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Required More Stringent Corruption Laws in India

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ABSTRACT

Corruption poses a significant threat to the economic, social, and political fabric of any nation, impeding progress and hindering the realization of its full potential. India, as a rapidly growing economy and vibrant democracy, has made strides in combating corruption, yet the need for more stringent anti-corruption laws remains evident. This abstract delves into the imperative of enhancing the legal framework to address corruption in India comprehensively. The current anti-corruption laws in India, embodied in statutes like the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, have shown limitations in effectively tackling the evolving nature of corrupt practices. This abstract argues for a multifaceted approach to fortify the legal arsenal against corruption. India has several laws that Govern & helps in prevention of corruption in Indian territory by application of laws/Acts IPC(Indian Penal Code ,1860), Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 etc, But it fails to stops corruption as the punishment is not that much rigorous in nature and Corruption in India is a complex issue influenced by Various Factors, Such as Weak enforcement, Bureaucratic inefficiencies and Societal attitudes. Laws alone may not be sufficient without effective implementation, transparent systems, and a culture that discourages corruption.

Keywords: *Stringent Corruption, Laws in India.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Corruption has long been a pervasive issue in India, undermining the fabric of governance, eroding public trust, and impeding socioeconomic progress. Recognizing the imperative need for a robust anti-corruption framework, there is a growing call for the implementation of more stringent corruption laws in the country. This proposed measure aims to address the loopholes in existing legislation, fortify accountability mechanisms, and foster a culture of transparency. By elevating the consequences for corrupt practices, India seeks to usher in an era where ethical governance prevails, fostering an environment conducive to sustainable development and social justice.

Corruption is a form of dishonesty or criminal offense that occurs when someone in a position of power abuses that power for their own benefit. It can also be defined as the misuse of public

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power, position, or funds. Corruption is a complex social, political, and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. It can have a big impact on everyone and adversely affects the economic growth and prosperity of a country.

II. TYPES OF CORRUPTION

There are a number of different ways to categorize types of corrupt practices. These six categories include the misuse of public funds, bribery, cronyism, favoritism, nepotism, and sabotage.

1. **Bribery:** Offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting something of value as a means to influence the actions of an individual or institution in a position of authority.
2. **Embezzlement:** Misappropriation or theft of funds or assets entrusted to one's care, often by those in positions of financial responsibility such as government officials, corporate executives, or non-profit administrators.
3. **Extortion:** Coercing individuals or entities to provide money, goods, or services through threats, intimidation, or manipulation of power.
4. **Nepotism and Cronyism:** Favouritism shown to relatives or close associates, often resulting in the unfair allocation of opportunities, resources, or positions.
5. **Kickbacks:** Illicit payments or favours provided in return for preferential treatment, such as awarding contracts, licenses, or employment opportunities.
6. **Conflict of Interest:** Engaging in activities or relationships that may compromise one's impartiality or decision-making, particularly in positions of public trust.
7. **Fraud:** Deception or misrepresentation for personal gain, including financial fraud, identity theft, and fraudulent invoicing.
8. **Money Laundering:** Concealing the origins of illegally obtained money by channelling it through legitimate businesses or financial transactions.
9. **Influence Peddling:** Exerting influence or leveraging connections to gain advantages or favourable treatment, often through lobbying, political contributions, or manipulation of public opinion.
10. **Graft:** Illicit gains acquired through the abuse of power or authority, typically involving bribery, embezzlement, or kickbacks.
11. **Clienteles:** Exchanging goods, services, or favours for political support, often leading to the allocation of resources based on loyalty rather than merit.

12. **Abuse of Power:** Misuse or exploitation of authority for personal or political gain, including arbitrary enforcement of laws, suppression of dissent, or intimidation of opponents.

III. CAUSES OF CORRUPTIONS

Corruption causes a wide array of detrimental effects on societies, economies, institutions, and individuals. Here are some of the primary causes:

