



**CONTRIBUTION OF VIGILANCE POLICE FOR CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF FOREST WEALTH IN ODISHA AND SUCCESSFUL INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF VIGILANCE CASES AGAINST IMPORTANT PERSONS**

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Odisha State Vigilance today enjoys the reputation of being a premier investigating agency like CBI and enjoys the confidence of the people and the Government and International agencies connected with the State Govt. The type of investigation taken up today by Odisha State Vigilance will earn the appreciation of any outstanding investigating agency like CBI. The present DG, Vigilance Sri Anup Kumar Patnaik, IPS has led this organisation to great heights of glory and success. I am proud to recall that I had long association with the State Vigilance and had my humble contribution to its growth.

My tenure in State Vigilance was nearly for 7 years from 1977 to 1985. The State Vigilance in Odisha is a unique one. It has an economic offence wing dealing with tax evasion and forest crimes. For the first time the State Govt. attached a Divisional Forest Office with some forest staff to State Vigilance for effective enforcement of forest laws. The Vigilance staff in coordination with forest staff raided the vulnerable points in the forest and firmly dealt with smuggling of timber. This arrangement put down forest crime to a great extent. I presented a paper on contribution of Vigilance Police for conservation and protection of forest wealth in Odisha at one of the sessions of Indian Police Science Congress at Port Blair as mentioned below in the presence of the then Union Home Minister, Late Shri Narsingh Rao. The paper was highly appreciated and sent to concerned Union Ministry.

1) Our Prime Minister in her message on the eve of celebration of wild life week, 1983 observed "India's philosophy has always been one of respect for all living creatures. So all life has flourished in our country. We



have had great numbers and vast variety in our forest and wild life. This lends colour and distinction to the national scene. Unhappily, pressures of modernization linked with an unprecedented growth in population have diluted many of those values which we had held sacred. The rapid depletion of our forests and the extinction of some species of animals and plants has been an unfortunate result”.

2) Odisha had 59,963 Sq K.M of forest area with immense forest wealth. Similipal forest range of Odisha with over 2250 Sq.K.M. forest area was considered one of the finest and richest forest ranges in India. Against the national forest policy of having at least 33% of total land under forest cover, we claimed to have at present 39% of land under forest cover. But recent study through satellite (INSAT-B) has shown that only 22% of forest cover exist in Odisha due to wanton, a indiscriminate felling of trees by forest offenders.

3) **Launching of a scheme for curbing forest crime.**

When forest offences assumed serious proportions, Govt. of Odisha directed the State Vigilance to strengthen the hands of the forest officers of the State for prevention and detection of forest offences. Prior to this, the State Vigilance was only looking into cases of corruption against forest officials, but it has not role for prevention and detection of forest offences which assumed alarming proportions on account of contract system in sale of timber and abnormal rise in price of timber and forest produce. The scheme introduced by the Govt. in this connection envisages planned and concrete steps to help achieve the objective of a sound all round forest policy by preventing forest offences and also by detecting not only smuggling and thefts of all forest produces but also malpractices in forest Deptt. The scheme was introduced with the following broad objectives :-

- (a) Collection of intelligence about major smuggling rackets and corruption in different quarters.
- (b) Surprise anti-smuggling patrolling in selected areas to prevent forest offences.



- (c) Surprise anti smuggling and anti corruption checks and raids to detect forest offences and corrupt practices of the forest officials in the field.
- (d) To render technical advise and opinion in Vigilance enquiries into corruption in the working of the territorial, working plan, afforestation, silviculture, Kenduleaf etc. divisions of the Forest Deptt. and also in the working of the Odisha Forest Corporation.
- (e) Anti-poaching checks.

4) **Forest Staff Deputation to State Vigilance.**

To start with 3 Rangers, 3 Foresters and 6 Forest Guards were sanctioned for the three Vigilance Divisions located at Cuttack, Berhampur and Sambalpur. They were provided with half section of Armed Police each with a vehicle. One Deputy Conservator of Forests, one Forester and 2 Forest Guards were deputed to the Vigilance Directorate.

