As introduced in Lok Sabha

THE LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS BILL, 1968

A BILL

to make provision for the appointment and functions of certain authorities for the investigation of administrative action taken by or on behalf of the Government or certain public authorities in certain cases and for matters connected therewith.

This Act may be called the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 1968.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 1968.

(2) It extends to the whole of India and applies also to public servants outside India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "action" means action taken by way of decision, recommendation or finding or in any other manner and includes failure to act and all other expressions connoting action shall be construed accordingly:
(b) "allegation", in relation to a public servant, means any affirmation that such public servant,—

(i) has abused his position as such to obtain any gain or favour to himself or to any other person or to cause undue harm or hardship to any other person,

(ii) was actuated in the discharge of his functions as such public servant by personal interest or improper or corrupt motives, or

(iii) is guilty of corruption, lack of integrity or improper conduct in his capacity as such public servant;

(c) "competent authority", in relation to a public servant, means,—

(i) in the case of a Minister or Secretary The Prime Minister,

(ii) in the case of any other public servant such authority as may be prescribed;

(d) "grievance" means a claim by a person that he sustained injustice in consequence of maladministration;

(e) "Lokpal" means a person appointed as the Lokpal under section 3;

(f) "Lokayukta" means a person appointed as a Lokayukta under section 3;

(g) "maladministration" means action taken or purporting to have been taken in the exercise of administrative functions in any case,—

(i) where such action or the administrative procedure or practice governing such action is unreasonable, unjust, oppressive or improperly discriminatory; or

(ii) where there has been negligence or undue delay in taking such action, or the administrative procedure or practice governing such action involves undue delay;

(h) "Minister" means a member of the Council of Ministers, by whatever name called, for the Union and includes a Deputy Minister;

(i) "officer" means a person appointed to a public service or post in connection with the affairs of the Union;
(j) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(k) "public servant" denotes a person falling under any of the descriptions hereinafter following, namely:—

(i) every Minister referred to in clause (h),

(ii) every officer referred to in clause (i),

(iii) every member of the Council of Ministers in a Union territory as defined in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, and in the case of the Union territory of Delhi, every member of the Executive Council constituted under the Delhi Administration Act, 1966,

(iv) every person in the service or pay of,—

(a) any local authority in any Union territory which is notified by the Central Government in this behalf in the Official Gazette,

(b) any corporation (not being a local authority) established by or under a Central Act and owned or controlled by the Central Government,

(c) any Government company within the meaning of section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956, in which not less than fifty-one per cent. of the paid up share capital is held by the Central Government, or any company which is a subsidiary of a company in which not less than fifty-one per cent. of the paid up share capital is held by the Central Government,

(d) any society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 which is subject to the control of the Central Government and which is notified by that Government in this behalf in the Official Gazette;

(l) "Secretary" means,—

(i) a Secretary, a Special Secretary, or an Additional Secretary, to the Government of India in any Ministry or Department,

(ii) a Secretary, a Special Secretary, or an Additional Secretary, in the Cabinet Secretariat, Prime Minister's Secretariat, or as the case may be, the office of the Planning Commission,

and includes a Joint Secretary in independent charge of such Ministry, Department, Secretariat or, as the case may be, the office of the Planning Commission.
3. (1) For the purpose of conducting investigations in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the President shall, by warrant under his hand and seal, appoint a person to be known as the Lokpal and one or more persons to be known as the Lokayukta or Lokayuktas:

Provided that,—

(a) the Lokpal shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People, or if there be no such Leader, a person elected in this behalf by the Members of the Opposition in that House in such manner as the Speaker may direct;

(b) the Lokayukta or Lokayuktas shall be appointed after consultation with the Lokpal.

(2) Nothing contained in clause (b) of the proviso to sub-section (1) shall apply in the case of the appointment of the first Lokayukta under this section.

(3) Every person appointed as the Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe, before the President, or some person appointed in that behalf by the President, an oath or affirmation in the form set out for the purpose in the First Schedule.

(4) The Lokayuktas shall be subject to the administrative control of the Lokpal and, in particular, for the purpose of convenient disposal of investigations under this Act, the Lokpal may issue such general or special directions as he may consider necessary to the Lokayuktas:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be construed to authorise the Lokpal to question any finding, conclusion or recommendation of a Lokayukta.

4. The Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall not be capable of being a member of Parliament or a member of the Legislature of any State and shall not hold any office of trust or profit (other than his office as the Lokpal or, as the case may be, a Lokayukta), or be connected with any political party or carry on any business and accordingly before he enters upon his office, a person appointed as the Lokpal or, as the case may be, a Lokayukta, shall,—

(a) if he is a member of Parliament or of the Legislature of any State resign such membership;

(b) if he holds any office of trust or profit, resign from such office;
(c) if he is connected with any political party, sever his connection with it; or

(d) if he is carrying on any business, sever his connections (short of divesting himself of ownership) with the conduct and management of such business.

