

CBI Part of the Rotten System

When a girl student was raped and brutally murdered in a private hostel. The state police had thrown a youth behind bars accusing hi, as perpetrator of the heinous crime. After nine years in the jail, the High Court had discharged him of all charges observing that he was innocent of the crime and was falsely implicated in the case by the police. The High court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to reinvestigate the case.

The state level police machinery in the country has lost credibility as they used to serve the interests of those in power. Feeling the need for an impartial enquiry, the people used to demand an investigation by CBI. Is CBI worthy of this peoples assumption of its impartiality. The answer is a big no.

The Chief Minister of AP, Mr.Naidu until few days back flaunted the cases registered against the opposition party leader YS Jaganmohan Reddy as a final proof corruption by Y S Jagan and his late father YS Rajasekar Reddy. When he came out the NDA recently he accused the CBI as a tool in the hands of the central government and withdrawn the general consent to CBI to operate in AP. Such is the double talk our politician can indulge.

It is an open secret that every government at the centre irrespective of the party in power has used CBI as a toll to harass and pressurize to fall in line other political party leaders (of even its own party) in order to achieve its own narrow political ends. The recent incidents in CBI has reiterated this fact.

The corruption charges on the director of CBI and counter charges on its special director have mired the CBI in an internal rivalry. Not only that, it had drawn the Prime Minister's Office, cabinet ministers, Central Vigilance Commi-ssioner, National security Advisor and many others as those who influenced and interfered in the affairs of CBI in their favour. It was clear that CBI is rotten to the core.

The Guwahati High Court ruled that CBI has no constitutional sanctity in 2013. Yet no corrective action was taken by the government as the CBI came handy in its current form. It is functioning under and answerable to the Ministry of personnel. It was instituted by an executive order to investigate corruption charges at central and state levels. Its track record in this regard is not bright to say the least. It is reported that, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, of the 1369 cases under investi-gation, 175 had been pending for more than two years, 394 about two years and 800 for less than ten years. Its success rate in corruption case is dismal 3 per cent.

All the high profile accused in the 2G scam was acquitted. In Hawala scam which involved prominent Congress and BJP leaders, the Supreme Court criticized the CBI for allowing the prime accused, the Jain brothers, to abscond. It is a well known fact that the CBI was ordered by PMO not to press for the extradition of the prime accused in the Bhopal Gas disaster, Warren Anderson. (In fact he was escorted by the Chief Minister of MP to airport to leave the country).

The prime accused in the Bofors case was never made to come to India and who finally benefited from the deal was never revealed, all under pressure of Prime minister's office.

The CNI's role in the escape of Vijay Mallya is well known. The progress of many of cases involving political leaders like fodder scam, St.Kitts etc either slowed down or hastened depending upon who came to the power at the centre.

The demand for a dedicated and impartial agency to investigate the cases of corruption and criminal acts at high level will remain as a pipe dream, given the money power that dictates the policies of the government and political parties. The Lok Pal Bill is one such pipe dream. Every political party pledges to enact the Bill; but it had not come into existence even though political power changed from one set of parties to other. The Supreme Court may decide the legal validity of the action purportedly taken by the central government, but no corrective action would be fruitful in stopping the political influence on CBI as the entire political system has rotten to the core.
