



Dated - 11 December 2013

To

Shri Raman Singh Ji  
Chief Minister's Office  
Raipur, Chhattisgarh

**Subject: Appeal to provide clean and exemplary governance.**

Dear Shri Raman Singh Ji,

On behalf of **Chhattisgarh Election Watch**, the state chapter of National Election Watch which is a network of over 1200 civil society groups across the country, we would like to congratulate you on the impressive election victory of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and on your good self becoming the chief minister in Chhattisgarh for the third time in a row.

National Election Watch (NEW) and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) are citizen led non-political, non-partisan and non-governmental organizations that are working for nearly a decade on electoral and political reforms, so as to improve democracy and governance in India.

Although there is no doubt that the electorate of our state has voted wisely in favour of a stable and mature government, there are some concerns when we look at the results at the criminal and financial records of certain MLAs:

- **15 newly elected MLAs have declared criminal cases against them out of which 8 MLAs have declared serious criminal cases.**
- **67 of the newly elected MLAs are Crorepatis**

**Kindly ensure that the MLAs with criminal antecedents are not trusted with chairs of responsibility inside the state assembly such as in standing committees, financial committees etc.** Also, please make sure that the wealthy MLAs who possess high assets should not be assigned a portfolio in the council of ministry that poses a **conflict of interest** with his/her business interests.

Sir, we expect that you would provide clean and exemplary governance. Also, we would like to take this opportunity to request you for a meeting to discuss few recommendations that will enable the citizens to know more about their elected representatives.

**Also, we put forward our requests as follows:**

1. Request that no tainted MLAs be made ministers or given chairs of responsibilities inside state assembly such as in standing committees, financial committees etc.
2. Request that even the Chairmen of Co-operatives, Banks and other State Government bodies should also not be tainted.
3. Request that you institutionalize the following:



No office in the land is more  
important than that of being a Citizen



- a. Annual asset declarations of all MLAs as a rule in the assembly
- b. Annual asset declarations of all Ministers in your cabinet
- c. Institute a register of interest in the assembly to declare their financial interests along the lines of Rajya Sabha
- d. Take steps to make proceedings of the assembly online – specifically attendance, questions asked etc.
- e. Institute an annual online reporting of MLA fund utilization and status of works initiated

We look forward in anticipation for a word from you on scheduling of a personal meeting with us

We wish you all the best in ensuring overall progress in Chhattisgarh during the next five years.

Sincerely Yours,

**For Chhattisgarh Election Watch**

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