

COMMON CAUSE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

The last one year has been notable in many ways. The Society's initiatives in advocacy and PILs yielded a fair measure of success in making focused interventions. It engaged and teamed up with many institutions and like-minded organizations/ activists during the course of the year.

Common Cause is now on a crowd-funding platform which enables us to cast our net wider. The platform is run by Azadi.in, an IIM Bangalore-based group of young entrepreneurs who showcase specific projects for individual donations. The funds are meant for legal research and for empowering School Management Committees (SMCs) formed under the Right to Education Act.

Common Cause journal, the society's link with its members, is known for its clarity and forthrightness. This year the journal has undergone a gradual change in its outlook and approach. Beginning October 2015, the new issues are dedicated to a single policy-oriented theme. The idea is to develop the journal over time in such a way that each issue becomes a collectors' item on social policies.

As a part of its effort to connect with the younger generation, the team engaged with tech-savvy citizens through AMA (Ask Me Anything) platform of the social media site, Reddit. It is felt that attempts like these will add to the strength of Common Cause and more and more young people will know about and engage with our activities. The Common Cause team is also in touch with IIT Delhi to host programmes of common interest in future.

Following are the other activities of the organisation over the past year:

I. Advocacy initiatives

a. Police Reforms

The proposed State of Policing project has made significant progress. We have completed the first round of data crunching for categorising Indian states on the basis of the performance of their police. A joint team of researchers from Common Cause and the Lokniti Programme of the CSDS is working on the project. It was felt that a state-wise survey of the rule of law would provide a valuable tool for the antiquated police administrative system by generating time series data on the satisfaction levels of the citizens. The survey is designed to monitor the impact of the police force on the ground in collaboration with academic and civil society partners.

Meant to be an all-India performance cum perception survey, it will lead to the creation of an index where states can be compared on common parameters. A comparative framework is likely to incentivize parties and politicians to improve the performance of

the police under their rule. The survey is being supplemented by an analysis of the existing databases on the rule of law. An integral part of the survey is the self-perception of the police personnel about their job, recruitment, promotion, core police functions, working conditions, and the level of political interference in their work.

b. Judicial Reforms

Common Cause has been holding wide-ranging consultations with like-minded organisations such as ADR, Daksh, CJAR, Vidhi and NASSCOM on the smart and effective use of ICT for expediting the delivery of justice. Several rounds of interaction have been held with Dr Justice (Retd.) G C Bharuka and NASSCOM President R Chandrashekhar with a view to revamping the e-Courts Project, which was expected to enhance the productivity of judges and improve the delivery of justice. A channel of communication which was opened with the top functionaries of the Department of Justice last year is also being taken forward. In this regard, the President and the Director had an informal exchange of ideas with Justice Madan B Lokur, who is heading the Supreme Court's E-Committee, on the sidelines of an event in New Delhi.

Common Cause team has also done a dipstick survey to test the efficacy of internet-based systems at district courts to be shared with the stakeholders. We also dedicated a special issue of our quarterly journal (January-March 2016 <http://bit.ly/2dAww6V>) on the role of ICT in the effective judiciary. Our focus is on better use of technology for increasing the productivity of judges and to instil a sense of transparency and accountability in the system.

The Department of Justice requested us for 100 extra copies of the journal to be shared with their officials working on the E-Courts programme. The President, subsequently, wrote letters to the Chief Justice of India, members of the E-Committee and all the Supreme Court judges, bringing their attention to the significance of ICT in timely delivery of justice. The President also wrote to the Secretary and senior officials of the Department of Justice, among others.

c. Making the Right to Education Act a reality-

Common Cause team is working on the empowerment of School Management Committees (SMCs) to improve community participation in the running of schools, particularly in slums and urban villages. The team took part in the SMC Convention organised by the RTE Forum. Over 400 SMC members had participated in the Convention. Subsequently, the team held one on one meetings with school principals and local MLAs. The team has prepared a draft of a simple but imaginative booklet for distribution among SMC members to acquaint them with their rights and duties.