1. **Economic Impacts:** Corruption distorts market mechanisms, undermines fair competition, and hampers economic growth. It discourages investment, both domestic and foreign, by increasing uncertainty and reducing trust in the integrity of business environments.
2. **Weakened Governance:** Corruption erodes the legitimacy and effectiveness of government institutions, leading to a loss of public trust and confidence. It undermines the rule of law, weakens democratic processes, and fosters a culture of impunity, where those in power act with impunity.
3. **Inequality and Poverty:** Corrupt practices often divert resources away from essential services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, exacerbating socio-economic inequalities. The most vulnerable populations, such as the poor and marginalized, suffer disproportionately from the consequences of corruption.
4. **Social Instability:** Corruption fuels social unrest and undermines social cohesion by deepening grievances and fostering a sense of injustice. In extreme cases, it can contribute to political instability, conflict, and even state failure, as seen in some regions around the world.
5. **Environmental Degradation:** Corruption in natural resource management, environmental regulation, and enforcement leads to unsustainable exploitation of resources, deforestation, pollution, and other environmental harms. This not only undermines environmental sustainability but also exacerbates the vulnerability of communities dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods.
6. **Undermined Public Services:** Corruption undermines the quality and accessibility of public services, including education, healthcare, and justice systems. Resources meant for public welfare are siphoned off through corrupt practices, resulting in substandard services, lack of accountability, and diminished public trust in government institutions.
7. **Impaired Development:** Corruption hampers efforts to achieve sustainable

development goals by diverting resources from productive investments and essential services. It undermines development initiatives, reduces the effectiveness of aid programs, and perpetuates cycles of poverty and underdevelopment.

8. **Damage to Business Environment:** Corruption increases the cost of doing business, distorts market competition, and deters investment. It creates an uneven playing field where success is often determined by personal connections and bribes rather than merit and innovation.
9. **Undermined Human Rights:** Corruption can contribute to human rights abuses by enabling impunity, undermining the rule of law, and facilitating the repression of dissent. It exacerbates inequality and discrimination, particularly against marginalized groups who may lack access to resources or recourse against corrupt practices.
10. **Loss of Trust and Confidence:** Corruption erodes trust in public institutions, undermines social norms, and fosters cynicism and apathy among citizens. It diminishes confidence in the fairness and integrity of governance systems, hindering efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and democratic governance.
11. **Corruption is caused by Poverty or Lack of Resources:** Some people have to take bribes for themselves, their families, or their villages because they are so poor that they have no resources. They might get a better education for themselves or a job for somebody in the family. They may be able to afford food, water, clothes, and housing. But when you can't feed your children it is hard to think about anything else but money. For example, this causes some fathers to trade sexual favors with their daughters in exchange for money or gifts. Sometimes women will trade sex with strangers just to make ends meet.
12. **Corrupt Politicians exist because there is a lack of information among the general public who vote them into office:** A lot of politicians come from wealthy backgrounds and don't understand what poverty feels like as well as those who have lived through it firsthand. If a politician wants to help impoverished countries then he/she needs to have an understanding of the problems these countries face. It also helps if politicians listen more carefully to the people who are most affected by these problems and use less jargon when explaining things to them. Politicians should also work on reforming economic policies that keep countries in poverty such as unfair trade agreements or inadequate monetary support programs. In order to fix the system, we need to change how governments fund themselves which leads us to point 3.

13. The third cause of corruption is an Inadequate Government Funding System: Governments must provide services (such as healthcare) to citizens- One way to do this is through taxes; however, it can be difficult for governments to collect taxes from their citizens in areas where tax evasion exists and large numbers of people live below the poverty line. Tax evasion includes not paying income taxes, buying items without paying sales tax, and not declaring all assets. Tax evasion reduces government revenue and funds needed for schools, hospitals, police forces, and other essential government institutions. By ensuring that everyone pays their fair share of taxes, governments would be able to give back services to those living in poverty.

IV. CIVIL SOCIETY APPROACHES TO ANTI-CORRUPTION

A report in 2000 by the United Nations Development Programmed states that the relationships between various actors in society (government, civil society, media, business) are important to anti-corruption efforts. Civil society organizations' (CSOs) contributions range from awareness-raising and prevention campaigns to participation in policy formation and monitoring of the implementation of anti-corruption strategies and legislation. CSOs are especially engaged in empowering citizens and exerting pressure on governments to address their international commitments. All these activities are crucial for building national anti-corruption capacity and supporting institutional reform.

While there are encouraging examples of governments proactively embracing civil society in anti-corruption work, in an increasing number of countries CSOs have been undermined and targeted by governments; sometimes precisely because of their anti-corruption engagement.

CSOs cannot perform their vital role where they are subject to constraints that negate their rights to participate, associate, assemble and express freely. In response to restrictions on civic space in recent years, there have been calls for strengthening the framework for participation.

One approach to promoting this healthy social dialogue is through training programs aimed at increasing public knowledge of government accountability and encouraging citizens to demand it. Additionally, many NGOs work on technical projects as well as advocacy campaigns that help increase transparency in government decision-making.

