

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What is the role of State Vigilance and Anti – Corruption Bureau (SV&ACB)?

(a) **Ans.** The State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau enquires into the complaints and investigates important matters/ cases relating to corruption and economic offences, including the cases under I.P.C; Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988; HP Prevention of Specific Corrupt Practices Act, 1983; Essential Commodities Act; Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act 1985; Motor Vehicle Act 1988; The Indian Forest Act 1927; The Punjab Excise Act, 1914 as applicable in HP; The H.P. Forest (Sales of Timbers) Act, 1968; Central Sales Tax Act, 1956; and the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

2. Can it enquire/ investigate complaints against any public servant in the State?

Ans. The Bureau initiates enquires/investigations into complaints/cases against Non-Gazetted Officers at its own level, but the complaints/cases against Gazetted Officers are enquired/investigated by it with prior approval of the Government, as per provisions of para 4 of Chapter-II of H.P. Vigilance Manual.

3. What is meant by Trap?

Ans. Trap is a procedure by which a government employee/public servant is caught by SV&ACB, while accepting bribe from the complainant.

4. What is meant by disproportionate assets cases?

Ans. If any public servant amasses wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income, the case is called a disproportionate asset case. The known source of income means the sources which are known to the prosecution on investigation and not the sources known to the accused.

5. What is meant by criminal misconduct?

Ans. If any public servant by misusing his official position accepts gratification, dishonestly or fraudulently misappropriates property entrusted to him, possesses property which cannot be accounted for, causes loss to the Government Exchequer,

this act of public servant is called criminal misconduct against whom legal action is taken by registering a case. Acts of criminal misconduct by a public servant is listed at Section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

6. What is surprise check?

Ans. On receipt of credible information about the irregularities or corrupt activities in any government office, SV&ACB conducts a surprise check to collect information/evidence.

7. Is it essential to give the details of person who gives information to SV&ACB?

Ans. Any person can share information with SV&ACB and his name may be kept secret, however in case of trap, the person has to lodge a written complaint with SV&ACB.

8. Is it essential that the complainant should come to the SV&ACB office?

Ans. In cases of trap the complainant has to come in person to the SV&ACB office and give a written complaint. In other cases, the complainant need not come to SV&ACB office.

9. On what basis the SV&ACB conducts enquiry?

Ans. The SV&ACB conducts enquiries on credible information or on written complaints which come within the preview of department.

10. If any officer demands bribe for doing any work (official favour) how to complain to SV&ACB?

Ans. If any officer demands bribe from any individual, such person has to come to SV&ACB office and give a complaint in writing. On such a petition/complaint the SV&ACB may conduct enquiry/lay trap as the situation may warrant.

11. Can action be taken against a public servant if he accepts bribe through a mediator?

Ans. Yes. SV&ACB can take action against the public servant as well as the mediator.

12. Who provides money to the petitioner in trap cases?

Ans. In all the trap cases, the complainant has to provide the bribe amount. Subsequently the money given as bribe is reimbursed to the complainant, by SV&ACB after following due procedure.

13. Where are the SV&ACB offices located in the State?

Ans. The Head office of the SV&ACB is located at Khalini Shimla - 171002. In every district Headquarters SV&ACB Police Station is located, which is headed by a Gazetted officer. Besides, the whole state is divided into three SV&ACB Ranges which are headed by an officer of the rank of S.P., and located at Shimla, Mandi and Dharamshala.

14. How to pass information to SV&ACB?

Ans. The information relating to corruption can be passed on to SV&ACB in person, through toll free telephone nos. 0177 – 2629893 & 1064, through written complaints by post or through e-mail. The Bureau has its website <http://hpsvacb.gov.in>, and online complaints can be filed through this website as well.

15. Can complaint be given in any language?

Ans. Yes a complaint can be lodged in any language.

16. Will the details of information be kept confidential?

Ans. Yes, the details of the informant may be kept confidential if he so desires.

17. Can SVACB enquire/ investigate complaints/cases against central government employees?

Ans. In order to avoid duplication, an administrative arrangement has been arrived at by CBI with the State agencies, according to which, cases which are substantially and essentially against Central Government employees or concerning affairs of the Central Government, such complaints/ cases shall be enquired/ investigated by the CBI. However, SVACB can trap any central government employee posted in the State.

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