5. (1) Every person appointed as the Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office but shall be eligible for re-appointment for not more than one term:

Provided that,—

(a) the Lokpal or a Lokayukta may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office:

(b) the Lokpal or a Lokayukta may be removed from office in the manner specified in section 6:

(c) the Lokpal or a Lokayukta, shall notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office.

(2) If the office of the Lokpal or a Lokayukta becomes vacant or if the Lokpal or a Lokayukta is, by reason of absence or for any other reason whatsoever, unable to perform the duties of his office, those duties shall, until some other person appointed under section 3 enters upon such office or, as the case may be, until the Lokpal or such Lokayukta resumes his duties, be performed,—

(a) where the office of the Lokpal becomes vacant or where he is unable to perform the duties of his office, by the Lokayukta or if there are two or more Lokayuktas by such one of the Lokayuktas as the President may by order direct;

(b) where the office of a Lokayukta becomes vacant or where he is unable to perform the duties of his office, by the Lokpal himself, or if the Lokpal so directs by the other Lokayukta or, as the case may be, such one of the other Lokayuktas as may be specified in the direction.

(3) Save as otherwise provided in sub-section (1), on ceasing to hold office, the Lokpal or a Lokayukta,—

(i) shall be ineligible for further employment under the Government of India or for any employment under, or office in,
any such local authority, corporation, Government company or society as is referred to in sub-clause (k) of section 2;

(ii) shall not take up any employment under the Government of a State without the prior permission in writing of the President:

Provided that a Lokayukta shall be eligible for appointment as the Lokpal.

(4) The salary and allowances and other conditions of service of the Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall be such as may be prescribed:

Provided that,—

(a) in prescribing the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of the Lokpal, regard shall be had to the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of the Chief Justice of India;

(b) in prescribing the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of the Lokayuktas regard shall be had to the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of a Judge of the Supreme Court of India:

Provided further that the salary, allowances and other conditions of service of the Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

6. (1) Subject to the provisions of article 311 of the Constitution, the Lokpal or a Lokayukta may be removed from his office by the President on the ground of misbehaviour or incapacity and on no other ground:

Provided that the inquiry required to be held under clause (2) of the said article before such removal shall be held by a person appointed by the President, being a person who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court of India or the Chief Justice of a High Court.

(2) The person appointed under the proviso to sub-section (1) shall submit the report of his inquiry to the President who shall, as soon as may be, cause it to be laid before each House of Parliament.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the President shall not remove the Lokpal or a Lokayukta unless an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal.
7. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Lokpal may investigate any action which is taken by, or with the general or specific approval of,—

(i) a Minister or a Secretary; or

(ii) any other public servant being a public servant of a class or sub-class of public servants notified by the Central Government in consultation with the Lokpal in this behalf,

in any case where a complaint involving a grievance or an allegation is made in respect of such action or such action can be or could have been, in the opinion of the Lokpal, the subject of a grievance or an allegation.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Lokayukta may investigate any action which is taken by, or with the general or specific approval of, any public servant not being a Minister, Secretary or other public servant referred to in sub-section (1) in any case where a complaint involving a grievance or an allegation is made in respect of such action or such action can be or could have been, in the opinion of the Lokayukta, the subject of a grievance or an allegation.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the Lokpal may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, investigate any action which may be investigated by a Lokayukta under that sub-section whether or not a complaint has been made to the Lokpal in respect of such action.

(4) Where two or more Lokayuktas are appointed under this Act, the Lokpal may, by general or special order, assign to each of them matters which may be investigated by them under this Act:

Provided that no investigation made by a Lokayukta under this Act and no action taken or thing done by him in respect of such investigation shall be open to question on the ground only that such investigation relates to a matter which is not assigned to him by such order.

8. (1) Except as hereinafter provided, the Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall not conduct any investigation under this Act in the case of a complaint involving a grievance in respect of any action,—

(a) if such action relates to any matter specified in the Second Schedule; or

(b) if the complainant has or had any remedy by way of proceedings before any tribunal or court of law:
Provided that the Lokpal or Lokayukta may conduct an investigation notwithstanding that the complainant had or has such a remedy if the Lokpal or, as the case may be, the Lokayukta is satisfied that such person could not or cannot, for sufficient cause, have recourse to such remedy.

(2) The Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall not conduct any investigation in the case of any complaint involving a grievance or an allegation in respect of any action inquired into by, or referred for inquiry to, a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(3) The Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall not investigate any complaint involving a grievance against a public servant referred to in sub-clause (a) of clause (k) of section 2.