5) Within three months of the introduction of the scheme, a complete survey of the crime situation was done in respect of 27 forest divisions of the State through Vigilance officers posted in these areas and "black spots" were identified. Thereafter joint raids were organized in the areas which had attained notoriety for smuggling of timber and forest produces. Raids organized in Karanjia, Balugan, Nayagarh, Kamakhyanagar, Nilgir, Sukinda forest ranges which had attracted adverse public notice, gave out lot of clues about the Nodus-Operandi of the forest criminals. Smuggled timber worth several lakhs of rupees were seized from the forest as well as from the compound of the Villagers living close to some forest ranges. This was followed by raids on number of Saw Mills which were found to be main receivers of the stolen timber. Raids on the saw mills revealed that out of over 500 saw mills in Odisha, 87 were found to be plying without license and over 50 saw mills found to be plying with electricity taken unauthorisedly. A close nexus amongst the forest contractors, saw mill owners, forest smugglers and some corrupt elements amongst forest staff was found during the raids. Most of the cases detected and prosecuted established collusion among these elements. In one of the earliest raids in



Dhusuma in Nayagarh sub-division led by me, some of the villagers from whose compound timber worth nearly Rs. 1 lakh were recovered confessed to me that they have been smuggling timber from the nearby forest for over a decade and selling it to saw mills at Nayagarh. In another case, huge quantity of timber were found to have been transported to Uttar Pradesh from Angul and Kamakhyanagar forest ranges under the cover of forged forest permits. One forester who was found to be responsible for running this illegal trade committed suicide soon after the recovery of seizure off the forged permit by Vigilance staff from the residence of his brother at Talcher. Before committing suicide, he left a note owning his responsibility for circulation of forged forest permits. The above case is under trial. In number of cases unscrupulous forest contractors were caught while transporting sawn teak timber by railway wagons in collusion with Railway Station masters. In one case, wagons booked from Tapang Railway Station to Kolkata and Vizag with teak timber were seized by Vigilance. The Station Master and the Railway Clerk were found to be in league with forest smugglers in booking smuggled timber without any permit from the DFO as required under rules. House search of the accused contractor gave out all clues relating to above organized crime. Some of the raids organized in Karanjia, Sukinda, Angul forest ranges revealed the extent and magnitude of this crime. In one raid in Karanjia forest range, smuggled timber worth Rs. 30 lakhs were recovered from the saw mills owned by some forest contractors and from inside forest. In this case the then DFO in charge of the Karanjia Forest Division has been chargesheeted for issuing timber transit permits in the name of fake tenants which facilitated removal of huge quantity of timber from reserve forest. The case has been charge sheeted against the Divisional Forest Officer , two forest rangers, 2 Revenue Inspectors ,2 amins and 10 forest contractors are under trial. After Vigilance raid on the saw mills owned by some forest contractors. Income Tax Authorities raided their houses at Karanjia and business premises in Kalkata and other cities and detected concealed income to the tune of several crores of rupees. One Forest Contractor who had no taxable income before a decade was found to be in possession of concealed income to the tune of more than rupees two crores. It was confirmed during investigation that he



earned this black money mostly from the smuggling of the timber from Karanjia forest range. After detection of this case, an organized racket in tenants timber in several forest divisions of Odisha were unearthed by Vigilance. The nodus operandi adopted by the forest contractors in such cases was to obtain timber transit permit from the Divisional Forest Officers for removing trees sold to them by some tenants who are mostly tribals or men from scheduled caste. The DFOs as per rules are supposed to cause joint verification about the ownership of the land and the trees by revenue and forest staff. But in number of cases they were found to have granted timber transit permit freely without verification with a corrupt motive. The contractors removed timber from Reserve forest on the authority of T.T. permits. The forest check gate staffs were also found to have connived an illegal transportation of such timber. In Sambalpur, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kamakhyanagar, Sukinda and Nilgiri forest ranges, the forest offenders went to the extent of assaulting the forest/Vigilance staff when they were apprehended. Such turbulence was firmly put down by deputing armed policemen in charge of Vigilance Superintendent of Police who organized frequent raids in such areas. In some anti smuggling operations in Ranpur Forest area of Khurda Forest Division, even women folk at the instigation of some political extremists offered resistance to the Vigilance raiding party and obstructed movement of trucks loaded with seized smuggled timber recovered from their villages. Prosecutions were launched against them for causing obstructions. In one case, some forest offenders snatched away a gun from a forester in Ranpur area and a Revolver from an Asst. Sub-Inspector of police during raids in Sukinda area. A combing operation with a large force was done in these areas which created desired impact in the area. Some forest offenders took to transport of smuggled timber by river to avoid detection. But this was also plugged and several cases were detected on river Mahanadi and Brahmani by the Vigilance and forest officers. In one case, one of the forest smuggler was shot dead on river Brahmani by a Forester when he and his gang members resisted seizure of smuggled timber.