1. **Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns:** CSOs raise awareness about the detrimental effects of corruption through public education campaigns, media outreach, and community engagement. They advocate for transparency, accountability, and institutional reforms to address the root causes of corruption.

2. **Monitoring and Oversight:** CSOs monitor government activities, public spending, and the implementation of anti-corruption measures. They conduct independent audits, investigations, and assessments to identify instances of corruption and hold public officials accountable.
3. **Legal and Policy Advocacy:** CSOs advocate for the enactment of anti-corruption laws, policies, and regulations that strengthen accountability mechanisms, promote transparency, and deter corrupt practices. They provide expertise and technical assistance to lawmakers and government agencies in drafting and implementing effective anti-corruption measures.
4. **Capacity Building:** CSOs build the capacity of government agencies, civil society actors, and the private sector to prevent, detect, and combat corruption effectively. They offer training, workshops, and technical assistance on topics such as ethics, transparency, investigative journalism, and anti-corruption compliance.
5. **Community Engagement and Empowerment:** CSOs empower communities to demand transparency, accountability, and good governance at the local level. They mobilize citizens through grassroots campaigns, civic education initiatives, and participatory decision-making processes to hold public officials accountable and monitor public service delivery.
6. **Collaboration and Networking:** CSOs collaborate with government agencies, international organizations, academia, and other stakeholders to exchange information, share best practices, and coordinate efforts in the fight against corruption. They participate in multi-stakeholder initiatives, anti-corruption coalitions, and advocacy networks to amplify their impact and leverage collective action.
7. **Media and Journalism:** CSOs work with journalists and media organizations to investigate and expose cases of corruption, promote transparency, and hold public officials accountable. They support investigative journalism, freedom of the press, and media integrity initiatives to ensure that corruption scandals are brought to light and addressed effectively.
8. **Social Accountability Mechanisms:** CSOs facilitate citizen participation in governance processes and promote social accountability mechanisms such as citizen monitoring, budget tracking, and public hearings. They empower communities to engage with government officials, demand transparency, and participate in decision-

making processes to prevent and combat corruption.

V. FOUR APPROACHES AND EFFICACY OF CONTROLLING CORRUPTION

1. Transparency – This is the easiest way to approach corruption because it only requires the keeping of public records, but it does not prevent any actions from happening. This can also be used in conjunction with other methods, such as mandating that all transactions are handled online in order to provide a complete record.
2. Legislation – Laws can help prevent many forms of corruption by providing guidelines and limitations for what an individual or organization is able to do. However, even if laws exist to keep people honest, those who break them will not be caught unless they are investigated.
3. Education – Corruption starts at a young age when individuals become aware of how the world works and begin to see some adults taking advantage of others on behalf of their friends or family members. There need to be more education programs available on how corruption affects everyone as well as more monitoring systems within schools themselves to make sure teachers are teaching students rather than making money off bribes.
4. Self-interest – When someone has self-interest, they have the motivation to act without considering how their actions affect others. They care primarily about themselves and are likely to use bribery and extortion tactics in order to benefit themselves while harming anyone else who gets in their way. Although this type of person might appear selfish, they often neglect themselves in pursuit of short-term goals which ultimately harm them long-term.

VI. INDIAN CONTEXT OF CORRUPTION

Corruption in India has been a persistent challenge, affecting various sectors such as politics, bureaucracy, and business. The complex nature of this issue involves both petty corruptions at the grassroots level and high-level corruption scandals. Efforts to combat corruption include legislative measures, anti-corruption agencies, and awareness campaigns, but the issue remains deeply rooted in the country's social and political fabric. Addressing corruption in India requires a multi-pronged approach involving transparency, accountability, and a collective commitment to ethical governance.

Corruption in India has been a persistent and pervasive issue, deeply rooted in the country's socio-political fabric. Spanning across various sectors, from government offices to private

enterprises, the menace of corruption has hindered India's progress and tarnished its global image.

At the heart of India's struggle against corruption lies a complex interplay of historical, cultural, and systemic factors. The colonial legacy left behind bureaucratic structures that were often inefficient and prone to corruption. Over time, this evolved into a deeply ingrained culture of bribery, favoritism, and nepotism.

Political corruption is a significant contributor to the problem. Politicians, entrusted with public resources, have sometimes exploited their positions for personal gain. This has led to the misallocation of funds meant for development projects, thereby hindering the nation's growth. The nexus between politicians and businesses further exacerbates the issue, as decisions are sometimes influenced by personal interests rather than the welfare of the public.