(4) The Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall not investigate,—

(a) any complaint involving a grievance, if the complaint is made after the expiry of twelve months from the date on which the action complained against becomes known to the complainant;

(b) any complaint involving an allegation, if the complaint is made after the expiry of five years from the date on which the action complained against is alleged to have taken place:

Provided that the Lokpal or a Lokayukta may entertain a complaint referred to in clause (a), if the complainant satisfies him that he had sufficient cause for not making the complaint within the period specified in that clause.

(5) In the case of any complaint involving a grievance, nothing in this Act shall be construed as empowering the Lokpal or a Lokayukta to question any administrative action involving the exercise of a discretion except where he is satisfied that the elements involved in the exercise of the discretion are absent to such an extent that the discretion cannot be regarded as having been properly exercised.

9. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a complaint may be made under this Act to the Lokpal or a Lokayukta,—

(a) in the case of a grievance, by the person aggrieved;

(b) in the case of an allegation, by any person other than a public servant:

Provided that, where the person aggrieved is dead or is for any reason unable to act for himself, the complaint may be made by
any person who in law represents the estate or, as the case may be, by any person who is authorised by him in this behalf.

(2) Every complaint shall be made in such form and shall be accompanied by such affidavits and other documents as may be prescribed.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other enactment, any letter written to the Lokpal or a Lokayukta by a person in police custody, or in gaol or in any asylum or other receptacle for insane persons, shall be forwarded to the addressee unopened and without delay by the police officer or other person in charge of such gaol, asylum or other receptacle.

10. (1) Where the Lokpal or a Lokayukta proposes to conduct any investigation under this Act, he shall:

(a) forward a copy of the complaint or, in the case of any subsequent investigation which he proposes to conduct on his own motion, a statement setting out the grounds therefore, to the public servant concerned and the competent authority concerned; and

(b) afford to the public servant concerned an opportunity to offer his comments on such complaint or statement.

(2) Every such investigation shall be conducted in private and in particular, the identity of the complainant and of the public servant affected by the investigation shall not be disclosed to the public or the press whether before, during or after the investigation.

(3) Save as aforesaid the procedure for conducting any such investigation shall be such as the Lokpal or, as the case may be, the Lokayukta considers appropriate in the circumstances of the case.

(4) The Lokpal or Lokayukta may in his discretion, refuse to investigate or cease to investigate any complaint involving a grievance or an allegation, if in his opinion—

(a) the complaint is frivolous or vexatious or is not made in good faith; or

(b) there are no sufficient grounds for investigating or, as the case may be, for continuing the investigation; or

(c) other remedies are available to the complainant and in the circumstances of the case it would be more proper for the complainant to avail of such remedies.

(5) In any case where the Lokpal or a Lokayukta decides not to entertain a complaint or to discontinue any investigation in respect
of a complaint, he shall record his reasons therefor and communicate the same to the complainant and the public servant concerned.

(6) The conduct of an investigation under this Act in respect of any action shall not affect such action, or any power or duty of any public servant to take further action with respect to any matter subject to the investigation.

Evidence. 11. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, for the purpose of any investigation under this Act, the Lokpal or a Lokayukta may require any public servant or any other person who in his opinion is able to furnish information or produce documents relevant to the investigation to furnish any such information or produce any such document.

(2) For the purpose of any such investigation the Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall have all the powers of a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 in respect of the following matters, namely:

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any Court or office;

(e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;

(f) such other matters as may be prescribed.

(3) Any proceeding before the Lokpal or a Lokayukta shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of section 193 of the Indian Penal Code.

(4) Subject to provisions of sub-section (5), no obligation to maintain secrecy or other restriction upon the disclosure of information obtained by or furnished to Government or persons in Government service, whether imposed by any enactment or by any rule of law, shall apply to the disclosure of information for the purposes of any investigation under this Act.

(5) No person shall be required or authorised by virtue of this Act to furnish any such information or answer any such question or produce so much of any document—

(a) as might prejudice the security or defence or international relations of India (including India's relations with the
Government of any other country or with any international organisation, or the investigation or detection of crime; or

(b) as might involve the disclosure of proceedings of the Cabinet of the Union Government or any Committee of that Cabinet,

and for the purpose of this sub-section a certificate issued by a Secretary certifying that any information, answer or portion of a document is of the nature specified in clause (a) or clause (b), shall be binding and conclusive.

(6) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (4), no person shall be compelled for the purposes of investigation under this Act to give any evidence or produce any document which he could not be compelled to give or produce in proceedings before a Court.

