

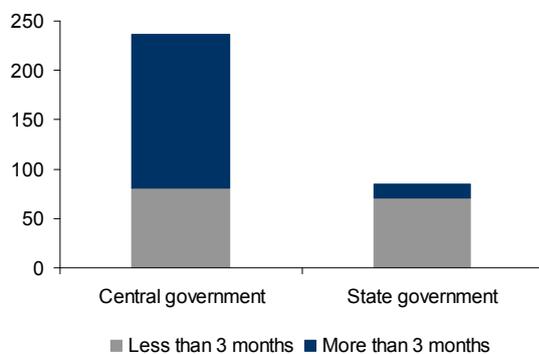
# Vital Stats

## Corruption cases against government officials

The agitation led by Anna Hazare has focussed on the formation of a Lok Pal to address the issue of corruption. We look at some data on the existing systems of identifying and prosecuting cases of corruption against public officials.

### The government has frequently delayed sanction for prosecuting officials

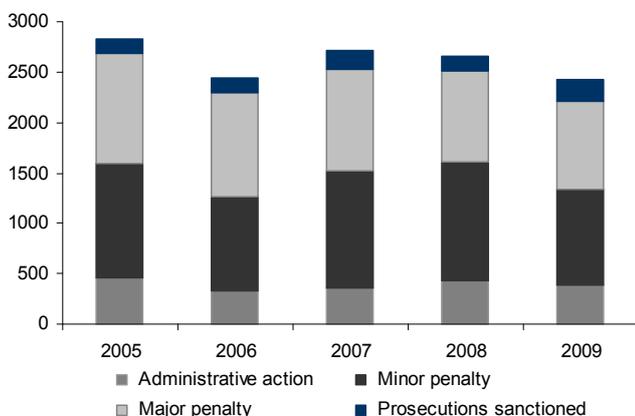
Requests for prosecution sanction pending with the government (December, 2010)



- Prosecution of public servants for corruption may usually be taken up only after the respective government gives sanction to do so. This provision is designed to protect honest officials from harassment.
- However, the provision may be misused by delaying response to requests for sanction.
- As of end-2010, the central government had not provided responses to 236 requests. Of these, 155 requests (66%) were pending for over three months.
- State governments had not responded to 84 requests, of which 13 (15%) were pending for more than three months.

### 6% of the cases were taken up for prosecution, and 94% were given departmental penalties

Penalties imposed (in pursuance of CVC's advice)

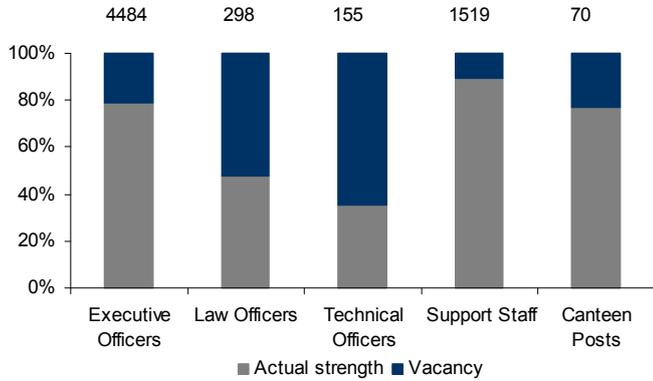


- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the premier agency tasked to tackle corruption cases within the central government.
- Between 2005 and 2009, penalties were imposed on 13,061 cases (average 2612 per year) based on the CVC's advice.
- This included 846 cases (annual average 169) in which sanction was granted for criminal prosecution.
- Major penalties were imposed in 4895 cases (annual average 979). These include dismissal, reduction to lower rank, cut in pension etc.
- Minor penalties such as censure were imposed on 5356 cases (annual average 1071), and administrative action was taken in 1964 cases (annual average 393).

## The main investigating agency, the CBI, is understaffed

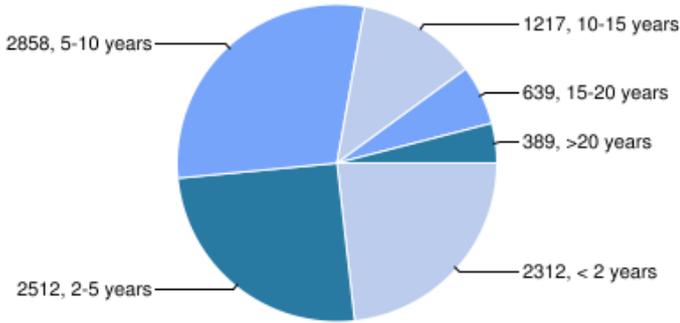
Vacancies in CBI (as on 31st Dec, 2010)

Sanctioned strength



- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the main agency used by the CVC to investigate cases of corruption and misuse of office by public officials.
- As of December 2010, 21% of the sanctioned posts in CBI were vacant.
- This includes 52% of the posts of law officers, 65% of technical officers and 21% of executive officers.

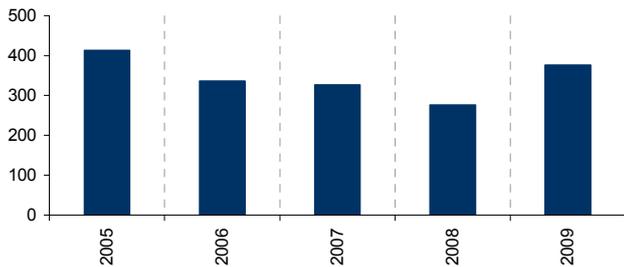
## The courts have also been slow in deciding CBI cases



- The criminal justice system has also been slow in prosecuting the CBI cases.
- As of end-2010, there were 9,927 CBI cases pending in courts.
- Of these, 2,245 cases (23% of the total) were pending for more than 10 years.

## The whistleblower mechanism has received only a few hundred complaints every year

Number of whistleblower complaints received by CVC



- After the murder of Satyendra Dubey, the Supreme Court directed the government in 2004 to put a mechanism to act on complaints from whistleblowers.
- In April 2004, the government passed a resolution to empower the CVC to act on complaints from whistleblowers.
- In the five years from 2005 to 2009, the CVC received a total of 1,731 complaints, or an annual average of 346.
- The government has introduced the Public Interest Disclosure Bill, 2010, which is currently being examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

### Note:

The composition of CBI cases is not readily available. Whereas a majority of the cases relate to corruption, CBI investigates other cases too. This note is based on data obtained from the websites of the CVC and the CBI.

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