

11th May, 2011

Sub: Summary of the consensus views of Round Table on Lokpal held on 24th April 2011 in Delhi – Reg.

The Foundation for Democratic Reforms, a non-profit organization dedicated to political and governance reforms along with Lok Satta, Transparency International India and Centre for Media Studies has organized a Round Table Conference on Lokpal on April 24, 2011 in New Delhi. Eminent citizens with rich experience and expertise in all walks of life have participated in it. Among others, Justice MN Venkatachaliah and Justice JS Verma, former Chief Justices of India, Justice Santosh Hegde, Karnataka Lokayukta, Justice Rajindar Sachar, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Sri Soli Sorabjee, former Attorney General, Sri N Gopalaswami and Sri TS Krishnamurthy, former Chief Election Commissioners, Sri Pratyush Sinha, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner, members of the Lokpal Bill Drafting Committee Shri Shanti Bhushan, Sri Prashant Bhushan, Shri Aravind Kejariwal, and other distinguished persons participated in the Round Table. Several other eminent citizens gave their written inputs; and others who could not participate on account of scheduling conflict have endorsed the effort. The list of all the participants and contribution is enclosed.

Eighteen specific issues were posed to the Round Table. Background information on each issue with a comparative statement and reference material on draft government Bill, draft Janlokpal Bill, recommendations of Second Administrative Reforms Commission, and National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, the laws relating to Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in Hong Kong and Ombudsman in Sweden, Karnataka Lokayukta Act, Prevention of Corruption Act laws, and other relevant material have been circulated to all participants at least one week before the Round table. The copies of the comparative statement and reference material are enclosed.

There was a day long (10 AM to 5-15 PM) intense, purposive, focused discussion. The participants, given their distinguished record and rich experience, gave valuable inputs. On most issues, a broad consensus emerged. The discussions were recorded and were webcast live.

We are enclosing the summary of the consensus views on all the 18 issues discussed. This summary has been approved by Justice MN Venkatachaliah and Justice JS Verma, the two eminent former Chief Justices who guided the deliberations. While complete unanimity is not possible on such complex issues in a diverse society, the summary enclosed captures the broad consensus that emerged at the Round Table.

We are making the whole record available to you, so that the Government, the Drafting Committee, political parties and Parliament can take informed decisions in the best interests of the country. We are confident that these deliberations will help create a strong, robust, independent, effective, accountable anti-corruption mechanism applicable to the Union, States, and Local Governments simultaneously through an act of Parliament.

Should you need any clarification we will be happy to be of assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

Jayaprakash Narayan
General Secretary
Foundation for Democratic Reforms

Encl: 1. Views of the Round Table on Lokpal
2. Comparative Statement and Reference Material
3. List of Participants and contribution