Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of Common Cause

(July 13, 2012)

The Executive Committee of Common Cause met at 5.00 P.M on July 13, 2012 at Vikram Sarabhai Foundation, IHC, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Shri Vikram Lal, Major Gen (Retd) J.P.Gupta, Shri Kamal Jaswal, Shri Ashok Khosla, Shri Surjit Das (Member Secretary) and Special Invitees Shri Prashant Bhushan, Ms.Madhu Kishwar, and Shri Lalit Nirula.

The Committee deliberated on the approach to be adopted by Common Cause on the forthcoming dharna to be undertaken by IAC at Jantar Mantar from 25 July, 2012. It was noted that the two demands of IAC viz. (i) the Jan Lokpal Bill and (ii) action against the tainted Ministers identified by them for which they had sufficient evidentiary documents, have not evoked any response from Government. It was felt that since the CBI is under the administrative control of the Government, it cannot be expected to investigate into allegations against the Ministers in question. Therefore, the need for a completely independent anti-corruption body like Jan Lokpal justifies itself. Another demand of IAC was that all cases against such Ministers and other corrupt politicians should be fast tracked.

While the Committee endorsed the demands of IAC, it noted that the struggle would be long drawn out and due caution should be exercised to ensure that the advantages gained so far are not frittered away. Members were particularly concerned that one of the prominent members of the core team was taking the risk of sitting on a fast even though he is a diabetic. A view was expressed that it might be suggested to him that he might desist from taking such a course as it might endanger his life as well as the movement. It was agreed that Common Cause should express its solidarity with the proposed dharna and participate actively in it.

The Committee, thereafter, discussed further steps to be taken regarding launch of the anti-corruption logo which has been developed by the National Institute of Design. It felt that the IAC would be keen in promoting the logo and the dharna would provide a good platform for it. It was decided to launch the same on the occasion through posters, leaflets, placards and T shirts.

The last item on the agenda-‘initiatives taken to deal with multi-level marketing’- was discussed and it was decided to take the matter forward. It was also noted that the Central Government has decided to set up a multi-level regulatory body to deal with this matter.

----