

No. 000/VGL/154
Government of India
Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, 'A' Block,
GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi – 110 023
Dated: 15th December, 2005

Office Order No. 73/12/2005

Sub: Action against public servants, serving as witnesses, but turning hostile in trap and other cases of CBI.

You are aware that CBI often requisitions the services of Government servants from various organisations in order to utilise them as witnesses in cases of search, trap, etc. The underlying objective behind such practice is to have reliable independent witnesses, who withstand the scrutiny during court trials. However, CBI has brought to the notice of the Commission that in large number of cases, Government servants, who are engaged as such witnesses, are found resiling their original statements during trials, on pleas that they had signed the memoranda without reading the contents or they had not witnessed the real proceedings.

2. It is obvious that these public servants, whose services are thus utilised by the CBI, are turning hostile for ulterior reasons. It is surely not expected that educated and responsible public servants should resort to such devious behaviour, which undermines CBI cases and goes against public interest.

3. Rule 16, Chapter XIII of Vigilance Manual Vol. I, provides that if a Government servant, who had made a statement in course of a preliminary enquiry, changes his stand during evidence in the enquiry, and if such action on his part is without justification or with the objective of favouring one or the other party, his conduct would constitute violation of Rule 3 of the Conduct Rules, rendering him liable for disciplinary action. Such misconduct in the context of criminal cases becomes all the more grave.

4. The Commission is of the view that this unhealthy tendency on part of public servants needs to be curbed effectively. The Commission, therefore, desires that such misconduct, whenever reported by the CBI, should be viewed with utmost seriousness and necessary disciplinary action initiated promptly.

Sd/-
(Balwinder Singh)
Additional Secretary

All Chief Vigilance Officers

Copy to:
Director, CBI, New Delhi