6) **Number of Prosecutions.**



During last 3 years, 2923 joint raids were conducted through out the State resulting in seizure of smuggled timber and Kenduleaf etc. worth Rs.1,29,30,123.00. The properties were handed over to Forest Corporations for disposal. 2923 forest cases have been instituted against 3014 accused persons. Since Forest Department have no suitable arrangement for prosecution of their cases. Asst. police prosecutors Vigilance in different districts have been directed to prosecute forest cases.

7) **Raids on Saw Mills.**

Raids organized on Saw Mills located in different Forest Divisions by Vigilance Sales Tax Staff resulted in detection of suppression of sales tax over gross turn over to the tune of Rs. 6,24,19,908.99. In one case a saw mill owned by one Forest Contractor in Talcher, Vigilance detected suppression of Sales Tax to the extent of Rupees One Crore Eighty Four Lakhs. Following action has been taken for final assessment and realization of Sales Tax with penalty by Commercial Tax Department.

8. **Legal Amendments.**

A Committee consisting of Director Vigilance, Secretary, Forest Department and Chief Conservator of Forests recommended certain amendments to existing Law and promulgation of new Law to strengthen the hands of Forest officers in dealing with the Forest Crime effectively. Accordingly following amendments and new law were brought out by the State Government :-

(a) Section 56 of Odisha Forest Act was amended as follows to vest powers in Divisional Forest Officers to confiscate vehicles involved in smuggling :

- (i) "Where an authorized officer seize any forest produce under section(i) or where any such forest produce is produced before him under sub-section (2) and he is satisfied that a forest offence has been committed in respect thereof, he may order confiscation of the forest



produce so seized or produced together with all tools, ropes, chains, boats, vehicles or cattle used in committing such offence”.

This is a drastic legislation intended to put down transport of smuggled timber and forest produce through trucks and other vehicles .The enormity of the crime can be appreciated from the fact that during the years 1980-1981, about 500 trucks and other conveyances involved in transporting smuggled timber were seized by the Vigilance. After above enactment, this year 29 trucks, one bus, 21 cycles, 3 cycle-rickshaws, 66 bullock carts and one tractor with trolley have been seized in different forest divisions both by the Vigilance and Forest Staff and confiscation proceedings have been initiated.

(b) Odisha Forest Saw Mills and Saw pits Control Rules were formulated in 1980 to regulate activities of Saw Mill owners. The Saw Mill owners are required under this rule to take separate license for each Saw pit Saw Mill from the D.F.O. D.F.Os have been authorized under this Rules to cancel or suspend an license for good and sufficient reasons to be recorded in writing. Saw Mill owners are required to maintain a Stock Register showing Sl.No. Date, Log No. with mark on it, species, how and where from obtained and details about disposal of the timber. 943 surprise checks have been made by Vigilance and Forest Staff on Saw Mills during years and the numbers of Saw Mills have been served with notices by the DFOs for cancellation of the license for illegal possession of timber and violations of Saw Mill and Saw pits Control Rules.

(c) Another legislation called “Regulation of Tenants Timber” to stop malpractice in disposal of tenants’ timber has recently received the assent of the President. Vigilance survey had revealed that several forest contractors have removed timber worth crores of rupees from mostly tribal districts by managing to obtain .T.T. permits from the D.F.Os. Under the above law, trees standing on the land of a Harijan or an Adibasis can be sold only to forest



Department or Forest Corporation. This will eliminate exploitation and the existing racket in Tenants' Timber. The State Vigilance have started number of cases against forest and revenue officers and forest contractors for causing heavy pecuniary loss to the Government by manipulating land records in the disposal of trees standing on the land of the tenants. In two recent cases of Karanjia and Kamakhyanager forest ranges, timber worth several lakhs have been removed from the reserve forest on the Authority of T.T. permits issued by local DFOs. In two other cases T.T. permits issued by the DFOs. Baliguda and Nayagarh T.T. permits have been cancelled by the Conservators as they were found to have been issued with a corrupt motive.

