourths of citizens believe that the level of corruption in public services is increasing. According to this survey, the police stand out highest on the corruption index followed by the judiciary (lower courts) and land administration. The level of corruption varies in different parts of the country and over different government sectors including essential services like health, education, water supply and other civic amenities. The existence of such a high level of

corruption impelled Justice Markandeya Katju of the Supreme Court of India to remark that corrupt persons should be hanged from the nearest lamp post. Former Chief Vigilance Commissioner, N. Vittal mentions that owing to the corruption and inefficiency in four specific departments-Customs, Central Excise, Income Tax and the Enforcement Directorate-and the resultant failure to curb illegal activities and evasion of taxes, the Indian economy is experiencing a high quantum of black money estimated to be around Rs 400–401,000 billion. He further states that a substantial portion of the film, urban construction and various other small industries are thriving on this illegally generated wealth. Moreover, the use of such money in elections promotes nexus between criminals and politicians. This state of affairs has existed for more than four decades, as the Santhanam Committee lamented: "We wish we could confidently and without reservation assert that at the political level, Ministers, Legislators, party officials were free from this malady". The situation has subsequently become more acute[31].

Although, in the last two decades, newspaper headlines have reported various scams involving highly placed politicians, bureaucrats and businesspersons, there have not been any significant convictions. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) points out that public procurement are one of the major sources of corruption. Khare states the paradox of the media, which is expected to be a watchdog for probity in public life, having lost its strength because those involved in it are corruptible for positions of power and personal financial gains. Vittal mentions that initially in the post-independence era individuals attempted to corrupt institutions, but later corruption became institutionalized and an inevitable culture in public life[32]. In a study of the metropolitan water supply and sanitation of India, Davis mentions five major areas of corruption: (1) speed money for seeking new electric connections/getting repairs; (2) collusive action for illegal connection or falsifying bills; (3) commissions in award of contracts for works and services; (4) kickbacks in execution of works/procurement of machinery and equipments; and (5) transfers to "plum" positions. In some instances, government agencies are known to use front organizations for the perpetuation of corruption. In a study by concerning India's elite Indian Administrative Service (IAS), it was found that 66 percent of cases of alleged misconduct concerned undue favor and/or causing undue loss to the organization, 11 percent the possession of assets disproportionate to known sources of income, and 6 percent the demand/acceptance of bribes. If this is the status of the elite service, the extent of corruption in other services can be guessed. It is against this background that the Supreme Court of India made the observation on 3 February 2000 that corruption in a civilized society is like cancer which, if not detected in time, is sure to render malignant the polity of the country, leading to disastrous consequences for the socioeconomic– political system. The Court added that corruption is not only anti-people; it is aimed at and targeted against them. Like his predecessors, Dr Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India, pointed out that corruption is eating away the vitals of institutions of governance and the society and is a threat to the national well-being. Reiterating national

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[28] Dwivedi, O.P. and Jain, R.B. (1988) "Bureaucratic morality in India," International Political Science Review, 9(3): 20514.
[29] Maheshwari, S.R. (2002) Administrative Reforms in India, New Delhi: Macmillan.
[30] Jeevan Singh Rajak, IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 18, Issue 5 (Nov. - Dec. 2013),e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845 p.20

[31] U.Myint 2000; Corruption : Cause, consequences and cures; Asia – Pacific Development Journal Vol. 7, No.2 December 2000.
[32] Ibid.

resolve for providing a corruption-free, transparent, accountable, responsive and responsible governance system, the prime minister urged zero tolerance to corruption and a multi pronged approach to stem the rot[33].

Causes of Corruption

Corruption is a global phenomenon and it is omnipotent. It has progressively increased and is now rampant in our society. Corruption in India has wings, not wheels. As the nation grows, the corrupt also grow to invent new methods of cheating the government and public. The cause of corruption is many and complex. The following are some other causes of corruption:-

- Emergence of political elite which believes in interest oriented rather than nation oriented programmes and policies.
- Artificial scarcity created by people with malevolent intention wrecks the fabrics of the economy.
- Corruption is caused as well as increased because of the change in the value system and ethical qualities of men who administer. The old ideals of morality, services and honesty are regarded as anachronistic.
- Tolerance of people towards corruption, complete lack of intense public outcry against corruption and the absence of a strong public forum to oppose corruption allows corruption to rein our people.
- Vast size of population coupled with widespread illiteracy and the poor economic infrastructure lead to endemic corruption in public life.
- In a highly inflationary economy, low salaries of government officials compel them to resort to corruption. Graduates from Indian institutes of management with no experience draw a far handsome salary than what government secretaries draw.
- Complex laws and procedures deter common people from seeking help from the government.
- Elution time is a time when corruption is at its peak.

Big industrialists fund politicians to meet high cost of election and ultimately to seek personal favour. Bribery to politicians buys influences and bribery by politicians buys votes. In order to get elected, politicians bribe poor, illiterate people[34].