Common Cause team submitted its comments on the Draft National Education Policy, 2016, pursuant to the public notice issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The comments/ suggestions were mainly about primary and secondary education. It also made a representation to Delhi's Education Minister Manish Sisodia to

amend the Delhi RTE Rules in order to incorporate a framework to prevent school drop-outs. Later, the President wrote to the secretary, Ministry of HRD, Dept. of Higher Education, requesting that the full report of the T.S.R Subramanian Committee (on New Education Policy) be published on the Ministry's website.

d. Initiatives on Health Reforms :

Common Cause has submitted its comments on the Medical Treatment of Terminally Ill Patients (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners) Bill, 2016, pursuant to the public notice issued by the Department of Health and Family Welfare. As a litigant in *Common Cause Vs UOI* (WP (C) 215 of 2005), Common Cause has been involved in researching medical and ethical aspects of the issue.

Representations were made before Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Secretary, Dept. of Health & Family Welfare for improving accessibility and availability of generic drugs in India. It is believed that the generic drugs are the lifeline of affordable medicines for the common citizens. Our pharmaceutical industry is a major source of generic medicines worldwide. However, due to the lack of effective policies, most people are forced to buy the expensive branded medicines, a compulsion that accounts for a high proportion of the out of pocket expenditure on healthcare.

e. Miscellaneous Representations:

Apart from the letters and submissions made under the above-mentioned categories, Common Cause also submitted its views on the uploading of RTI replies on the Ministries/Departments' websites to strengthen protected disclosures. In the matter of the CAG Audit of NOIDA, GNIDA and Yamuna Expressway Authority, a representation was made to the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Naik with reference to his proactive engagement over the audit of the Ghaziabad Development Authority by the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India, which was widely reported in the media. We apprised him of our petition in this matter and appreciated the principled position he had taken on the need for an independent and transparent audit of the land development authority that receives money from the Consolidated Fund of the State. We also sought his support in our fight for building institutional integrity in the functioning of all development authorities that deal with sale and transfer of land, our most valuable national resource.

f. Applications filed under the RTI Act

i. Issue of Generic Drugs/ Pricing of medical devices

Common Cause has filed RTI applications before (a) the Medical Council of India (MCI) seeking particulars of the steps taken and policies made by the MCI to promote and encourage the sale of generic drugs in the past five years, details of funds committed to encourage, popularize and promote the use of generic drugs and details of a time-bound action plan, among other things; (b) before the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, requesting to provide particulars/terms of Reference of the committee

set up to examine the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Regulations, in the pharmaceutical sector; and (c) before the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority of India (NPPA) seeking particulars of the report submitted by the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to the NPPA on its study on the arbitrary overpricing of medical devices.

ii. **C & AG Audit of NOIDA, G. Noida and Yamuna Expressway Authority**

These RTI applications have been filed as a follow up to our writ petition filed in the Allahabad High Court on September 1, 2015, seeking the extension of the audit jurisdiction of the C & A G of India to NOIDA, G. Noida Authority and Yamuna Expressway Authority (established under the U.P. Industrial Area Development Act, 1976)

The RTIs were filed before the concerned authorities asking if any audit of NOIDA, G. NOIDA and Yamuna Expressway Authority had been done by Examiner, Local Funds Account in the last three years under Section 22 of the U.P. Industrial Development Area Act, 1976. We also asked whether the audit reports were tabled before the legislature in the past three years along with the comments/observations received.

iii. **Furnace Oil**

Furnace Oil (F.O) is a lower quality fuel obtained by blending residue found in refining. Average Sulphur contents in it normally range from 4-6% against the globally permissible limit of 1%, if at all used. Several RTI Applications were filed before the concerned authorities seeking information regarding the extent of the F.O. use and to examine if any alternatives were available before making a legal intervention. (As a rule, it is a lot more polluting than other fuels available but is commonly used as industrial fuel, specifically in boilers, diesel generators and marine engines. The continued usage of F.O, despite the availability of cleaner fuels and piped natural gas, is a blatant violation of the NGT and Supreme Court Orders on the issue of environmental hazards and pollution.

Public interest litigation

New interventions and significant developments in the writ petitions and applications filed by the Society are summarized below.

Supreme Court Cases

1. ***Crime and Violence on TV: WP(C) 387/2000 tagged with WP (C) 880/2013 (PIL on FM Radio)*** - The petition had sought to curb the excess of crime, violence and sex on TV. There has been no development in this case since last reported. There are no further orders of listing. This petition has been tagged with our PIL on news broadcast by private radio stations.