**9) Abolition of contract system in Timber Trade inside the Forest.**

The State Government have abolished contract system in the disposal of timber from the forest through out the State of Odisha. Now the Odisha State Forest Corporation (A Government under taking) is the sole agent in the sale of timber and Forest produces like Kendu Leaf and Sal seeds etc. Forest revenue in Odisha has gone upto Rs. 56.56 crores during 1983-1984 partly due to control of Forest crime, as compared to Rs. 37.26 crores during 1980-1981. Similarly, the Odisha Forest Corporation's Royalty has gone upto 43 crores during 1983-1984 as against Rs.24 crores in the year 1979-1980. The turn over of Forest Corporation has gone upto Rs. 82 crores as against Rs. 40 crores in 1980-1981.

**10) Preventive Vigilance.**

A review of the situation after the abolition of the contract system of trade in timber, seizure of some Saw Mills which were receiving stolen timber and prosecution of large number of forest smugglers has been made. A list of forest smugglers through out the State has been prepared. For the first time, two forest smugglers of Sukinda were detailed under the provisions of Section 3(1)(a)(b)(ii) of the prevention of Black Marketing and maintenance of supplies of essential commodities Act, 1980. Meetings have been held in the affected areas to create awareness among the people about the need for



protection of the forest. This had the desired impact on the people. Most of the valuable anti –smuggling intelligence were received by the Vigilance from the Villagers. In many anti-smuggling operations villagers accompanied the raiding party. In village “Olanda” of Hindol,P.S.(Dhenkanal) people from 4 to 5 villagers organized a meeting and invited me, DFO and the Collector to assure their support for anti-smuggling operations. They offered to form village resistance party to resist the smugglers.

**11) Periodical Coordination meeting with the Forest Officers.**

State Vigilance have been holding coordination meetings with Forest Officers al most once a quarter at the level of Divisions, Circle and the level of Chief Conservator of Forests. So far 24 Coordination meetings have been held in different circle headquarters which was attended by me and my colleagues. These meetings have helped in quick implementation of decisions taken jointly to curb Forest Crime.

**12) Legal and Departmental Action taken against Forest Officers.**

During last 3 years 241 corruption enquiries were taken up against 323 Forest officials out of which 10 enquiries were converted to criminal cases 57 enquiries were referred to the Department for institution of Departmental proceedings against-1 Class-I, 3 Class-II 57 Class-III and 17 Class-IV Forest officers. 13 corruption enquiries have been referred to Administrative GTribunal against 10 Class-I,2 Class-II and 5 Class-III Forest officials. 27 Criminal prosecutions have been launched against 5 Class-I, 2 Class-II and 29 Class-III Forest Officers. 2 cases U/s 5 (2) read with Section 5 (i)(e)of the P.C.Act have been instituted against 2 Conservators and 2 D.F.Os. A case of disproportionate assets against a Forest Ranger is under Trial now. Houses of 2 conservators 2 DFOs and 1 Ranger were searched during investigation of cases U/s 5(2)read with Section 5(i)(e) of the P.C. Act. At present 76 enquiries against 25 Class-I, 10 Class-II 60 Class-III and 13 Class-IV Forest officials are pending in the State Vigilance. The above punitive action has



helped cleaning the Forest Department of bad laments and has received appreciation from the Departmental officers.

**13) Training of Forest officers in investigation and prosecution of cases and in use of fire arms.**

Necessary steps have been taken for the training of the Forest officers in Forest Training Schools and Colleges in investigation and prosecution of forest cases. Recently they have been issued some fire arms for use by Foresters and Forest guards and they are being trained by the Police in use of the fire arms.

**14) Incentive for good work.**

Number of Forest officers in the rank of D.F.O. Rangers, Foresters and Forest Guards have been suitably rewarded by the State Government on the recommendation of the State Vigilance for display of high sense of duty and courage during anti-smuggling operations.

**15)** It is a matter of pride for the Vigilance Police that they have been able to successfully put down organized forest crime in Odisha which assumed serious proportions in co-operation with forest staff. This has not only helped in protecting the forest wealth but has helped in conservation of ecosystem and protection of human environment. Forest today is not only a vital part of our national wealth but also a vital ecological necessity. It has therefore to be protected from the onslaught of organized gang of white color criminals. Contemporary Indian Socio-Political scene reveals an amazing degree of white color criminality to which serious attention needs to be given by the Law Enforcement Agencies. Forest crime has all the characteristics and ingredients of “white color” crime as explained by EDdwin Sutherland and as discussed by Law Commission in its 47<sup>th</sup>. Report. White color crime of this nature are not only deliberate but also organized. Such criminals rarely go to jails because of their money power through which they delay judicial processes and try to corrupt persons at various levels of criminals Justice heirachies. Therefore Law Commission in its 47<sup>th</sup> Report has recommended



for instituting special courts to try such cases and use of preventive detection . They have suggested amendment of Law in shifting burden of proof to the accused and increasing maximum punishment to give adequate expression to social disapproval of such crimes.