The judiciary, despite being an essential pillar of democracy, has not remained untouched by corruption. Delayed justice, bribery, and manipulation of the legal system have eroded public trust in the fairness of legal proceedings. This not only affects the common citizen but also discourages foreign investment, as a reliable legal framework is crucial for economic growth.

The police force, responsible for maintaining law and order, has faced allegations of corruption, affecting its effectiveness in ensuring public safety. Instances of bribery, extortion, and abuse of power have been reported, leading to a sense of impunity among law enforcement officials.

The education sector is not immune to corruption either. Cases of academic dishonesty, bribery in admissions, and manipulation of examination results have surfaced, compromising the quality of education and undermining the merit-based system.

While the government has taken steps to address corruption, including the introduction of anti-corruption laws and institutions, enforcement has often been inadequate. The lack of stringent measures and a slow judicial process contribute to a culture of impunity, where wrongdoers believe they can escape consequences.

Civil society has played a crucial role in raising awareness and demanding accountability. Movements like the Lokpal Bill agitation and the Right to Information (RTI) Act have empowered citizens to actively participate in the fight against corruption. However, sustained efforts are needed to create a more transparent and accountable governance system.

In conclusion, corruption in India is a multifaceted challenge that requires a comprehensive and sustained approach. Reforming bureaucratic structures, strengthening anti-corruption institutions, and fostering a culture of transparency and accountability are essential steps. The

collective efforts of citizens, civil society, and the government are crucial to overcoming this deep-seated issue and realizing India's full potential on the global stage.

(A) India has several laws and initiatives to combat corruption

a. Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is a key legislation in India aimed at combating corruption in the public sector. It provides for the prevention of corruption by public servants, as well as for the establishment of special courts for the trial of such offenses. Here are some key provisions and highlights of the Act:

1. **Definition of Offenses:** The Act defines various corrupt practices, including bribery, criminal misconduct by public servants, and abuse of official position for personal gain.
2. **Bribery:** Section 7 of the Act deals with the offense of taking gratification, other than legal remuneration, as a motive or reward for performing or abstaining from performing an official act.
3. **Criminal Misconduct:** Section 13 of the Act outlines the offense of criminal misconduct by a public servant, including using one's position for personal gain, obtaining valuable things without adequate consideration, and abusing one's position to obtain favours.
4. **Punishments:** The Act prescribes penalties for offenses related to corruption, including imprisonment and fines. The severity of the punishment varies depending on the nature and gravity of the offense.
5. **Investigation and Prosecution:** The Act empowers designated authorities, such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and state anti-corruption bureaus, to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption. It also provides for the appointment of special judges to try corruption cases.
6. **Asset Declaration:** Public servants are required to declare their assets and liabilities to the appropriate authorities to prevent illicit enrichment and identify potential conflicts of interest.
7. **Extraterritorial Jurisdiction:** The Act applies not only to offenses committed within India but also to offenses committed by Indian citizens or public servants outside the country, subject to certain conditions.
8. **Amendments:** The Act has undergone several amendments over the years to strengthen its provisions and enhance its effectiveness in combating corruption. These amendments

have addressed issues such as the definition of corruption, the scope of the Act, and procedural matters related to investigation and prosecution.

b. Right to Information Act, 2005

1. The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 is a landmark legislation in India that empowers citizens to seek information from public authorities, thereby promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance.
2. **Access to Information:** The RTI Act provides every citizen the right to access information held by public authorities, subject to certain exemptions and restrictions.
3. **Public Authorities Covered:** The Act applies to all public authorities, including government departments, ministries, public sector undertakings, and institutions funded or controlled by the government.
4. **Request for Information:** Any citizen can file a request for information with the designated Public Information Officer (PIO) of the respective public authority. The request can be made in writing, electronically, or through an online portal, specifying the information sought.
5. **Timeframe for Response:** The PIO is required to respond to the request within 30 days from the date of receipt. In case of failure to provide information or refusal to disclose certain information, the PIO must provide reasons for such action.
6. **Information Disclosure:** The RTI Act mandates proactive disclosure of certain categories of information by public authorities through websites, publications, and other means. This includes information related to their functions, powers, duties, budgets, and expenditure.
7. **Exemptions:** The Act provides for certain exemptions where disclosure of information may harm national security, compromise personal privacy, or impede law enforcement. However, these exemptions are subject to a public interest override, and information may still be disclosed if it serves a larger public interest.
8. **Appeal Mechanism:** If a citizen is not satisfied with the response received from the PIO, they can file an appeal with the designated Appellate Authority within the prescribed timeframe. Further appeals can be made to the Information Commission at the state or national level.
9. **Penalties for Non-Compliance:** The RTI Act includes provisions for penalties and disciplinary action against PIOs who fail to provide information or provide false or

misleading information. This is aimed at ensuring compliance and accountability in the implementation of the Act.