12. (1) If, after investigation of any action in respect of which a complaint involving a grievance has been or can be or could have been made, the Lokpal or a Lokayukta is satisfied that such action has resulted in injustice to the complainant or any other person, the Lokpal or Lokayukta shall, by a report in writing, recommended to the public servant and the competent authority concerned that such injustice shall be remedied in such manner and within such time as may be specified in the report.

(2) The competent authority to whom a report is sent under sub-section (1) shall, within one month of the expiry of the term specified in the report, intimate or cause to be intimated to the Lokpal or, as the case may be, the Lokayukta of the action taken for compliance with the report.

(3) If after investigation of any action in respect of which a complaint involving an allegation has been or can be or could have been made, the Lokpal or a Lokayukta is satisfied that such allegation can be substantiated either wholly or partly, he shall by a report in writing communicate his findings along with the relevant documents, materials and other evidence to the competent authority.
(4) The competent authority shall examine the report forwarded to it under sub-section (3) and intimate within three months of the date of receipt of the report, the Lokpal or, as the case may be, the Lokayukta, the action taken or proposed to be taken on the basis of the report.

(5) If the Lokpal or the Lokayukta is satisfied with the action taken or proposed to be taken on his recommendations or findings referred to in sub-sections (1) and (3), he shall close the case under information to the complainant, but where he is not so satisfied and if he considers that the case so deserves, he may make a special report upon the case to the President and may also at his discretion inform the complainant concerned:

Provided that no such special report shall be made in respect of any action taken in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission.

(6) The Lokpal and the Lokayuktas shall present annually a consolidated report on the performance of their functions under this Act to the President.

(7) Where an adverse comment against any person or department or organization has been made in any annual or special report, such report shall also contain the substance of the defence adduced by the person complained against and the comments made by or on behalf of the department or organisation affected.

(8) On receipt of a special report under sub-section (5), or the annual report under sub-section (6), the President shall cause a copy thereof together with an explanatory memorandum to be laid before each House of Parliament.

(9) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 10, the Lokpal may at his discretion make available, from time to time, the substance of cases closed or otherwise disposed of by him or by a Lokayukta, which may appear to him to be of general public, academic or professional interest in such manner and to such persons as he may deem appropriate.
13. (1) The Lokpal may appoint, or authorise a Lokayukta or any officer subordinate to the Lokpal or a Lokayukta to appoint, such officers and other employees to assist the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas in the discharge of their functions under this Act.

(2) The categories of officers and employees who may be appointed under sub-section (1), their salaries, allowances and other conditions of service and the administrative powers of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas shall be such as may be prescribed after consultation with the Lokpal.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1) the Lokpal or a Lokayukta may utilise the services of any officer or investigating agency of the Central Government or of any other person or agency for the purpose of conducting any investigation under this Act:

Provided that the Lokpal or Lokayukta shall obtain the consent of the Central Government before utilising the services of any officer or agency of that Government.

14. (1) Any information obtained by the Lokpal or the Lokayuktas or members of their staff in the course of, or for the purposes of any investigation under this Act, and any evidence recorded or collected in connection with such information, shall be treated as confidential and notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, no Court shall be entitled to compel the Lokpal or a Lokayukta or any public servant to give evidence relating to such information or produce the evidence so recorded or collected.

(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall apply to the disclosure of any information or particulars:

(a) for purposes of the investigation or in any report to be made thereon or for any action or proceedings to be taken on such report;

(b) for purposes of any proceedings for an offence under the Indian Official Secrets Act, 1923 or an offence of perjury or for purposes of any proceedings under section 15; or

(c) for such other purposes as may be prescribed.

(3) An officer or other authority prescribed in this behalf may give notice in writing to the Lokpal or a Lokayukta, as the case...
may be, with respect to any document or information specified in
the notice or any class of documents so specified that in the opinion
of the Central Government the disclosure of the documents or
information or of documents or information of that class would be
contrary to public interest and where such a notice is given, nothing
5 in this Act shall be construed as authorising or requiring the Lok-
pal, the Lokayukta or any member of their staff to communicate to
any person any document or information specified in the notice
or any document or information of a class so specified.

(4) No person shall publish any proceeding relating to an in-
vestigation which is pending before the Lokpal or a Lokayukta as
the case may be; nor shall any person publish such proceedings
after the investigation is completed unless prior permission for the
publication is obtained from the Lokpal, or the Lokayukta, as the
case may be.

(5) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (4) shall
be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may ex-
tend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

(6) Nothing in sub-sections (4) and (5) shall apply to the pub-
lication of any report laid before a House of Parliament under sub-
section (8) of section 12.