2. **Slaughter House Pollution: WP(C) 330/2001**- This petition praying for remedial measures against the rampant malpractices in slaughter houses was taken up on July 18, 2016, and the Court took note of the cost deposited by the states which had failed to file the compliance report. This matter was previously taken up May 2, 2016, when cost was imposed on six states for not filing the compliance report. The ASG was directed to finalise the BIS standards and the last opportunity granted to her.

The order dated January 30, 2014, wherein a request had been made to the Chief Justices of all the High Courts to appoint a retired District Judge as a Convener of the State Committee for Slaughter House, was brought to the notice of the Court. The request was renewed with the mention that a copy of this order may be sent to the Registrar General of each High Court for being placed before the Chief Justices of the High Courts for information.

At the last hearing held on September 26, the Court directed that an index of the various standards, rules and statutes governing the slaughtering of animals and management of slaughter houses be prepared for circulation to all concerned so that the management of the slaughtering of animals and slaughter houses is done more efficiently. The matter is listed for October 28, 2016.

3. **Contempt Petition in Large-Scale Advertisements: Cont.Pet.(C) 692/2015 in W.P. WP (C) 13/2003** - Common Cause filed a contempt petition against the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Tamil Nadu for publishing publicly-funded advertisements in violation of the letter and spirit of the Apex Court's guidelines regarding large-scale advertisements, which had carved out exceptions for the Prime Minister, the President and the Chief Justice of India. The matter was last taken up on March 9, 2016. The Centre and seven States, including the poll-bound West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, sought revision of the verdict, pleading that it infringed on the fundamental rights and the federal structure. The Bench headed by Justice Ranjan Gogoi reserved its verdict on the review pleas of the Centre and the seven States which demanded that besides the PM, pictures of Central ministers, CMs and other State ministers be allowed to be carried in public advertisements.

On March 19, 2016 the Court ruled, modifying its earlier order, that photos of governors, chief ministers and Cabinet ministers can also feature in the advertisements by central and state governments published in print media and shown on electronic media to announce various schemes and greet the public on various occasions. The petition was disposed of on April 28, 2016.

Living Will: WP (C) 215/2005- The petition sought the enactment of a law on the lines of the Patient Autonomy and Self-determination Act of the USA, which sanctions the practice of executing a 'living will' in the nature of an advance directive for refusal of life-prolonging medical procedures in the event of the

testator's incapacitation. The matter came up on January 15 and February 15, 2016. The ASG submitted that the government was considering a legislation on the subject. Hence, the matter was adjourned for July 20, 2016. There are no further orders of listing. The Government meanwhile had sought comments from stakeholders on the Treatment of Terminally Ill Patients [Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners] Bill, following which Common Cause submitted its detailed comments (mentioned in the section under Health Initiatives of Common Cause).

5. Safety Concerns in Nuclear Energy Programme: WP(C) 464/2011- We had challenged the constitutional validity of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010, and sought a safety reassessment, and a comprehensive analysis of the long-term cost-benefits, of Indian nuclear plants. The petition also prays for the establishment of an independent atomic energy regulatory authority in the interest of people's rights to life and clean environment. After protracted deliberations, the Court partly admitted the petition to the extent of the challenge to the *vires* of the CLNDA. There has been no development since last reported.

6. Combating the Criminalization of politics: WP (C) 536/2011- The Supreme Court had on March 10, 2014, passed an interim order directing that trials in criminal cases against MPs and MLAs must be concluded within a year of the charges being framed. The Court also directed that if the trial court is unable to complete the trial within a year, it would have to submit an explanation to, and seek an extension from, the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned. While seeking compliance of the Supreme Court order we sought specific time-bound directions for closer monitoring of all such cases.

The matter was referred to the constitution bench on March 8, 2016. The Court directed the Registry to place the papers before the CJI on the administrative side for referring the matters to a larger Bench in view of Article 145(3) of the Constitution. There are no further orders for listing.

Meanwhile, Lok Prahari had filed a writ in the Allahabad High Court for ensuring implementation of the Apex Court order dated March 10, 2014, in our PIL for disposal of criminal cases against legislators within a year of framing of charges. The same was dismissed in *limine* against which SLP has been filed by them.

