

## Press Note

### **Petty Corruption on Decline: Perception or Reality**

#### **CMS-ICS 2017 Report**

**New Delhi April 27, 2017:** Latest report of CMS on corruption in citizen centric public services indicates **a decline in what citizens have to pay as bribe**. In fact, the decline is significant in case of some public services such as Police and Judicial services, when compared to 2005 levels.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual CMS-Indian Corruption Study (CMS-ICS) is being released here today, by **Dr Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog**. **Dr Debroy said that CMS annual survey has become a reliable indicator for the trend of corruption in public services.**

**N. Vittal**, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner, in his foreword mentioned that this year's CMS report is unique as it brings out the trend that deserve to be taken note further by the academics of the country. The report brings out that bribe that citizen has to pay has come down more specifically in the last three years, and particularly in the case of public services which have adopted newer interactive ICT technologies.

**As an independent research based think tank, CMS has been conducting annual surveys since 2000 on petty corruption citizen encounters in the course of availing public services (SDG Indicator 16.5.1) using PEE (Perception + Experience + Estimation) model.**

#### **Key Findings of CMS-ICS 2017:**

- A definite **decline in both perception and experience** of citizens about corruption in public services between **2005 and 2017**
- As per CMS-ICS 2017, around **one-third of the households experienced corruption** in public services at least once during the last one year while in **2005, 53% households** had reported so.
- Dependency on basic public services continues to be high. Public services which were interacted with by more households include Banking (75%), PDS (74%), Public health/hospital (72%) and Electricity (70%). **Compared to 2005, households interacting for banking related services saw a huge leap from 10% (2005) to 75% (2017).**
- While **73% of the households had perceived increase in corruption** level in public services in 2005, **only 43 % of the households in 2017** opined that the level of corruption in public services has increased during the last one year prior to the survey.
- Total amount paid by households across 20 states and 10 public services as bribe, is estimated to be **INR 6350 crore (63500 million) in 2017 as against INR 20500 crore in 2005.**

- Among households *experiencing corruption in public services during last one year was higher in Karnataka (77%) followed by Andhra Pradesh (74%), Tamil Nadu (68%), Maharashtra (57%), J&K (44%) and Punjab (42%)*. While in 2005 round, the percentage of households reporting so were more in Bihar (74%), J&K (69%), Odisha (60%), Rajasthan (59%) and Tamil Nadu (59%).
- In most of the states, the more often paid bribe amount ranges between INR 100-500/-, however as low as INR 10/- and as high as INR 50000/- were also paid by households in a year for availing one or the other public services.
- Out of 20 states covered in CMS-ICS 2017, the **three lesser corrupt states** in terms of households ‘experiencing corruption in public services’ are **Himachal Pradesh (3%) followed by Kerala (4%) and Chhattisgarh (13%)**. In 2005, the three lesser corrupt states were Kerala (35%), Maharashtra (39%) and Gujarat (43%).
- Among public services, households reported *experiencing corruption was relatively higher in Police (34%) followed by Land/Housing (24%), Judicial services (18%) and Tax (15%) and PDS (12%)*.
- Key reasons for paying bribe in a public service continues to be similar in most of the states, between 2005 and 2017. The reasons for corrupt practices could be broadly categorised as procedural; documentation related; payment evasion and dependency on service provider.

*Methodology:* CMS-ICS 2017 covered more than 3000 households from over 200 rural and urban clusters of **20 states** namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The ten public services covered are PDS, Electricity, Health/hospital, School Education, Water Supply, Banking Services, Police, Judicial Services, Land/Housing and Tax (only urban) related services.

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