15. (1) Whoever intentionally offers any insult, or causes any
interruption to the Lokpal or a Lokayukta, while the Lokpal or
the Lokayukta is conducting any investigation under this Act, shall
be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may ex-
tend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

(2) Whoever, by words spoken or intended to be read, makes or
publishes any statement or does any other act, which is calculated
to bring the Lokpal or a Lokayukta into disrepute, shall be punish-
ished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two
years, or with fine, or with both.

(3) The provisions of section 198B of the Code of Criminal Pro-
cedure, 1898, shall apply in relation to an offence under sub-section
(1) or sub-section (2) as they apply in relation to an offence refer-
ed to in sub-section (1) of the said section 198B, subject to the
modification that no complaint in respect of such offence shall be
made by the Public Prosecutor except with the previous sanction—

(b) in the case of the Lokpal, of the Central Government;
(b) in the case of a Lokayukta, of the Lokpal.
16. (1) No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall be brought against the Lokpal or the Lokayukta or any member of their staff and employees in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

(2) No proceedings of the Lokpal or the Lokayukta shall be held bad for want of form and except on the ground of jurisdiction, no proceedings or decision of the Lokpal or the Lokayukta shall be liable to be challenged, reviewed, quashed or called in question in any court.

17. (1) The President may, by notification published in the Official Gazette and after consultation with the Lokpal, confer on the Lokpal or a Lokayukta, as the case may be, such additional functions in relation to the redress of grievances and eradication of corruption as may be specified in the notification.

(2) The President may, by order in writing and subject to such conditions and limitations as may be specified in the order, confer on the Lokpal or a Lokayukta such powers of a supervisory nature over agencies, authorities or officers set up, constituted or appointed by the Central Government for the redress of grievances and eradication of corruption.

18. The Lokpal or a Lokayukta may, by a general or special order in writing, delegate to any powers conferred or duties imposed on him by or under this Act (except the power to make reports to the President under section 12) to any power to be exercised or discharged by such of the officers, employees or agencies referred to in section 13, as may be specified in the order.

19. (1) The President may by notification in the Official Gazette make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, such rules may provide for—

(a) the authorities for the purpose required to be prescribed under sub-clause (ii) of clause (c) of section 2.
(b) the salary, allowances and other conditions of service of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas;

(c) the time within which, and the form in which, complaints may be made and the documents which shall accompany such complaints and the fees, if any, which may be charged in respect thereof;

(d) the powers of a civil court which may be exercised by the Lokpal or a Lokayukta;

(e) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed or in respect of which this Act makes no provision or makes insufficient provision and provision is in the opinion of the President necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

20. (1) For the removal of doubts it is hereby declared that nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Lokpal or a Lokayukta to investigate any action which is taken by or with the approval of—

(a) the Chief Justice or a Judge or an officer or servant of the Supreme Court of India;

(b) the Chief Justice or a Judge of the Delhi High Court or a Judicial Commissioner, Additional Judicial Commissioner or an Assistant Judicial Commissioner in any Union territory or any District Judge in a Union territory;

(c) the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India;

(d) the Chairman or a member of the Union Public Service Commission;

(e) the Chief Election Commissioner, the Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners referred to in article 321 of the Constitution.
21. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to the provisions of any other enactment or any rule of law under which any remedy by way of appeal, revision, review or in any other manner is available to a person making a complaint under this Act in respect of any action, and nothing in this Act shall limit or affect the right of such person to avail of such remedy.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

[See section 3 (3)]

I, ................................ having been appointed Lokpal No sworn as Lokayukta in the name of God that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Solemnly Affair Constitution of India as by law established and I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my ability, knowledge and judgment perform the duties of my office without fear or favour, affection or ill-will.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

[See section 8(1) (a)]

(a) Action taken in a matter certified by a Secretary as affecting the relations or dealings between the Government of India and any foreign Government or any international organisation of States or Government.

(b) Action taken under the Extradition Act, 1962, or the Foreigners' Act, 1946.

(c) Action taken for the purpose of investigating crime or protecting the security of the State including action taken with respect to passports and travel documents.

(d) Action taken in the exercise of powers in relation to determining whether a matter shall go to a court or not.

(e) Action taken in matters which arise out of the terms of a contract governing purely commercial relations of the administration with customers or suppliers, except where the complainant alleges harassment or gross delay in meeting contractual obligations.

(f) Action taken in respect of appointments, removals, pay, discipline, superannuation or other matters relating to conditions of service of public servants but not including action relating to claims
for pension gratuity, provident fund or to any claims which arise on retirement, removal or termination of service.

(g) Grant of honours and awards.
STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Administrative Reforms Commission was required to consider, among other matters, problems of redress of citizens’ grievances, keeping in mind the need for ensuring the highest standards of efficiency and integrity in the public services, and also for making public administration responsive to the people. More specifically, the Commission was expected to examine:

(i) the adequacy of the existing arrangements for the redress of grievances; and

(ii) the need for introduction of any new machinery or special institution for redress of grievances.

