

Delay in finalising Lokpal Bill not acceptable

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THE CURRENT side show on CDs and allegations should not be allowed to distract from the cause of writing a historic Lokpal anti-corruption legislation. The current controversy about CDs and alleged discussions by Shri Shanthi



Bhushan and some others is distracting and diverting our attention (either deliberately or inadvertently) from the main issue of fighting corruption and building a new framework to ensure better governance - which includes the LokPal bill. Lokpal committee meetings must be telecast live on Lok Sabha TV to further the cause of transparency and increase citizens' participation.

We cannot afford to be dis-

tracted nor should we allow the spotlight to be moved elsewhere. But at the same time, the issues raised by the CD are important and need to be examined thoroughly.

The best course would be to stop this current discussion which unfortunately has started looking and sounding like a motivated smear campaign. And rather, if the honourable Supreme Court finds it appropriate, admit the peti-

tion regarding 'contempt', and in the process, have both the Truth Lab and the Central Forensic Science Laboratory file their findings regarding the character of the CD under affidavit. This will once and for all establish the truth and there cannot be any double standards if there is any truth in matter and equally if it's found to be false an investigation must be launched on whom was behind this. But most

importantly, the issue of the finalizing an effective Lokpal bill cannot be delayed and us distracted anymore. The members on the Lokpal bill committee representing must be those who have visibly taken on government and political corruption.

To address the issues about possible pressures and compromises on the part of members of the committee, the solution is simple: live telecast the negotiations and

discussions of the meetings between the civil society and ministers with regard to the Lokpal bill on Lok Sabha television.

The mandate of the Lok Sabha television is to cover issues related to the Parliament and strengthening of parliamentary democracy. Thus, discussions relating to the formulation of legislation with such high public interest would certainly make the case for live tele-

cast - which, in turn, will allow supporters, critiques and sceptics to provide inputs into the process through an online system that must be established parallelly for receiving such comments. This will, to a large degree, delink the public chatter and allegations from the actual performance of the participants during the negotiations.

(The writer is Member of Parliament)