



रवि कान्त चोपड़ा

महानिदेशक

**RAVI KANT CHOPRA**  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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D O No

1/DG DE/2012/128

भारत सरकार, रक्षा मंत्रालय

Govt of India Ministry of Defence

रक्षा सम्पदा महानिदेशालय

Dte General Defence Estates

रक्षा सम्पदा भवन, उलानबातर मार्ग,

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Delhi Cantt-110010

Dated

06 Sept, 2014

Dear CEO,

In his inspiring Independence Day address to the Nation, the Prime Minister spoke *inter alia* about cleaning the country (*Swachh Bharat*), separate toilets for the girl child and skill development. As you are aware, in relation to Cantonments, these constitute duties/functions of the Cantonment Board.

2. This is what the Prime Minister said about sanitation, cleanliness and separate toilets for girls (English version enclosed):

“भाइयो-बहनो, 2019 में महात्मा गाँधी की 150वीं जयंती आ रही है। महात्मा गांधी की 150वीं जयंती हम कैसे मनाएँ? महात्मा गाँधी, जिन्होंने हमें आजादी दी, जिन्होंने इतने बड़े देश को दुनिया के अंदर इतना सम्मान दिलाया, उन महात्मा गाँधी को हम क्या दें? भाइयो-बहनो, महात्मा गाँधी को सबसे प्रिय थी- सफाई, स्वच्छता। क्या हम तय करें कि सन् 2019 में जब हम महात्मा गाँधी की 150वीं जयंती मनाएंगे, तो हमारा गाँव, हमारे शहर, हमारी गली, हमारा मोहल्ला, हमारे स्कूल, हमारे मंदिर, हमारे अस्पताल, सभी क्षेत्रों में हम गंदगी का नामोनिशान नहीं रहने देंगे? यह सरकार से नहीं होता है, जन-भागीदारी से होता है, इसलिए यह काम हम सबको मिलकर करना है।

भाइयो-बहनो, हम इक्कीसवीं सदी में जी रहे हैं। क्या कभी हमारे मन को पीड़ा हुई कि आज भी हमारी माताओं और बहनों को खुले में शौच के लिए जाना पड़ता है? डिगिटी ऑफ विमेन, क्या यह हम सबका दायित्व नहीं है? बेचारी गाँव की माँ-बहनें अंधेरे का इतजार करती हैं, जब तक अंधेरा नहीं आता है, वे शौच के लिए नहीं जा पाती हैं। उसके शरीर को कितनी पीड़ा होती होगी, कितनी बीमारियों की जड़ें उसमें से शुरू होती होंगी! क्या हमारी माँ-बहनो की इज्जत के लिए हम कम-से-कम शौचालय का प्रबंध नहीं कर सकते हैं? भाइयो-बहनो, किसी को लगेगा कि 15 अगस्त का इतना बड़ा महोत्सव बहुत बड़ी-बड़ी बातें करने का अवसर होता है। भाइयो-बहनो, बड़ी बातों का महत्व है, घोषणाओं का भी महत्व है, लेकिन कभी-कभी घोषणाएँ एषणाएँ जगाती हैं और जब घोषणाएँ परिपूर्ण नहीं होती हैं, तब समाज निराशा के गर्त में डूब जाता है। इसलिए हम उन बातों के ही कहने के पक्षधर हैं, जिनको हम अपने देखते-देखते पूरा कर पाएँ। भाइयो-बहनो, इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि आपको लगता होगा कि क्या लाल किले से सफाई की बात करना, लाल किले से टॉयलेट की बात बताना, यह कैसा प्रधान मंत्री है? भाइयो-बहनो, मैं नहीं जानता हूँ कि मेरी कैसी आलोचना होगी, इसे कैसे लिया जाएगा, लेकिन मैं मन से मानता हूँ। मैं गरीब परिवार से आया हूँ, मैंने गरीबी देखी है और गरीब को इज्जत मिले, इसकी शुरुआत यहीं से होती है। इसलिए ‘स्वच्छ भारत’ का एक अभियान इसी 2 अक्टूबर से मुझे आरम्भ करना है और चार साल के भीतर-भीतर हम इस काम को आगे बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। एक काम तो मैं आज ही शुरू करना चाहता हूँ और वह है-हिन्दुस्तान के सभी स्कूलों में टॉयलेट हो, बच्चियों के लिए अलग टॉयलेट हो, तभी तो हमारी बच्चियाँ स्कूल छोड़ कर भागींगी नहीं। हमारे सांसद जो एमपीलैंड फंड का उपयोग कर रहे हैं, मैं उनसे आग्रह करता हूँ कि एक साल के लिए आपका धन स्कूलों में टॉयलेट बनाने के लिए खर्च कीजिए। सरकार अपना बजट टॉयलेट बनाने में खर्च करे। मैं देश के कॉरपोरेट सेक्टर का भी आह्वान करना चाहता हूँ कि कॉरपोरेट सोशल रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी के तहत आप जो खर्च कर रहे हैं, उसमें आप स्कूलों में टॉयलेट बनाने को प्राथमिकता दीजिए। सरकार के साथ मिलकर, राज्य सरकारों के साथ मिलकर एक साल के भीतर-भीतर यह काम हो जाए और जब हम अगले 15 अगस्त को यहाँ खड़े हों, तब इस विश्वास के साथ खड़े हों कि अब हिन्दुस्तान का ऐसा कोई स्कूल नहीं है, जहाँ बच्चे एवं बच्चियों के लिए अलग टॉयलेट का निर्माण होना बाकी है।”