10. **Promotion of Awareness:** The Act emphasizes the importance of promoting awareness and education about the right to information among citizens, public authorities, and other stakeholders. This is essential for fostering a culture of transparency and accountability in governance.

c. Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013

This act has been enacted by our Honorable Parliament in year 2013 after the most famous Aandolan by social activist Shri Anna Hazare, which finally received the assent of Honorable President and was finally published in the Gazette on 01 January, 2014. The act provides establishment of various officers for curbing the corruption, known as Lokpal at the Central Level and Lokayukta at the State level, however some states have already enacted legislation prior to it and have already appointed Lokayuktas in their respective states for dealing with the cases of Corruption. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, is a significant legislation in India aimed at combating corruption at the highest levels of government.

1. **Establishment of Lokpal and Lokayuktas:** The Act provides for the establishment of Lokpal at the central level and Lokayuktas at the state level. These institutions are independent bodies tasked with investigating allegations of corruption against public servants, including elected officials and civil servants.
2. **Appointment of Lokpal:** The Lokpal is appointed by a selection committee chaired by the Prime Minister and consisting of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge nominated by them, and an eminent jurist nominated by the President of India.
3. **Jurisdiction:** The Lokpal has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against public servants at the central level, including the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Group A officers of the central government, and employees of corporations, societies, or autonomous bodies owned or controlled by the central government.
4. **Complaint Mechanism:** Any citizen can file a complaint of corruption with the Lokpal, either directly or through authorized representatives. The complaint must be in writing and accompanied by supporting documents or evidence.
5. **Investigation and Prosecution:** The Lokpal has the power to conduct investigations

into allegations of corruption and to prosecute public servants found guilty of corrupt practices. It can summon witnesses, examine documents, and take other necessary measures to carry out its functions.

6. **Timeframe for Disposal:** The Act mandates that inquiries by the Lokpal should be completed within a specified timeframe, ensuring timely resolution of corruption cases.
7. **Penalties for Non-Compliance:** The Act includes provisions for penalties and disciplinary action against public servants who fail to comply with the orders or directives of the Lokpal.
8. **Promotion of Transparency and Accountability:** The establishment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas is aimed at promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity in public administration by providing an independent mechanism for investigating and prosecuting corruption cases.

d. Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

The PMLA lays stringent regulations and obligations on the financial institutions and banks of the country to maintain records and books of the customers along-with complying with the guidelines of KYC (Know Your Customer), also with reporting the suspicious transactions to transactions exceeding a prescribed value to the appropriate authority.

The Central Bureau of India (CBI) is also empowered to investigate the cases of PMLA under the Act, which places both ED and CBI in the most prominent position with plethora of powers to curb and investigate in the matters of Anti-Corruption in India.

e. Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003

The CVC has been established by the Central Government under the Act to keep a supervision on all the anti-corruption agencies of the country along-with CBI. The CVC is more a think tank of the Central Government and primarily plans, advises and executes the policies to the anti-corruption agencies of the country along-with inquiring into the complaints received against the public servants under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The CVC has a general superintendence over the CBI and can refer cases to it, along-with the CVC is empowered with the powers of a civil court under the act, so it can impartially inquire to the corruption cases without any impediments and hurdles.

f. Fugitive Economic offenders Act, 2018

The act principally aims to deal with the cases of fugitive offenders who are the criminals against whom the case for economic offenses has been registered and who fled away from India

to escape the prosecution. The Act covers under its ambit all the fugitive economic offenders against whom a case has been registered involving the economic offenses of an amount of Rs. 100 crores or more, and who have either left the country permanently or are refusing to come back in India for avoiding the criminal prosecution and legal consequences. The economic offenses under the Act cover cases of benami transactions, corporate fraud, evasion of income tax, PCA and PMLA, etc.

g. **Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015**

The Act primarily levies high penal rates of tax on any undisclosed asset or evasion of any income held abroad by a person who is a resident of India, apart from it also lays down punishment for individual regarding non-disclosure of foreign income, willful concealment to evade tax and failure in furnishing the requisite returns. The act targets the assets been occurred by illegal means and corruption practices by the politicians and civil servants even if they are procured and kept offshore by the offenders.

