Letters to the Editor

Corruption in judiciary disturbing

I read with interest Mr. K. Majithia's article, "Corruption in judiciary: Time for urgent action" (Dec 1). As the country is hit by major scams like the 2G spectrum allocation and the Commonwealth Games, corruption in the judiciary is totally unacceptable and needs to be checked urgently. The problem is the biggest in the High Courts and Supreme Court, as pointed out by Mr. S.P. Bharucha several years ago when he stated that 20 per cent of the judiciary was corrupt. With the Supreme Court's observation on November 20 that 12 high court judges, the situation has become alarming.

The judiciary has no institutional mechanism to investigate and check corruption. The media cannot report much that is happening in the judiciary because of the contempt law. Expediting the process of impeachment of judges is very slow and one does not know whether a judge will be impeached by Parliament given the manner in which Justice V. Ramaswamy's impeachment motion fell in the House because of the Congress' U-turn on the issue.

The selection of capable and upright judges holds the key to judicial reforms. Since the collegium system has failed to serve the intended purpose, the Union Public Service Commission should remain the High Court judges. Why not go in for the Indian Judicial Services (IJS) on the lines of the IAS and IPS?

The writer has put the judicial system in contempt. The existing in-built mechanism, the Judges (Indictment) Act 1968, and monetary compensation. It must be mandatory to rehabilitate and help her in adjusting with society as rape puts a social stigma on her.

Had the 2G Spectrum scandal happened in the US or the UK, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would have been jailed for 500 years long back (i.e. at the first instance of licence to 122 firms) after a three-month trial. However, in India, nothing happens. The judiciary has to take advantage of the long judicial steps and tell the people in the eyes of the judge. It is good that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is evading interest in this vital area. (Rajendra Singh Palwal, Jullundur)

Rape: how best to tackle it?

Till recent gang-rape of a girl in the national capital shocking. Women are the weakest, editorial, Dec 15. The weak and vulnerable criminal justice system is the root cause of the malaise. When the offender knows that the complicated and slow judicial procedure will ultimately result in his acquittal, he then knows how to indulge in this vice. The judge must be in touch with the victim. He must get a feeling of justice in his heart. The victim's safety at the hearing must be considered alongside his rights.

The writer has pointed out the judicial system from a different perspective. The existing in-built mechanism to deal with vaccination and misconduct of judges has proved to be a futile exercise. The process of impeachment of judges is very slow and one does not know whether a judge will be finally impeached by Parliament given the manner in which Justice V. Ramaswamy's impeachment motion fell in the House because of the Congress' U-turn on the issue.

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