We are now in the process of filing an IA before the Apex Court seeking urgent directions to implement its order dated March 10, 2014.

7. Illegal Allocation of Captive Coal Blocks: WP (C) 463/2012- On July 12, 2016, the Apex Court after hearing the counsels, reserved its judgment on further steps to be taken on the report submitted by Mr. M L Sharma, Former Special Director CBI. The CBI and the CVC had submitted notes on the steps taken by them to implement the orders of the Court regarding investigations in the coal case. The Court considered and opined on the administrative note given by the CBI as well as on observations of the CVC.

The matter was adjourned on August 2, 2016, and is now likely to be taken up on September 7, 2016.

The case was widely reported in the media on the basis of the court proceedings. It was understood that the position of Common Cause -- that former CBI Director Ranjit Sinha's decisions may have been influenced by his meetings with coal scam accused -- has been vindicated after the visitor diaries at his official residence have been found to be genuine. Mr Sinha has been indicted by a Supreme Court-appointed panel, headed by former CBI Special Director Mr M L Sharma, which has held that prima facie there was an attempt to influence the investigation into the coal block allocation scam.

The apex court, which is monitoring the coal scam probe, was told by Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi on July 12, 2016, that the M L Sharma panel has held that Sinha's meetings with some of the high-profile accused in the scam prima facie indicated that there was an attempt to influence the investigation. Rohtagi, who only had received an initial report of the panel for the perusal on condition of maintaining its confidentiality, said that he had gone through the report which has found that the visitors' diary at Sinha's residence was genuine. However, he said that the correctness of entries in the visitors' diary can only be ascertained in the court of law through evidence.

Taking note of the submissions, a bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur, Kurian Joseph and A K Sikri reserved its order for passing directions. According to media reports the court also pulled up the CBI for sluggish probe and directed it to complete the investigation expeditiously.

8. Inquiry against ex-Chairman, NHRC: WP (C) 678/2013- The matter was taken up on March 14, 2016. The Attorney General submitted that the individuals (relatives of Mr. Balakrishnan) in whose names the properties stood were income tax assesses. He informed the Court that he had all the assessment orders of the said assesses. In view of this submission, the AG was directed to file a chart indicating the said facets and also keep the assessment orders and the orders passed by the appellate authorities, if any, for perusal of the Court. The matter has been listed for October 18, 2016.

9. Preventing the export of logs of red sandalwood: WP(C) 976/2014- The intervention of the Supreme Court was sought to foil a determined bid by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to export a huge quantity of confiscated red sandalwood, an endangered species. This move flies in the face of international conventions, express provisions of the Import-Export Policy and repeated admonitions of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This matter was taken up on May 6, 2016, when the Court granted a last opportunity to the Union of India (Ministry of E & F and Department of Commerce) to file their counter affidavits. At the last hearing held on August 22, 2016, the Court observed that two of the respondents had not filed counter affidavits, despite the last opportunity having been granted. There are no further orders of listing.

10. Challenge to the Lokpal Search Committee Rules: WP (C) 245/2014 -This matter was taken up on May 9, 2016. Even though the Government filed an affidavit stating that the impugned Rules 10 (1) & (4)(i) (as prayed by Common Cause in the original writ petition) had been amended in terms of the prayers made in the petition, it did not initiate the process of appointing the Lokpal. As the inaction of the Government regarding the appointment of Lokpal was arbitrary and unreasonable and hence, violative of Article 14 of the Constitution, in March 2016 Common Cause filed an IA requesting the Court to allow an additional prayer in the already filed writ petition. The IA requested the Court to direct the Government to make the appointment of Lokpal as per the amended rules framed under the Lokpal and Lokayukt Act, 2013. The amended petition was taken on record and the respondents directed to file their counter-affidavit to the amended petition. This matter was listed for Aug 30, 2016. (No order for the said date appears on SC website.) There are no further orders of listing.