2.1 It devolves on us that by 2019 we deliver Clean Cantonments in part fulfilment of Prime Minister's vision for the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. In order to realize the dream of *Swachh Bharat*, we will have to ensure, among other things, proper solid and liquid waste management. Therefore, by 2019, your Cantonment must have underground drainage system properly connected to a sewerage treatment plant. Similarly, there should be daily clearance of solid waste and its proper disposal. No untreated waste/pollutant should be allowed to enter a water body. In cleaning the Cantonments, we must also create awareness among the residents of Cantonments by urging them to develop clean habits and keep their surroundings neat and clean.

2.2 In our bid to clean Cantonments, we shall have to put a complete stop to defecation in the open. Public latrines and urinals, separate for men and women should be constructed at appropriate locations for use by those who do not have these basic amenities in their houses. Public latrines/urinals should also be constructed in markets and other public places.

2.3 Prime Minister has rightly pointed out that absence of toilets is a major reason for girls dropping out of school. He reiterated his concern in this regard while interacting with teachers and school children on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 on the occasion of Teachers Day. We are already committed to the goal of providing separate toilets for girls in all our schools. I hope this task has been completed in your cantonment. If, due to some reasons, this task has not been finished yet, you should give me the date by which the needful will be done. In any case, you must achieve the target before 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015. I would need a report in this regard in your next two-monthly letter. I would also expect that before giving the report you would visit your school(s) and check personally that separate toilets for girls have been constructed and are fully functional

3. The Prime Minister made a special mention about "skill development" which is an area many of our Cantonment Boards are already working on. This is what the Prime Minister had to say in this regard (English version enclosed):