In the prosecution of forest crime in Odisha we have been facing the same problems as discussed by Law Commission in their 47<sup>th</sup> report. Therefore a new strategy in combating this form of organized crime and successfully prosecuting them is called for in the interest of conservation and protection of forest wealth of our country.

During my tenure as Director State Vigilance, we took up investigation of a case of disproportionate assets against former Chief Minister Late Nandini Satapathy. We conducted raids in over dozen places in India and charge sheeted the case. Our the then Vigilance Advocate Late Sri Biren Pattnaik (Barrister) presented a very strong case, charges were framed by the Court after hearing the famous defense Lawyer Sri Ram Jethamalini. The charge was based mostly on documentary evidence. Advocate Sri Jethamalini confessed outside the court that the State Vigilance had made a cast iron proof case against the accused. However, the case was finally withdrawn on political intervention. There were other sensational cases of corruption which were successfully investigated and charge sheeted by the Vigilance. One of such cases is the case of fraud in respect of 20 thousand acres of valuable land at Baripada, The details of the case are given below :-

The State Vigilance, Odisha have registered a criminal case against Sri Subodh Kumar Bose of Baripada, District Mayurbhanj U/s 420/468/471 IPC. On allegation of cheating the State Government and forgery in respect of illegal possession of about 20,000 acres of land of “Sir Daniel Mckinnon Hamilton Estate” by giving it a false colour of “TRUST ( Charitable}”. The land is situated at Baripada District Headquarters of Mayurbhanj, a former princely State of Odisha. This place is at a distance of about 200 KMs South West form Calcutta.



The history of the case in brief is that during pre-independence days the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj, who had then sovereign authority, executed several lease deeds in between 1904 and 1935 leasing out about 20,000 acres of land to Sir Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton of Scotland for the purpose of establishing a Model Farm and Co-operative Training Institute attached thereto. Several terms and conditions were laid down in the lease deeds. Some of the most important conditions are that :-

- (a) The lease was granted occupancy right in the said lands which would be hereditary. The lands were not, however, transferable without written consent of the lessor.
- (b) The lessee could execute a WILL in favour of his wife only granting life interest. The lessee clearly violated the most important condition of the lease deeds by not establishing any Model Farm and co-operative Training Institute and the persons dealing with the property after his death made certain transfers without the written consent of the lessor.

The lessee Sir Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton died in U.K. on 06.12.1939 and before his death he executed a WILL on 08.06.1939 in favour of his wife appointing his wife Lady Margaret Elizabeth Hamilton his two cousins Mr. Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton and Mr. James Hamilton as trustees and executors of the WILL with power to co-opt other trustees and executors. As per the WILL he bequeathed life interest to his wife in respect of his Indian landed properties. A further condition was embodied in the WILL that after her death, the landed properties were to be held in "TRUST" by the three churches i.e. church of England, Church of Scotland and London Missionary Society, (Indian Branches) for furtherance of Missionary work in rural areas of India. Lady Margaret Elizabeth Hamilton died in 1946. The Churches declined to accept the offer under the WILL and executed deeds of declinature in between 18-12-1945 and 19-05-1953. So the question of formation of "TRUST" as per the direction given in the WILL did not come into effect at all. Such direction in the WILL without the consent of the lessor was also illegal.



Mr. James Hamilton, the only surviving Trustee of the WILL assumed authority of the sole executor of the estate. He co-opted his wife Mrs. Anne Hamilton on 5-6-1946 and both of them co-opted one Gopinath Burman of Calcutta and Sri Subodh Kumar Bose of Baripada as Additional Trustees and executed a deed on 30-4-1969 in which they disposed the entire estate to them. They had no authority to dispose of the properties in favour of any body much less to themselves without the written consent of the lessor. Mr. James Hamilton died on 23-2-1949. His wife Mrs. Anne Hamilton executed a Power of Attorney on 5-8-1971 in favour of Sri Subodh Kumar Bose and Dr. Gopinath Burman. On 31-8-1977 Dr. Gopinath Burman gave Power of Attorney in favour of Sri Subodh Kumar Bose. Mrs. Anne Hamilton died in / Scotland on 9-11-1979. This is how Sri Subodh Kumar Bose became the sole executor of the affairs of "Sir Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton Estate" was subsequently, illegally and falsely changed to "Sir Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton Trust, (Charitable)" to give it the colour of "TRUST" and for the sole purpose of obtaining pecuniary advantage by deceitful means.