Giving priority to this part of its terms of reference, the Commission made an interim report in which it took note of the oft-expressed public outcry against the prevalence of corruption, the existence of widespread inefficiency and the unresponsiveness of administration to popular needs. It felt that the answer to this lay in the provision of a machinery which would examine public complaints and sift the genuine from the false or the untenable so that the administration’s failures and achievements could be publicly viewed in their correct perspective. Such an institution was regarded necessary even from the point of view of affording protection to the services. The Commission, therefore, recommended that there should be a statutory machinery to enquire into complaints alleging corruption or injustice arising out of maladministration.

2. The Bill seeks to give effect to the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission in so far as they relate to matters within the purview of the Union Government. In its scope, it differs from the draft bill proposed by the Administrative Reforms Commission in two major respects. It does not extend to public servants in the states. Secondly, it does not confine itself to ministers and secretaries alone. In other words, the Bill seeks to provide a statutory machinery to enquire into complaints based on actions of all Union public servants, including ministers.

NEW DELHI:
The 1st May, 1968.  Y. B. CHAVAN
Notes on clauses

[Index to abbreviations:

A.R.C.—Administrative Reforms Commission.
ARC Bill—Bill appended to Interim Report of ARC.
New Zealand Act—(New Zealand) Parliamentary Commissioner
(ombudsman) Act, 1962.]

Clause 1:—

Sub-clause (2) of this clause makes it clear that public servants outside India would also be amenable to the jurisdiction of Lokpal and Lokayuktas.

Clause 2:—

Sub-clause (b).—To distinguish between vigilence case and grievance cases, a specific definition of allegation has been given. The proposed definition seeks to cover circumstances of political corruption also.

Sub-clause (c).—The definition of “competent authority” is relevant for the purposes of clauses 10 and 12.

Sub-clauses (h) and (g).—The definition of “grievance” has to be read with that of “maladministration” in clause 2 (g). These definitions imply that a grievance cannot be referred to the Lokpal or a Lokayukta unless the complainant himsefl is affected. “Maladministration” has been defined to cover not only a decision but also administrative procedures and practices so that the administrative machinery itself is improved. Section 19 (7) of the New Zealand Act may be seen in this connection.

Sub-clause (k).—The definition of “public servant” is self-explanatory.

Clause 3:—

Sub-clauses (l) and (2).—These provide for appointment of Lokpal and Lokayuktas. The method of appointment of a Lokpal is in substance the same as suggested by the ARC in clauses 3 (1) and 3 (2) of their Bill.
The Lokayuktas is to be appointed after consultation with the Lokpal but in the case of appointment of the first Lokayukta no such consultation is necessary.

Sub-clause (4).—It is proposed to have a single administrative office for the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas. A single authority in administrative charge like the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court or a High Court, will be conducive to smooth functioning of the machinery. It has been made clear in the proviso that the Lokpal cannot operate as a reviewing or appellate authority over the Lokayuktas.

Clause 5:—

Sub-clauses (1) and (2). These are self-explanatory.

Sub-clause (3).—This corresponds to clause 4(5) of the ARC Bill. The ARC contemplated that the Lokpal will have jurisdiction over the States also and, therefore, put a total embargo on their taking up any office in the States. Since neither the Central Lokpal nor the Central Lokayukta will have jurisdiction over the States sector, their appointment in States has been left to be decided by the President on the merit of each case. This will also take into account the contingencies of the Central scheme being adopted by some States only.

The ARC Bill is silent on the Lokayuktas. It is proposed that a Lokayukta should be eligible for appointment as Lokpal. The further appointment of Lokpal/Lokayuktas has been barred from such Central sectors as would be within their purview while in office.

Sub-clause (4).—This corresponds to clause 4(6) of the ARC Bill.

Clause 6:—

This clause deals with removal of Lokpal and Lokayuktas. In keeping with the recommendations of the ARC, this clause seeks to ensure that the grounds and procedure for removal are similar to those applicable in the case of Judges of Supreme Court.

Clause 7:—

Sub-clauses (1) and (2). These correspond to clause 7(1) of the ARC Bill and provide for matters which may be investigated by the Lokpal and Lokayuktas.

Sub-clauses (3) and (4). These are self-explanatory and are inter alia intended to avoid duplication of investigations and ensure proper distribution of work amongst the Lokayuktas.
Clause 8:—

Sub-clause (1) (a).—This corresponds to clause 7(6) of the ARC Bill.

Sub-clause (1) (b).—This corresponds (except for the proviso) to clause 7(2) of the ARC Bill. The proviso is based on section 5(2)—proviso of the U.K. Act.