"भाइयो-बहनो, यह देश नौजवानों का देश है। 65 प्रतिशत देश की जनसंख्या 35 वर्ष से कम आयु की है। हमारा देश विश्व का सबसे बड़ा नौजवान देश है। क्या हमने कभी इसका फायदा उठाने के लिए सोचा है? आज दुनिया को स्किल्ड वर्कफोर्स की जरूरत है। आज भारत को भी स्किल्ड वर्कफोर्स की जरूरत है। कभी-कभार हम अच्छा ड्राइवर ढूँढते हैं, नहीं मिलता है, प्लम्बर ढूँढते हैं, नहीं मिलता है, अच्छा कुक चाहिए, नहीं मिलता है नौजवान हैं बेरोजगार हैं, लेकिन हमें जैसा चाहिए, वैसा नौजवान मिलता नहीं है देश के विकास को यदि आगे बढ़ाना है, तो 'स्किल डेवलपमेंट' और 'स्किल्ड इंडिया' यह हमारा मिशन है। हिन्दुस्तान के कोटि-कोटि नौजवान स्किल सीखें, हुनर सीखें, उसके लिए पूरे देश में जाल होना चाहिए और घिसी-पिटी व्यवस्थाओं से नहीं, उनको वह स्किल मिले, जो उन्हें आधुनिक भारत बनाने में काम आए। वे दुनिया के किसी भी देश में जाएं, तो उनके हुनर की सराहना हो और हम दो प्रकार के विकास को लेकर चलना चाहते हैं। मैं ऐसे नौजवानों को भी तैयार करना चाहता हूँ, जो जॉब किएटर हों और जो जॉब किएट करने का सामर्थ्य नहीं रखते, संयोग नहीं है, वे विश्व के किसी भी कोने में जाकर आँख में आँख मिला करके अपने बाहुबल के द्वारा, अपनी उँगलियों के हुनर के द्वारा, अपने कौशल्य के द्वारा विश्व का हृदय जीत सकें, ऐसे नौजवानों का सामर्थ्य हम तैयार करना चाहते हैं। भाइयों-बहनों, स्किल डेवलपमेंट को बहुत तेजी से आगे बढ़ाने का संकल्प लेकर मैं यह करना चाहता हूँ।"

3.1 I would like to know the steps taken by you with regard to skill development/vocational training. It is important that our school students as well as other young residents of the Cantonment are given standardized training programmes which are



also recognized by one of the accredited Government agencies. This will not only make our manpower skilled, but also improve their employability. With your next two-monthly communication, you should enclose a note giving details of vocational training programmes introduced in your Cantonment, number of trainees who have already received training and the number who are undergoing training, the agency which is imparting/certifying the training and future plans to enhance the reach and impact of the programme. In case vocational training programmes have not been started so far in your Cantonment, you should undertake to put those in place within the current financial year.

4. The Prime Minister was also very particular about the attitude of civil servants and said the following in this regard (English version enclosed):

"भाइयो-बहनो, कोई मुझे बताए कि हम जो भी कर रहे हैं दिन भर, शाम को कभी अपने आपसे पूछा कि मेरे इस काम के कारण मेरे देश के गरीब से गरीब का भला हुआ या नहीं हुआ, मेरे देश के हितों की रक्षा हुई या नहीं हुई, मेरे देश के कल्याण के काम में आया या नहीं आया? क्या सवा सौ करोड़ देशवासियों का यह ग़म नहीं होना चाहिए कि जीवन का हर कदम देशहित में होगा? दुर्भाग्य कैसा है? आज देश में एक ऐसा माहौल बना हुआ है कि किसी के पास कोई भी काम लेकर जाओ, तो कहता है, 'इसमें मेरा क्या'? वही से शुरू करता है, 'इसमें मेरा क्या' और जब उसको पता चलेगा कि इसमें उसका कुछ नहीं है, तो तुरन्त बोलता है, 'तो फिर मुझे क्या'? 'ये मेरा क्या' और 'मुझे क्या', इस दायरे से हमें बाहर आना है। हर चीज अपने लिए नहीं होती है। कुछ चीजें देश के लिए भी हुआ करती हैं और इसलिए हमारे राष्ट्रीय चरित्र को हमें निखारना है। मेरा ग़म मुझे आज इससे ज़्यादा उत्साह मिलेगा कि मेरा काम के लिए मैं आया हूँ, मैं आगे हूँ, मैं भाव हमें जगाना है।"

4.1 You will recall that we have discussed earlier in our communications about the need for honest, responsive and transparent administration. Such an administration will work towards the larger good and in public interest. Let us together endeavour to fulfil the Prime Minister's resolve of working in the service of the Nation.

5. I would like you to prepare your plans and programmes towards realizing the vision of the Prime Minister, as enunciated in his Independence Day address, and share your ideas and proposed actions with me at the time of the next Command Conference.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



(Ravi Kant Chopra)

All CEOs

Encl : As above.

**English Translation of the Prime Minister's Address on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2014**

X X X

X X X

X X X

Brothers and sisters, it will be the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019. How do we celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi? Mahatma Gandhi, who gave us freedom, who brought so much honour to such a big country in the world, what do we give to Mahatma Gandhi? Brothers and sisters, Mahatma Gandhi had cleanliness and sanitation closest to his heart. Whether we resolve not to leave a speck of dirt in our village, city, street, area, school, temple, hospital, and what have you, by 2019 when we celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi? This happens not just with the Government, but with public participation. That's why we have to do it together.

