

No.007/VGL/013
Government of India
Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, Block 'A',
GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi- 110 023
Dated the 23rd February 2007

Circular No.3/2/07

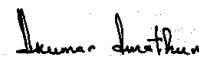
Subject: Investigation of complaints by the CVOs - seizure of records reg.

It has come to the Commission's notice that when a complaint is received by the CVO either from the Commission or from other sources, the time taken by the department for investigating the complaint is unduly long and beyond the time-limit of three months stipulated by the Commission vide its circular No.000/VGL/18 dated 23.5.2000. The main reason cited by the CVOs for the delay is non-availability of records/documents pertaining to that particular complaint/allegation. The Commission vide Para 4.4 (a) of Vigilance Manual, 6th Edition has already issued guidelines stating that "if the allegations contain information which can be verified from any document or file or any other departmental records, the investigating / vigilance officer should, without loss of time, secure such records, etc., for personal inspection. If any of the papers examined is found to contain evidence supporting the allegations, such papers should be taken over by him for retention in his personal custody to guard against the possibility of available evidence being tampered with".

2. The Commission observes that these guidelines are not being adhered to and would therefore reiterate its aforementioned guidelines and direct the CVOs to ensure that all relevant records/documents/files etc. are taken into personal custody by the investigating officer **immediately** on receipt of the reference/complaint for processing the allegations, and finalizing the investigation within the stipulated three months' time-limit prescribed by the Commission.

3. The Commission, exercising its authority as contained in para 8(1)(c&d) and para 11 of CVC Act, 2003, also conducts direct inquiry into complaints through Direct Inquiry Officers as nominated by the Commission. It is directed that as soon as a direct inquiry is ordered by the Commission, the CVOs should immediately seize the relevant records pertaining to the case and produce them before the Direct Inquiry Officers (DIOs) without any delay.

4. The above instructions may be noted for strict compliance.



(Vineet Mathur)
Deputy Secretary

All Chief Vigilance Officers