Sub-clause (2).—There is no such provision in the ARC Bill. This additional provision is necessary so that matters which have already been gone into by a Commission of Inquiry, may not be subjected to another investigation by the Lokpal or the Lokayukta.

Sub-clause (3).—The "public servants" mentioned in clause 2(k) (iv) are strictly not Government servants but have been included in the definition to reflect the present jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission in respect of allegations only. Since the Central Vigilance Commission is not looking into complaints of grievances against them, there is no reason to include these categories of public servants in the grievances sector. There is no corresponding provision in the ARC Bill.

Sub-clause (4).—The time-limit for grievances is that recommended in clause 7(3) of ARC Bill, viz., 12 months, but following section 6(3) of U.K. Act it has been provided that the period shall be computed from the date of knowledge of action and not from the date of occurrence.

The period of limitation for allegations of corruption has been fixed as five years from the date of occurrence and not one year to allow for the time elapsing between the date of occurrence and the date of discovery.

In order to provide some relief in really hard cases a provision has been made for relaxation of the time-limit in the case of grievances alone.

Sub-clause (5).—This corresponds to sub-clause (6) (h) of clause 7 of the ARC Bill subject to an important difference. Whereas the ARC proposes this exclusion both for allegations as well as grievances, the proposed Bill uses the exclusion clause to reduce the scope of grievances alone. Most of the corruption cases are related to discretion and such a blanket exclusion provision may provide undue protection to corrupt public servants.

Clause 9:—

Sub-clause (1).—This corresponds to clause 7(1) (a) of the ARC Bill. Whereas the ARC contemplates that allegations can be made
by any person, the proposed Bill debar public servants from making allegations. This seems to be necessary in order to maintain the discipline of administrative organisation in a sound state.

The proviso to the sub-clause is modelled on section 5(2) of the U.K. Act and seems to be necessary.

Sub-clauses (2) and (3).—There are no similar provisions in the ARC Bill but the need for these is self-evident.

Clause 10:—

Sub-Clause (1).—This corresponds to clause 8(1) of the ARC Bill. Unlike the ARC clause, this sub-clause seeks to provide that when the Lokpal or a Lokayukta decides to conduct an investigation against a public servant the competent authority in respect of such public servant should also be informed of the matter.

Sub-clause (2).—This corresponds to clause 8(2) of the ARC Bill. An additional provision is also made to the effect that the identity of the complainant and the public servant concerned should not be disclosed to the public or the press at any time. This is to maintain morale in the public services.

Sub-clause (6).—There is no similar provision in the ARC Bill. This provision which is modelled to some extent on section 7(4) of the U.K. Act, is necessary to ensure that administrative action connected with the matter under investigation by the Lokpal or the Lokayukta should not come to a standstill.

Clause 11:—

Sub-clause (1).—This corresponds to clause 9(1) of the ARC Bill.

Sub-clause (2).—This corresponds to clause 9(2) of the ARC Bill except that items (e) and (f) which are based on similar provisions in section 4 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, are new.

Sub-clause (3).—There is no similar provision in the ARC Bill. The clause is modelled on section 5(5) of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

Sub-clause (5).—Subject to the following deviations, this corresponds to clause 9(4) of the ARC Bill:—

(i) Whereas the ARC Bill excludes the discovery of the whole document, the sub-clause excludes only those parts of the
document which attract security considerations. This will enable the Lokpal to obtain non-confidential extracts from confidential documents.

(ii) Whereas in the ARC Bill, the certificate of secrecy has to be given by the Cabinet Secretary with the approval of the Prime Minister, the draft Bill authorises any Secretary to the Government to issue the certificate. This is in conformity with the administrative practice in our country.

Clause 12:

Sub-clause (1).—This corresponds to clause 11(3) of the ARC Bill with the only additional feature that the Lokpal/Lokayuktas will, in case of grievances, recommend also the manner in which an injustice should be remedied. Further, the recommendation would go not only to the public servants reported against but the competent authorities also. These additional provisions are necessary so that the public servants and the departments know to what extent the Lokpal/Lokayukta would like the injustice to be redressed.

Sub-clause (2).—There is no such provision in the ARC Bill. This provision is necessary for proper and timely implementation of the recommendations of the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas.

Sub-clauses (3) and (4).—These correspond to clause 11(6) of the ARC Bill.

Sub-clause (5).—This corresponds to clause 11(5) of the ARC Bill. The following deviations from the ARC Bill require special mention:

(1) Whereas under the ARC Bill special reports have to be laid before the Lok Sabha, under this sub-clause they will be sent to the President who will, under clause 12(6), lay them before each House of Parliament with an explanatory memorandum.

