

As per to the letter from Maharashtra Government letter we were called by for Public Consultation pertaining to amendment on 6-10-13 at Hotel Trident a 5 star hotel at bandra.
Letter reference 2013/807/426/6 dt 4/10/13.

As per to the letter it is understood that state govt received an intimation of such consultation on 25-9-13 and later the state has called me for public consultation by letter 4/10/13 for 6/10/13.

Meeting was titled as : Meeting with recognised National and State Political Parties and **Selected NGOs** on the Right to Information (amendment Bill 2013).

I feel 15 TO 17 MPS OF STANDING COMMITTEE PARTICIAPTED

Following was the statements given by me in the consultation:

FOR CONSULTATION

- 1) Though I was called and one more from Pune, I first objected to such type consultation BY SYSTEM OF SELECTED INVITATION as we only two don't represent people at large. It was demanded that larger consultation be held by giving public notice so that proper dialogue can be held in the state.
- 2) Consultation must happen from the panchayat level to all above hierarchy system through public interface areas, these can easily be done by displaying consultation notice at the every panchayat to hierarchy offices. And if the districts are connected through the satellite the consultation can also be done through this as DISTRICTS IN Maharashtra are connected via satellite and state social up-liftment awareness facilities are given through this system.
- 3) So objected to such type of consultation in principle and urged to take a larger consultations and demanded to expand the consultation opportunity for all citizens.
- 4) Suggestions and objection should have been done through publicity in all official state and central languages so that all the communities can participate in strengthening the act, but as per to sources it is not done so.

QUETION RAISED BY MPS of standing committee:

- 1) Can finance detail be published?

Ans: Only finance is the not the criteria for transparency. Transparency should be as per to Section 4 of the RTI. The members of political parties propagate their policies and engrave in the parliament and these decision affect people at large so it is very necessary to know dicission making process of the party, whether they ensure the democratic process which is the basis of constitution.

- 2) All contributions are informed to election commission.

Ans: Only contribution above 20000/- are informed to Election Commission. This amounts to only near to 20%, where as balance is from unknown sources, which is a mystery. We must know these sources whether they are from the people who wish to disturb the peace of the nation and this directly affects the policy decision making.

- 3) Does that mean all internal personal maters be published?

Ans: There is very correct safe guard in Section 8 of the RTI act and these can be covered under these provisions.

4) When you say you work for the people why not be you be transparent and elected representative of the party ideology affects the decision making process in government.

5) We cited various judgements which stated various bodies who were covered under the RTI due to various system of substantial funding and same rationale applies to Political parties and to our conclusion excluding political parties from the RTI act will violate Article 14 of the constitution.

6) We also gave High court wise break up of judgements:

- a) Punjab and Haryana -5 judgments (2 Division bench)
- b) Kerala- 5 judgements(2 division Bench)
- c) Allahabad- 5 Judgement (2 Division bench)
- d) Delhi 5 Judgements (1 division bench)
- e) Bombay, Jharkand, Karnatak- 1judgement each

7) In the commission order it was proved that the said political parties were substantially funded by the government and if the political parties are having any reservation then they should appeal at court and not to bring the amendment to RTI with ultra vires motives.

8) The way the political parties are behaving are expressing the arrogance and this is not expected in Democracy.

9) We also said whichever political parties were present in the meeting were unable to substantiate their claim with documentation in the standing committee consultations.

10) We also said all **unknown** source funding of political parties which amounts to 1000s of crores.

11) We gave eg of Vedanta group funding to major two political parties i.e BJP and Congrss, though they are not permitted to take funds from FCRA Act. No STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER NOR REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES WERE ABLE TO DENY THE ALLEGATION.

I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY DOCUMENT THAT CONFIRMS THAT THE WHATEVER I HAVE STATED IS RECORDED.

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I DONOT HAVE ANY OBJECTION IF IT IS MADE PUBLIC THE SUBMISSIONS THAT WERE GIVEN TO STANDING COMMITTEE.