Since then Sri Subodh Kumar Bose has been selling away the land of the so-called "TRUST" illegally to private persons without written consent of the State who is the successor-in-interest of the lessor. The State Government have also acquired by Land Acquisition proceeding some land of the so called "TRUST" from Sri Subodh Kumar Bose. He has already received a compensation of more than 10 lakhs of rupees from the State Government on 31.5.1978 and 16-4-1981. His further claim of about 8 Lakhs of rupees for about 150 acres of land acquired by the State Government for establishing a State owned spinning Mill at Baripada is pending for consideration. He has been receiving a sum of Rs. 30,000/- annually as rent for some land given on lease to a Public Sector undertaking called "NICCO" at Baripada in which the Government of Orissa is a shareholder. He has leased out vast area of land to private persons and collecting rent from them. He has illicitly felled a number of trees from the area. The money so obtained is



being deposited in the United Bank, Baripada Branch in the named of so-called "TRUST", but Sri Subodh Kumar Bose has been operating the account.

A reference was made to new Scotland yard through "INTERPOL" to find out if Sir Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton had heir and if any of them are living to claim the Estate at Baripada and to find out if the WILL and other document referred to above were genuine. Reply received from Scotland yard indicate that Sir Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton died issueless and he had no heir. They further replied that the WILL and other documents were genuine and were duly registered in the Books of Public records of Scotland.

After the death of the Lessee Sir Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton and his wife Lady Margaret Hamilton, the land in question would have devolved on the State Government of Odisha, who is successor-in—interest of the lessor. The Princely state of Mayurbhanj merged in the State of Odisha in the year 1949 and accordingly the State Government of Odisha is the owner of the land by escheat.

But in the meantime Sri Subodh Kumar Bose of Baripada by making false and deceitful representation claiming himself to be a trustee of the "Sir Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton Trust(Chritable)"obtained 2 privileged Rayat Certificates from the Tahasildars of Betnati and Bripada of Mayurbhanj district in the year 1970 and 1971 respectively. By virtue of this certificate the ceiling law is not applicable to the land in question. The State Government is taking steps to cancel the privileged Rayat Certificates so granted to Sri Subodh Kumar Bose.

The above lessee Sir Daniel Mackinnon Hamilton of Scotland also acquired vast area of landed property in similar manner at "Goswba" in West Bengal. But in the meantime Government of West Bengal requisitioned ownership over the land. Similar follow up action is being contemplated by Government of Orissa by terminating the lease and canceling the privileged Rayat Certificates.



The State Vigilance Department was continuing the investigation of the case when I went on transfer.

Another case of corruption against a Senior mining officer of Keonjhar deserves to be mentioned as it cost we heavily in life after retirement as a case of processional hazard. The case was registered by our S.P. Vigilance Sambalpur against the mining officer for regularly receiving bribe from the mine owner who happened to be a minister of the State Government. The case was charge sheeted against the mining officer and ended in conviction. The accused officer was an appeal to the High Court. The single Judge Bench acquitted the mining officer had declared the mine owner as a professional bribe giver. The Judgment was one of the rarest one as the bribe giver is rarely punished in a bribery case, though law makes both of them liable. This sensational Judgment of the Honorable High Court resulted in the resignation of the concerned minister. Though I as the Director of Vigilance had nothing to do with the judgment in the High Court the concerned Minister who was reinstated after an appeal in the Honorable Supreme Court, took me as h is enemy to settle scores with me.

As the Director State Vigilance, I emphasized on Preventive Vigilance so that before a public servant acquires disproportionate assets it could be noticed and detected early though scrutiny of his property return and watch on his life style. I also tried to create a social climate to disapprove corrupt practices and socially boycott corrupt public servants. It is my firm conviction that corruption can be considerably reduced, if people at the top runs clean and transparent administration.

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