Some of the causes have been identified for widespread and rampant corruption in India, here it follows

- Social environment
- Political causes
- Administrative delays
- Complicated and cumbersome administrative procedure.
- Outdated, colonial model of bureaucracy.
- Low salaries of public servants
- Administrative culture
- Un-controlled political parties
- Lack of inner party democracy in Indian political parties

- Lack of electoral reforms
- In efficient judicial system.
- In adequate law to deal with corruption cases.
- Lack of transparent laws
- Excessive regulations in administration
- Political patronage of public servants
- Clumsy handling of corruption cases
- In efficient constitutional, legal and institutional framework mechanism against corruption.
- Absence of strong public opinion and civil society against corruption.
- Lack of political commitment against corruption
- Weak local self government institutions[35].

Remedies to combat corruption

Some suggestions have been made to combat the extent of corruption in Indian administration; some of these are examined below.

Administrative procedure should be simplified and delays eliminated

It is one of the main causes of corruption in India. To reduce and control corruption in administration it is necessary to eliminate such type of procedures and delays.

Office procedures should be simplified and level of hierarchy reduced. New pattern of decision making process ought to be evolved. We should have single window system and effective and machinery for governmental functioning.

Declaration of Assets

Law should be passed to make it obligatory for all ministers, MPs, MLAs, all levels of public servants to declare their assets owned by them, their spouses and children every year. These should be made available to everyone who wants to pay for it. Any falsification should be declared as a punishable offence.

Investigating agency should have teeth and Autonomy

The most important thing is to have an autonomous and effective agency to investigate into corruption cases, the present form of Central Bureau Investigation, Central and State Vigilance commission is not having proper autonomy to function effectively.

Separate Courts for Corruption Cases

Separate courts should be established to deal with corruption cases in India.

Creation of Administrative Courts

Administrative courts should be created for redressal of citizens grievances against administrative authorities. These courts should deal with administrative law for trial of cases of disputes between citizens and administration. It should be separated from ordinary court.

[33] Bardhan, P. (1997) "Corruption and development: a review of issues," Journal of Economic Literature, 35(3): 1320–46

[34] Ades, Alberto and Rafael di Tella. 1996 "The Causes and Consequences of Corruption: A Review of Recent Empirical Contributions," IDS Bulletin, 27, No. 2,

[35] S. Prabhu, corruption in india: causes and remedies, ijsr - international journal of scientific research, issue : 11 | november 2013 • issn no 2277 – 8179,p483.

Alternate to Bureaucratic Model

Our present form of bureaucracy is inefficient, rule oriented, neutral, dysfunctional, and also highly corrupt. We have to find out a new model of bureaucracy Alternate to old model, United Kingdom's agency type model system should be introduced in all important departments.

Improving good governance parameters

Our administration should have improved good governance parameters. It can be helpful to minimize the extent of corruption in Indian administration.

Electoral Reforms

The biggest cause for corruption in today's India is mainly because of politicians and political parties. It is an urgent need to evolve a new strategy, and code of conduct to regulate the political party activities. Strong amendment should be made to people's representation Act.

Decentralization of Administration

Decentralized administration helps to reduce the corruption. Because it takes decision making process closer to beneficiaries at bottom level. Devolution of more powers to local self government institution is mandatory for reducing corruption in India.

Administration should be made Accountable

In India we have a big government performing enormous functions. Decisions are taken at various levels of administration where use of discretionary power may be involved. It is difficult for legislators to exercise control over administration and also Judiciary is bogged down by heaps of mounting arrears of cases. So the principle of accountability does not work in the desired manner. We have to ensure accountability at all levels of administration.

Strong Civil Society

We needed strong civil society that takes initiative instead of depending helplessly on politicians and officials to fight against corruption.

Creation of strong Public opinion against corruption

Public opinion must be created against corrupt politicians and officers unless people take up cudgels against corruption, no amount of anti corruption measures can succeed.

Establishment of Strong, Efficient Lokpal at Centre and Lokayukta in States

Establishment of strong lokpal at centre and lokayukta in states need of the hour, because at present we are not having Independent, empowered, accountable institution to investigate the complaints of corruption cases and prosecute the guilty.

State Funding of election

State funding of elections expenses may encourage honourable and well meaning individuals can enter into politics[36].

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[36] Supra 484.

CONCLUSION

Highly corrupt India is poorly governed may be the main reason for rampant and widespread corruption in India. Despite having economic reforms, increased transparency, E-governance tools, corruption in public life continues to grow. Corruption and good governance go hand in hand in India, so controlling corruption is a tough task in India. Because corruption and bribery has affected our total political, administrative and economic system like cancer disease. Whether, it is possible to control corruption in India. I think it may not be possible to eliminate corruption at all levels but it is possible to control it within tolerable limits unless people say 'No' to illegal gratification or expose such greedy public servants and politicians, the corruption chain can't be broken in India. We needed well functioning state with more focus on people, strengthening our legal and institutional framework mechanism to control the corruption is the need of the hour and order of the day. Corruption and bribery is a contemporary challenge that is posed to every citizen of India how to conquer the menace of corruption in India. Let us take a view to create an atmosphere free from corruption in India means that may be our highest achievement.

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