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X X X

X X X

Brothers and sisters, we are living in 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Has it ever pained us that our mothers and sisters have to defecate in open? Whether dignity of women is not our collective responsibility? The poor womenfolk of the village wait for the night: until darkness descends, they can't go out to defecate. What bodily torture they must be feeling, how many diseases that act might engender. Can't we just make arrangements for toilets for the dignity of our mothers and sisters? Brothers and sisters, somebody might feel that a big festival like 15<sup>th</sup> August is an occasion to talk big. Brothers and sisters, talking big has its importance, making announcements too has importance, but sometimes announcements raise hopes and when the hopes are not fulfilled, the society sinks into a state of despondency. That's why we are in favour of telling those things, which we can fulfill just within our sight. Brothers and sisters, you must be getting shocked to hear the Prime Minister speaking of cleanliness and the need to build toilets from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Brothers and sisters, I do not know how my speech is going to be criticized and how will people take it. But this is my heartfelt conviction. I come from a poor family. I have seen poverty. The poor need respect and it begins with cleanliness. I, therefore, have to launch a "Clean India" campaign from 2<sup>nd</sup> October this year and carry it forward in 4 years. I want to make a beginning today itself and that is – all schools in the country should have toilets with separate toilets for girls. Only then our daughters will not be compelled to leave schools midway. Our parliamentarians utilizing MPLAD fund are there. I appeal to them to spend it for constructing toilets in schools for a year. The government should utilize its budget on providing toilets. I call upon the corporate sector also to give priority to the provision of toilets in schools with your expenditure under Corporate Social Responsibility. This target should be finished within one year with the help of state governments and on the next 15<sup>th</sup> August, we should be in a firm position to announce that there is no school in India without separate toilets for boys and girls.

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X X X

X X X



My brothers and sisters, it is a country of young people. The 65 percent population of the country happens to be under the age of 35 years. Our country has the largest number of youths in the world. Have we ever thought of deriving an advantage out of it? Today, the world needs a skilled workforce. Today, India also needs a skilled workforce. At times, we look for a good driver but he is not available, we look for a plumber, but he is not available. If we need a good cook, he is not available. We have young people, they are unemployed but the kind of young people we seek for are not available. If we have to promote the development of our country then our mission has to be "skill development" and "skilled India". Millions and millions of Indian youth should go for acquisition of skills and there should be a network across the country for this and not the archaic systems. They should acquire the skills which could contribute towards making India a modern country. Whenever they go to any country in the world, their skills must be appreciated and we want to go for a two pronged development. I also want to create a pool of young people who are able to create jobs and the ones who are not capable of creating jobs and do not have the opportunities, they must be in a position to face their counterparts in any corner of the world while keeping their heads high by virtue of their hard work and their dexterity of hands and win the hearts of the people around the world through their skills. We want to go for the capacity building of such young people. My brothers and sisters, having taken a resolve to enhance the skill development at a highly rapid pace, I want to accomplish this.

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Brothers and sisters, can someone please tell me as to whether he or she has ever introspected in the evening after a full day's work as to whether his or her acts have helped the poor of the country or not, whether his or her actions have resulted in safeguarding the interest of the country or not, whether the actions have been directed in country's welfare or not? Whether it should not be the motto of one and a quarter billion countrymen that every step in life should be in the country's interests? Unfortunately, we have an environment today wherein if you approach anyone with some work, he begins by saying "what does it mean for me?" He begins by saying "what does it involve for me?" and when he come to know that it does not entail any benefit for him, immediately he says "why should I bother?" We have to rise above the feelings of "what does it mean for me?" and "why should I bother?" Everything is not for self-interest only. There are certain things which are meant for the country and we have to refine this national character. We have to rise above the feelings of "why should I bother?" and "what does it mean for me?" and instead we have to think that "I am for nation's interest and in this field, I am going to lead". We have to inculcate this sentiment.

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