

NEWS & VIEWS

A reality show of Ethics in Public Administration

Gandhiji's perception that real freedom will come to the nation only when the tears of the poorest of the poor is wiped out, can be quoted as the right definition of ethics. The biggest agent to achieve this is no doubt the government. The Govts., both Centre and States, on their part have been rolling out welfare measures one after the other, to uplift the downtrodden population but it seldom reaches the real beneficiaries.

It's in this context the recent initiative of Karnataka Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde to identify beneficiaries of monthly pension for the aged, invalid, physically challenged, widows and such other citizens of below poverty line (BPL) category makes history and is laudable as a reality show of Ethics in public administration. Many of those identified from one of the largest slums of Bangalore, were not aware of such benefits available for them. The Lokayukta in association with a local NGO, Masjid E Mamoor and Mamoor Trust, organized a door to door campaign along with Revenue Dept. officials, to authentically identify the beneficiaries of govt. welfare measures for the BPL category citizens. After two months of efforts, nearly 400 families were identified. Those identified were issued with a certificate that will enable them to receive the benefits sans helping hand sharks (the middle men).

At the formal function where the certificates were issued, Justice Santosh Hegde pointed out that the Lokayukta's objective of capturing the corrupt officials, is to reach justice to every citizen, particularly the weak and the poor. "We wanted to show the govt. officials that they can be pro-active and partners

with citizens to ensure welfare measures of the govt. reach the deserving ones and none of the deserving ones are left out. This will be the beginning and a positive way to root out corruption. Participation of citizen volunteers from the locality is a must to make the project successful."

A.V.



Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde distributig certificates

Editor's Post Script : Working professionals can take a cue from Justice Hegde's exhortation in "partnering with govt. officials and helping the BPL citizens get what is rolled out for them by the govt. agencies.