VII. LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

1. Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India 2022 SC 633

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India while interpretation Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 held that mere possession or involvement in deriving the proceeds of crime is sufficient to constitute an offence under PMLA and it is not necessary to show the property as untainted, hence the word and for showing the proceeds of crime as untainted property is construed as or as it must not defeat the very purpose of the Act. The court further contended that for attracting the crime under PMLA mere indulging or assisting in the activity of gaining the proceeds in crime is sufficient and reliable piece of evidence and the property need not to be shown as untainted, otherwise the persons in crime syndicates will keep the proceeds of crime for years and will enjoy its fruits without any action by the law enforcement agencies. Therefore the section has to be read along-with the explanation been inserted by Amendment in year 2019, which sufficiently makes the involvement in activity to procure the proceeds of crime an offence under PMLA, 2002.

2. Shanthamma v. State of Telengana SC 192

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held in the case that, for establishing a case under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 "Demand for Bribe" and "Its Acceptance by the Public Servant" is the sine-qua-non for establishing a case against him, only recovery of amount from

the accused will not entail his conviction under the Act. The court noted the fact that the Prosecution Witness (PW)- I in the case has not stated the demand at the time of the trap and since then he had made improvements in his statements while examination-in-chief, which fails to establish that the accused made the demand of the bribe beyond reasonable doubt, henceforth the order of Hon'ble Telengana High Court was set aside and accused was acquitted from all her charges of corruption and bribery.

3. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) v. Ramesh Gelli 2016 3 SCC 788

In this case the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held that, the term public servant under Section 2 (c) of the PCA, 1988 includes directors and bank managers of a private banks as looking to their functions and nature of work, if they commit the offence of fraud or bribery resulting into financial losses to the society or any individual then for the purposes of prosecution under the statutory provisions of PCA, the private persons/employees of the bank will also be deemed to be public servants and prosecution against them is maintainable before the court of law.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This legal research has delved into a comprehensive exploration of corruption, dissecting its various facets, causes, and countermeasures. The journey commenced with a nuanced introduction, setting the stage for an in-depth analysis of corruption within the legal context. The paper then meticulously defined and elucidated the meaning of corruption, emphasizing its multifaceted nature that extends beyond mere financial malfeasance. Types of corruption were thoroughly examined, shedding light on the diverse manifestations of this societal malady. From petty bribery to grand-scale embezzlement, the paper elucidated how corruption permeates different strata of society. This understanding laid the groundwork for a detailed examination of civil society approaches to anti-corruption, emphasizing the pivotal role that non-governmental organizations and grassroots movements play in combating this pervasive issue. Identifying the main causes of corruption was a critical aspect of the paper, providing insights into the root factors that sustain corrupt practices. The exploration encompassed systemic issues, cultural influences, and individual motivations, contributing to a holistic understanding of corruption's genesis.

The subsequent section scrutinized corruption-controlling measures, elucidating both preventive and punitive strategies. By analyzing international best practices and drawing parallels with the Indian context, the paper illuminated the array of tools available to mitigate corruption's impact. Special attention was given to the Indian perspective, underscoring the unique challenges and initiatives undertaken within the nation. The Indian context of corruption

was thoroughly examined, recognizing its historical underpinnings and contemporary manifestations. The paper meticulously outlined several Indian laws enacted to combat corruption, offering a comprehensive overview of the legal framework in place. From the Prevention of Corruption Act to the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, the legislative arsenal aimed at curbing corruption was explored in detail. Furthermore, the research paper delved into the role of anti-corruption agencies in India, dissecting their structures, functions, and challenges. Landmark judgments that have shaped the legal landscape in the fight against corruption were analyzed, providing a glimpse into the judiciary's pivotal role in upholding the rule of law. In essence, this legal research paper has navigated through the intricate web of corruption, unraveling its complexities from multiple perspectives. From theoretical frameworks to practical implementations, the exploration has equipped readers with a comprehensive understanding of corruption and its countermeasures. As we conclude, it is evident that combating corruption requires a concerted effort from civil society, legislative bodies, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary. The insights gleaned from this research endeavor serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, legal practitioners, and scholars engaged in the ongoing battle against corruption, aiming for a more just and transparent society.

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