(2) In order to avoid an awkward situation where the Government may be faced with two contradictory recommendations from the new functionaries and the UPSC who may have been consulted in a case, special reports in such a case have been excluded.

Sub-clause (6).—This corresponds to clause 11(7) of the ARC Bill. The draft Bill provides for one consolidated annual report for all the functionaries.
Sub-clause (1).—There is no corresponding provision in the ARC Bill. The provision is necessary to safeguard public servants who cannot defend themselves before Parliament.

Sub-clause (9).—No such provision is made in the ARC Bill, according to which the Lokpal is to lay his report direct before Parliament. The sub-clause achieves the same result with the improvement that the report will be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum from the Government so that the reports are assessed in the proper light.

Sub-clause (9).—There is no similar provision in the ARC Bill. This is based on the practice in New Zealand where cases of academic interest are reported in the leading law and professional journals.

Clause 13:—

This provides for the staff of Lokpal and Lokayuktas and the machinery required by them for conducting investigations.

Clause 14:—

Sub-clauses (1) and (2).—These sub-clauses correspond to clauses 12(2) and 12(3) of the ARC Bill and protect the secrecy of the information obtained by these functionaries and their staff. Sub-clause (1) protects information available not only to these functionaries and their employees but other public servants also who might have obtained or come by any information collected by these functionaries in the course of any investigation with which these public servants might have been connected.

Sub-clause (3).—This corresponds to clause 12(4) of the ARC Bill except that instead of a Minister, any officer or prescribed authority can in writing communicate the opinion of the Central Government to the effect that the information or document should not be disclosed. This is in accordance with the administrative practice in our country.

Sub-clause (5) of clause 14 and clause 15.—These correspond to clauses 12(6) and 19 of the ARC Bill respectively. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas do not qualify as courts as they are only fact-finding agencies. As such, it will not be permissible under article 19 of the Constitution to provide for contempt of these functionaries. A similar question was considered by the Law Commission with reference to Commissions of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 and the Law Commission had recommended that specific
offences might be created making certain acts in the nature of con-
tempt punishable.

Clause 16:—
Sub-clause (2).—There is no such provision in the ARC Bill. The
provision is based on section 21 of the New Zealand Act.

Clause 17:—
Sub-clauses (1) and (2).—There are no similar provisions in the
ARC Bill. These sub-clauses will enable the President, by notification
or order, to transfer various quasi-administrative, consultative
and supervisory functions currently discharged by the Central Vigil-
ance Commission and the Commissioner for Public Grievances to the
new functionaries.

Sub-clause (3).—There is no such provision in the ARC Bill. This
will enable the Government to refer important cases to the Lokpal
for investigation and report.

Clause 18:—
There is no similar provision in the ARC Bill. The proposed
clause is modelled on section 3(2) of the U.K. Act and is necessary
to enable the new functionaries to delegate routine functions of
investigation, etc., to the staff under them.

Clause 19:—
There is no similar provision in the ARC Bill. This clause
empowers the President to make rules under the Act.

Second Schedule, item (1). This corresponds to item (f) of clause
7(6) of the ARC Bill with the difference that the term “other per-
sonnel matters” referred to in that item has been amplified. Further,
complaints regarding pension, gratuity and other benefits which
arise after retirement, removal or dismissal have not been excluded
from the purview of these functionaries.
FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 (1) of the Bill provides for the appointment of a person to be known as the Lokpal and one or more persons to be known as the Lokayukta or Lokayuktas. Clause 5 (1) of the Bill also envisages that the salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas shall be such as may be prescribed. It, however, provides that in prescribing salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas regard shall be had to the salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the Chief Justice of India and a Judge of the Supreme Court, respectively. Clause 13 provides for the appointment of staff of the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas. The salaries and other conditions of service of the staff of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas are to be prescribed by rules after consultation with the Lokpal. It is thus not possible to give precise details of the expenditure involved. The new institutions are, however, estimated to entail a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh and recurring expenditure of Rs. 9 lakhs a year.
MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 19 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of the proposed enactment. The various matters in relation to which such rules may be made have been detailed in the various items of sub-clause 2 of that clause and relate mainly to the salaries, allowances and conditions of service of the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas, the procedure to be followed in making complaints, the powers of a civil court which may be exercised by the Lokpal and the Lokayuktas etc. These are matters necessary for the effective administration of the provisions of the Bill and it is difficult to provide for all situations in the Bill itself. The delegation of legislative power is therefore of a normal character.
A BILL

to make provision for the appointment and functions of certain authorities for the investigation of administrative action taken by or on behalf of the Government or certain public authorities in certain cases and for matters connected therewith.

(Shri Y. B. Chavan,
Minister of Home Affairs)