11. Illegal Mining in the State of Odisha: WP (C) 114/2014- Our petition to curb illegal mining in Odisha, as highlighted by the Central Empowered Committee and the Justice M. B. Shah Commission was taken up on April 21, 2014. The Court issued notices to the respondents and directed the CEC to submit a report on illegal mining. On May 16, 2014, the Court granted an interim stay on the operation of 26 mines and directed the State Govt. to dispose of all renewal applications as per the law. These matters were later taken up several times and the Court directed the amicus curiae, Mr. A D N Rao, to file his response. The Court also requested the Attorney General to assist it on the interpretation of Section 8A for disposing the IAs filed, especially the one filed by the Steel Authority of India. The bench of Justices Khehar and Nagappan citing provisions of the amended Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957, disposed the petition on April 4, 2016, concluding that applications of miners filed before January 2015 or at least 12 months prior to expiry of the lease would have to be considered by the State.

Stating that the Parliament amended MMDR Act to address miners' hardships and remedy their grievances regarding pending applications for renewals, the court said that a mining lease would not lapse automatically unless the state government has heard the companies and issued orders to that effect. According to the court, in the absence of state government orders on pending applications, the leases would be extended by two years.

12. Mismanagement of Defense Lands: WP(C) 204 /2014- The CAG had submitted several reports highlighting the rank mismanagement of defense lands. Common Cause and CPIL filed a PIL on February 20, 2014, to seek the intervention of the Court to remedy this situation and protect the national patrimony constituted by the vast tracts of lands under the management of the Defense Ministry from further erosion. This matter is likely to be listed on October 21, 2016.

13. Cont. Pet (C) 550/2015 in W P(C) 821/1990: Lawyers strike- The contempt petition filed by Common Cause against the strike of lawyers in Delhi High Court and all district courts of Delhi on the issue of conflict over pecuniary jurisdiction, in WP (C) 821/1990 (Harish Uppal vs Union of India.) was taken up on November 27, 2015. At the hearing, Mr. Ram Jethmalani requested for time to convene a meeting of the important sections of the Bar to find a lasting solution to the problem. Granting the request, the Court directed the respondents to file their responses and listed the matter for February 1, 2016, when it was again taken up. At the hearing, Mr. Ram Jethmalani sought more time to convene a meeting of the Bar Association. The request was granted and matter taken up on April 5, and subsequently on April 12, 2016. Mr. Jethmalani again requested for time which was granted. The matter is likely to be listed on November 7, 2016.

14. Challenging the vires of the appointments made to the CVC: WP (C) No. 505/2015 tagged with W P (C) No. 683/2014-The Petition challenges the arbitrary and non-transparent appointments of the new CVC and VC as violative of the principles of 'impeccable integrity' and 'institutional integrity' laid down in Vineet Narain case (1998) and Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) case (2011). The matter was last heard on May 3, 2016, when notice was issued to the respondents. There are no further orders of listing.

15. PIL to address the misuse and misapplication of Section 124 A, IPC on sedition: WP(C) 683/2016 - A petition was filed in the Supreme Court to address the misuse and misapplication of Section 124A (sedition law) by the Centre and various State Government leading to routine persecution of students, journalists and intellectuals engaged in social activism. It was submitted that these charges are framed with a view to instilling fear and to scuttle dissent and are in complete violation of the scope of sedition as laid down by Constitution Bench judgment of Supreme Court in Kedar nath v State of Bihar [1962 Supp. (2) S.C.R. 769], which is the locus classicus on the interpretation of sedition.

We had prayed for the issuance of an appropriate direction making it compulsory for the concerned authority to produce a reasoned order from the Director General of Police (DGP) or the Commissioner of Police, as the case maybe, certifying that the “seditious act” either lead to the incitement of violence or had the tendency or the intention to create public disorder, before any FIR is filed or any arrest is made on the charges of sedition against any individual. Similarly, there was a prayer for a review of all pending sedition cases and for criminal complaints for sedition made before a Judicial Magistrate with a view to curb the misuse and misapplication of the sedition law.

Our PIL was heard on September 5, 2016. The Apex Court passed an order stating that in their considered opinion the authorities while dealing with the offences under Section 124A of the IPC shall be guided by the principles laid down by the Constitution Bench in Kedar Nath Singh vs. State of Bihar [1962 (Suppl.) 3 SCR 769]. As per the constitution bench judgment in Kedar Nath, only

those acts which involve incitement to violence or violence constitute a seditious act. In the various cases that have been filed in the recent years, the charges of sedition against the accused have failed to stand up to judicial scrutiny. The petitioners had therefore sought a strict compliance of this judgment in which the scope of sedition as a penal offence was laid down and it was held that the gist of the offence of sedition is “incitement to violence” or the “tendency or the intention to create public disorder”. Thus, those actions which do not involve violence or tendency to create public disorder, such as the organization of debates/discussions, drawing of cartoons, criticism of the government etc do not constitute the offence of sedition.

