

राजनाथ सिंह
RAJNATH SINGH



गृह मंत्री
भारत
नई दिल्ली-110001
HOME MINISTER
INDIA
NEW DELHI-110001

- 5 MAY 2015

Dear Shri Chandrasekhar Ji,

Please refer to the Special Mention raised by you in the Rajya Sabha on 20.03.2015, suggesting some measures to check corporate espionage by Business Houses in the country.

2. As regards, the suggestion on strengthening punitive provisions in the Official Secrets Act, 1923, I would like to inform you that to deal with the offences by companies under the Act, provisions for stringent punishment prescribing imprisonment upto fourteen years, are already there in the Act.

3. As regards, the suggestion to create a culture of transparency in the Government as well as to create a tight system of managing secret documents, I would like to inform you that the Ministry of Home Affairs had issued a Manual of Departmental Security instructions which has a comprehensive set of instructions relating to classification of documents and the procedure for dealing with the same. These instructions are also reiterated from time to time to all the Ministries/Departments by this Ministry. Further, the provisions of the Official Secrets Act are being examined by this Ministry in light of the Right to Information Act.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(Rajnath Singh)

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar,
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha),
211, North Avenue,
New Delhi-110 001.

Special Mention

GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE ACTION TO DISMANTLE CORPORATE ESPIONAGE

The recent Corporate Espionage incidents squarely puts the spotlight back on the Indian Corporate sector and their relationship with Government. While the role of politicians and bureaucrats in the slew of scams has been widely debated, the role of Corporates in the disturbing trend of corruption and policy capture in Government has not been talked about enough.

While the Government is setting new standards of conduct amongst Ministers, I suggest a two pronged approach to address the issue of Corporates influencing government policy making.

1. Create a culture of deterrence: The government should draft a new legal framework to ensure that such crimes are prosecuted speedily and fairly. This deterrent is required as an incentive for Corporates to follow the rules and laws. The Official Secrets Act must be amended to strengthen the punitive provisions and Fast Track Courts must be established to swiftly prosecute such crimes.
2. Create a culture of transparency in Government: Let most of the Government work in the public domain, creating no premium for information while ensuring equal access to all corporates and stakeholders. Where secrecy is required, create a tight system of managing secret documents especially those in National security, Defence etc.

For India to be a true Investment destination and a globally competitive economy, it needs to reform corporate conduct. This is the only way the government will be able to Transform India for the benefit of its citizens.