Circular No. 09/07/18

Subject: CVO to closely monitor presentation of case by Presenting Officer before the IO

It has been noticed by the Commission that many of the CVOs are not monitoring the presentation of cases by the Presenting Officers (PO) before the Inquiry Officers (IO). Undesirable practice of POs taking decisions contrary to the position stated in the charge-sheet without the specific consent of the Disciplinary Authority has also been noticed.

2. In this regard attention is invited to para 7.24.3 (xi) of Vigilance Manual 2017 whereby the Presenting Officers are required to keep the Disciplinary Authority posted with the progress of inquiry proceedings by sending a brief of work done at the end of each hearing. Attention is also invited to para 17 of Chapter 15 of the Handbook for Inquiry Officers and Disciplinary Authorities issued by ISTM (DoPT) wherein guidelines on the responsibilities of the PO during the Regular Hearing have been described in detail.

3. The Presenting Officer is required to lead the evidence of the prosecution logically and forcefully before the Inquiring Authority. The CVOs are required to monitor the progress of inquiry proceedings including the quality of performance of Presenting Officers before the IO on a regular basis and keep the disciplinary authorities posted about it. While examining some of the cases referred to the Commission for second

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stage advice, it has been noticed by the Commission that some of the Presenting Officers (POs) have taken a stand / position contrary to the stand / position stated in the charge-sheet without the explicit consent of the Disciplinary Authority. In some cases, the POs have not presented some of the listed/ relied upon documents. Further, in some cases, the POs have not even ensured that the listed witnesses are summoned and produced before the Inquiring Authority for examination and substantiating the position stated in the charge-sheet. There are also instances where the POs have not sought additional documents to be produced before the IO even though they were felt essential for sustaining the charges/imputations.

4. The Commission conveys that the CVOs do not become functus officio once the PO is appointed in a departmental proceeding. The CVOs need to closely monitor the presentation of the case by the PO before the IO. The Commission would therefore advise all CVOs to closely monitor the presentation of cases made by the Presenting Officers before the Inquiring Authority and ensure that the cases are suitably presented before the IO on behalf of the Disciplinary Authority. The performance of the CVOs in this regard will be closely watched by the Commission. Further, for any of the observations in the conduct of the proceedings the CVO is answerable.

5. This issues with the approval of the Commission.

(M. A. Khan)
Officer on Special Duty

To

1. All CVOs of Ministries/Departments/CPSEs/PSBs/FIs/PSICs/Autonomous Organisations
2. NIC for uploading the circular on CVC’s website