



सत्यमेव जयते



केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग
CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION

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सं./No.....No. 000-VGL-18-469044

दिनांक / Dated.....14.12.2020

Circular No.18/12/20

Subject: Timely finalization of Departmental Inquiry Proceedings-improving vigilance administration.

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| Ref: (i) Commission's Circular No. 8(1)(g)/99(2) | dated 19.02.1999 |
| (ii) Commission's Circular No. 8(1)(g)/99(3) | dated 03.03.1999 |
| (iii) Commission's Circular No. 3(v)/99(7) | dated 06.09.1999 |
| (iv) Commission's Circular No. 000/VGL/18 | dated 23.05.2000 |
| (v) Commission's Office Order No. 51/08/2004 | dated 10.08.2004 |
| (vi) Commission's Circular No. 02/01/2016 | dated 18.01.2016 |

The Central Vigilance Commission as part of its functions of exercising superintendence over the vigilance administration of the organizations covered under its advisory jurisdiction and for bringing about improvement and efficiency in the same, has been emphasizing on timely initiation and completion of the disciplinary proceedings, wherever required. The Commission is of the view that any delay in initiation or finalization of the disciplinary action is neither in the interest of the organization, nor that of the official concerned.

2. Guidelines have been issued by the Commission in this regard, defining the time limits for various stages of disciplinary proceedings, in order to ensure that there is no undue delay on the part of the concerned authorities/officials. However, it is observed that despite clear guidelines issued by the Commission and Department of Personnel & Training (DoP&T), the authorities/officials concerned are not adhering to the prescribed time-limit and the disciplinary proceedings in some cases take much longer time, which leads to unwarranted delay in finalization of disciplinary case. Any unexplained, undue delay may also be a cause of unnecessary litigation and provide undue advantage/harassment to the charged officer. Such delays on one hand help in evading penalty on guilty officials, while prolonging the agony of the officials who may have been charge-sheeted wrongly in few cases and are finally exonerated.

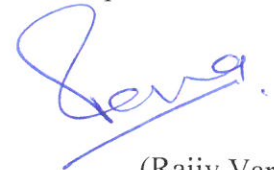
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3. The delay in completion of departmental proceedings on the part of the organization concerned has also attracted adverse comments from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 958 of 2010 Prem Nath Bali Vs. Registrar, High Court of Delhi & Anr in its judgment dated 16.12.2015.

4. In continuation of CVC's guidelines dated 23.05.2000 and DoPT OM dated 14.10.2013, the Commission therefore, to ensure prompt/timely action in disciplinary matters where major penalty proceedings have been initiated/are to be initiated, the following time limit may be adhered to: -

| Sl. No. | Stage of disciplinary action | Time Limit |
|---------|---|--|
| 1. | Issue of Charge Sheet to the stage of appointment of IO and PO | All the required actions may be completed within a period of 02 months from the date of issue of First Stage Advice of the Commission. |
| 2. | Conducting departmental inquiry and submission of report by the Inquiry officer (I.O.) | The inquiry report should be submitted within 6 months from the date of appointment of inquiry officers |
| 3. | Overall additional time for all/any of the above stages of disciplinary proceedings, due to some unavoidable/unforeseen circumstances | In addition to the above time limit, a period of 1 more month may be taken, if required. |

5. The Commission desires that the above time limit should be adhered to strictly by the authorities in the organisations concerned. Since initiation and conduct of disciplinary proceedings is within the domain of the disciplinary authority concerned, the CVOs may bring the above guidelines of the Commission to the notice of the competent authorities for compliance.



(Rajiv Varma)
Officer on Special Duty

To

- (i) The Secretaries of all Ministries/Departments of GoI
- (ii) All Chief Executives of CPSUs/Public Sector Banks/Public Sector Insurance Companies/Autonomous Bodies etc.
- (iii) All CVOs of Ministries/Departments of GoI/CPSUs/Public Sector Banks/Public Sector Insurance Companies/Autonomous Bodies etc.
- (iv) Website of CVC

Copy to:

Department of Personnel & Training [Shri Lok Ranjan, Additional Secretary, DoP&T],
North Block, New Delhi-110 001 for information and necessary action.