Delhi High Court

1. ***Misuse of BSP Reserved Symbol: WP(C) 8363/2010-*** The petition challenging the order of the Central Election Commission rejecting our request for freezing the reserved symbol of BSP on account of its misuse by its government in UP could not be taken up during 2015 due to adjournments sought by the respondent, lawyers’ strike and non-availability of the bench. On July 7, 2016, the Delhi High Court disposed our petition with a direction/request to ECI to issue guidelines to prevent political parties from using public places and public funds for propagating their election symbols and suggested their de-recognition if they failed to abide by these norms.

The court asked the ECI to consider issuing within three months “appropriate direction or guideline within the meaning of clause 16A(b) of the Symbols Order preventing recognised political party in power from using public places and public funds for propagating its reserve(d) symbol and /or its leaders”. The court said that it was necessary for “conducting free, fair and peaceful election” and “to safeguard the interest of the general public and the electorate in future”.

It is hoped that the EC will take the follow-up action to restrict the violations of ECI laws and rampant wastage of public money.

2. ***Post-Retirement Activities of Former Supreme Court Judges: WP 866/2010-*** Common Cause had filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court on February 10, 2010, highlighting how Article 124(7) of the Constitution was being violated in letter and spirit because of certain post-retirement activities of the former SC judges. This provision forbids former SC Judges from pleading or acting in any court or before any authority. During the pendency of this petition the Society secured some significant outcomes. The HC had instructed its registry to reject writ petitions annexed with opinions of retired judges. This was in line with our prayer for the prohibition of this practice. The Union Government has also introduced the Tribunals, Appellate Tribunals and other Authorities (Conditions of Service) Bill, 2014, in this regard and this is before the Standing Committee.

The petition was disposed on December 11, 2015, with a direction to the UOI to give special attention to the issue and to ensure that appropriate legislation was made at the earliest.

3. Evidence of corruption by Shri Virbhadra Singh: WP (C) 7240/2013 – The High Court on December 10, 2015 disposed of the petition filed by Common cause against Mr. Singh, ruling that issue was already under CBI and income tax investigation. During the course of hearing, the Court was informed by the counsels that with respect to the tax matters, the proceedings had been taken up for assessment and re-assessment. The counsel for CBI stated that a regular case had been registered and the investigation would be taken to its logical conclusion in accordance with law. In light of this, the petition was disposed of with the observation that it was no longer necessary to go into the issue of maintainability of the writ petition.

4. Petition on electrocution by live wires: WP(C) 7241/2015 tagged with W.P. (C) No.5765/2014-The Petition highlights the issue of recurring fatalities due to live wire electrocution, especially during the monsoon. Notice has been issued and the matter was listed on March 17, 2016. The Action Taken Report filed by respondent no 9 was also taken on record.

After an adjournment on September 21, 2016, the matter is now listed on November 21, 2016.

Allahabad High Court

1. Extension of audit jurisdiction of the C & AG of India to NOIDA, G. Noida and Yamuna Expressway Authorities: WP (C) 48416/205- In the hearing of January 27, 2016, the Advocate General sought an extension of time to file the counter affidavit as directed in the previous order. Subsequently, the CAG office sought an adjournment to file a supplementary affidavit. The Court granted two weeks to the parties to file their response to the supplementary affidavit filed by the office of C & AG of India. The case was taken up on August 1, 2016 and is likely to be listed in December 2016.

g. Finance and Accounts

The Audit Report on the Annual Accounts of Common Cause Society and Common Cause Trust for the year ending March 31, 2016 has been received. The Governing Council has accorded its approval to the documents on September 30, 2016. Briefly, the expenditure during the year was Rs. 74.15 lakh against Rs. 79.62 lakh recorded in the previous year. The income during the year was Rs. 148.15 lakh compared to Rs. 108.30 lakh during 2014-15. Thus, there was a surplus of Rs. 74.00 lakh during the year as against a surplus of Rs. 28.68 lakh in the previous year. Overall, the financial results have been satisfactory.