

ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS 2002-2003

INDIA

PROJECT 1: REVIEW OF EXISTING CONDUCT RULES SPECIFIED FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL AND ALL INDIA SERVICES AND TRAINING OF OFFICIALS PERFORMING THE VIGILANCE FUNCTION IN MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS AND PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES

1. Summary

Country:	India
Project title:	Review of existing conduct rules specified for members of central and all India services and training of officials performing the vigilance function in ministries/departments and public sector enterprises
Priority reform area:	Pillar 1 – Developing Effective and Transparent Systems of Public Management – Integrity in Civil Services - – Promotion of Codes of Conduct in line with existing relevant international standards and regular training of officials to ensure proper understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical rules governing their activities as well as their own professionalism and competence
Implementing institution(s) and contact person:	<u>For Conduct Rules:</u> Administrative Vigilance Division, Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India, North Block, New Delhi-110001, India (contact person: Mr. D.C. Gupta, Special Secretary) <u>For Training:</u> Training Division, Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India, Old JNU Campus, R.K. Puram, New Delhi, India (contact person: Mr. O.P. Agarwal, Joint Secretary)
Budget/inputs required	The total cost is esminated as USD 500,000

2. *Contextual Framework*

There is an ongoing effort to review the existing Conduct Rules governing the All India and Central Services in India to make it more relevant and in line with best international practices. This is a priority area for the Central Government as most disciplinary proceedings against government servants arise from the violation of Conduct Rules. The Rules require large-scale revision particularly in areas like conflict of interest, use of public resources and promotion of professionalism and integrity. Regarding the training of vigilance officers, as there is no permanent cadre of such officials, training in procedures, rules and laws is considered to be of utmost importance in concluding vigilance inquiries in an efficient manner.

3. *Project Details*

3.1. *Objectives of the Project*

The objective of the project is to promote integrity in Civil Services by making the Conduct Rules simpler, transparent and less prone to discretionary interpretation. In addition, it is felt necessary to complete anti-corruption actions against delinquent government servants quickly and make the same less susceptible to judicial interventions, for which vigilance officials need to have specialised training in procedures, exposure to rules as well as various incentives.

3.2. *Main components of the Project*

(a) For devising appropriate Conduct Rules

- Review of existing Conduct Rules and consolidation of instructions issued under each item of the existing Rule.
- Assessing of information about Codes of Conduct/Conduct Rules in other countries of Europe and Asia; consolidation of relevant information about best international practices.
- Comparison of existing Indian standards and practices with international standards and practices
- Drawing up of a new Code of Conduct/Conduct Rules.

(b) For Training Procedures

- Identification of training institutions for imparting training to vigilance personnel.
- Identification of trainers to impart training in vigilance procedures
- Identification of trainees
- Constitution of an Expert Group to devise course contents on vigilance procedures
- Identification of various types of courses by the Expert Group geared to the specific requirements/level of officials for-
 - (a) Chief Vigilance Officers (Apex level)
 - (b) Inquiry Officers/Presenting officers (Middle level)
 - (c) Officials engaged in vigilance function (Staff level)

3.3. *Results/Expected Outcomes*

The revised Conduct Rules are expected to show up a less discretion filled, simple and effective Code of Conduct resulting in reduction in harassment of officials and improvement in overall governance and reduced scope for abuse. The proposed training in vigilance procedures will impact on the general anti-corruption environment, by reducing scope for judicial intervention, quicker disposal of inquiry cases, creation of a readily accessible pool of manpower to perform vigilance functions and most

importantly, increases the profile of the vigilance function by creating a sense of its importance among those engaged in the activity.

4. Scope/Duration

Total period of the project –10 months

Period	Activity
May-July 2002	(a) Review of existing Code of Conduct and consolidation of instructions (b) Accessing of information about international practices and preparation of a report (c) Identification of training institutions/personnel for imparting training to vigilance personnel (d) Identification of an Expert Committee to devise the course content about the various levels of courses on vigilance procedures
August-October 2002	(a) Process of identification of trainees for various courses (b) Finalisation of Report of Expert Committee on course content. Finalisation of trainers for the programme. (c) Conduct of a seminar to identify relevant Conduct Rules for India
November 2002 – March 2003	(a) Evaluation of the results of the seminar and finalisation of the Conduct Rules (b) Conduct of various training courses

5. Required Inputs and budget in USD

The project for drawing up of new Conduct Rules would be organised through identified institutions, such as the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi or the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad. The institution selected would do the basic research and also would contact Indian/International legal experts. The basic research regarding the efficacy of the present system of Conduct Rules, lacunae in their implementation etc. would be co-ordinated by the institution with the Services Division and Establishment Division of the Department of Personnel & Training of the Government of India. In addition, the seminar on the subject would be organised by the institution and well-known international experts from other governments/NGOS would be contacted to attend. For the training programme, the Training Division would co-ordinate the activities by identifying members of the Expert Committee, the training institution etc. It will have to closely co-ordinate with the Administrative Vigilance Division of the Department of Personnel & Training.

The total cost of the project for the period is USD 500,000.

6. Operating Environment/Implementation

The Administrative Vigilance Division of the Department of Personnel & Training would coordinate the project. The main contact person is:

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7. ***Other Relevant Projects in the Priority Area: N/A***

8. ***Organisations Locally Consulted on the Project***

8.1. ***Civil Society Organisations***

Nil

8.2. ***Donors***

Nil