

CRIMINALS IN BUREAUCRACY ?

Indian Express has reported that the Indian Military Academy authorities have arrested a cadet undergoing training on a fake identity. He is a resident of district Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. The authorities discovered that in 2005 the same cadet, bearing a different name, had been discharged for indiscipline. Therefore, he changed his name and cleared all rigorous entry procedures again.

Fingers are now being raised at the genuineness of the process of verification of antecedents done by the Police. I recall that more than twenty years back an IPS probationer was detected having falsely declared himself as a scheduled caste applicant. In an earlier occasion, he had sought to clear UPSC as a general candidate but had failed. His father was an office bearer of the Delhi Rajput Mahasangh while another relative was an IAS Officer in Bihar cadre. The then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs had not approved a proposal to discharge the candidate though the case was handed over to the CBI.

The Principal Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal allowed him to undergo training despite opposition from MHA officials. The gentleman continued to get postings in Haryana. He was convicted in 2005 i.e. after a gap of 18 years. Since the punishment was rather light and conspirators and collaborators were acquitted, CBI was prevailed upon by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to file an appeal. The accused also filed an appeal. They must be pending as nothing has been reported by the Press in last 3 years.

It is shocking to note that cases of false documents, cheating, mischievous reduction in age are increasingly being detected though exemplary action seems to be lacking. At last count such cases had come to notice atleast in Kerela, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh though the Officers continue to serve.

The wrong doers seem to believe that their pre-service conduct cannot be probed by the Government. This is a mistaken belief. It is settled law that an individual cannot wash off his hands just by joining a premier service though the ball may keep tossing between UPSC, DOPT and the State Government.

It would be appropriate for the new Home Minister to take note of these cases before thinking big about police or civil services reforms.

The Directors of LBS National Academy of Administration and the SVP National Police Academy should also prepare case studies and motivate DOPT & MHA to pursue such cases as the Supreme Court has settled the law long back in K.Krishnamurthy's case by convicting him under section 419 of the Indian Penal Code. The details of the case can be seen in All India Reporter 1965 Supreme Court p.333