

## **PREAMBLE**

Democracy being government of, by, and for the people, it is only natural that the people would keep a watch on the functioning of the government that they have created.

“Eternal vigilance”, it is rightly said, “is the price of liberty”. This seminar on “Citizens’ Role in Governance” is driven by these lofty principles of democracy and liberty.

In that spirit of “eternal vigilance” the seminar proposes to create mechanisms and structures that can continuously monitor the functioning of government and the quality of governance, especially vis-à-vis programmes of empowerment and uplift of the underprivileged: Dalits, minorities, tribals and the desperately poor from all religious and ethnic backgrounds.

We have the Constitutional guarantees as a framework, the relevant points of the President’s address before a joint session of Parliament on June 4, and the pertinent points in the manifestoes of UPA constituents as major points of reference in this exercise.

The brief resolution adopted at the end of the seminar follows:

## RESOLUTION

At the end of the proceedings, the seminar on “Citizens’ Role in Governance”, unanimously adopts the Resolution containing the following points:

- Democracy is a people-centred system of government, a system in which the people elect representatives who form a government that is ultimately accountable to them. Having sent their representative to assemblies and national Parliament they don’t have to just relax and let things take their own course as they watch helplessly. They must get involved in matters of policy and governance on a day-to-day basis for democracy to be meaningful. To that end this seminar resolves to form a People’s Monitoring Committee.
- The Committee, convened by Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, would be headed by a senior public figure and would have prominent citizens on it.
- The Committee would have a number of sub-committees to make in-depth monitoring, analysis and study of the extent and quality of implementation of government plans. Headed by eminent experts in their fields, these specific sub-committees will have experts in the related fields as members.

The Committee, aided by the sub-committees, would publish quarterly reports on government’s performance in implementation of the promises made in the manifestoes, furthering the work done on Sachar Committee Report, implementation of the programmes as enumerated in the President’s address before the joint session of parliament. Key ideas like offering the “highest priority to the welfare of minorities” would make major points of reference.

- The Committee would be particularly interested in the pace of police reforms and adequate representation of minorities, Dalits and tribals in police and paramilitary forces. Over the last six decades it has been found that in situations of stress police forces have often turned against the weaker sections, especially Muslims, instead of acting impartially and protecting the weak. In many cases the police have joined violent mobs to attack, slash and burn the weak. Among other radical reforms, a more inclusive police or paramilitary force has repeatedly been asked for over the years. The Committee will keep a close watch on government functioning on this score.
- Denial of justice to the victims of a spate of stage-managed communal riots rankles in the hearts of victims and their kin for years. This is a matter of serious concern for us and we would watch keenly as to how quickly and how effectively the perpetrators are brought to justice. For that, improvements in justice delivery system would be crucial.
- It is also important that people who plan and execute communal violence are prevented from becoming deputy prime minister and home minister (or holding other cabinet positions). Such people must be prevented from entering the corridors of

power on the ballast of their crimes against humanity. The committee would be watching what action is initiated against the genocidal crimes of the well-entrenched, powerful people to ensure that such crimes are not repeated.

- We would keenly watch how consistently and sincerely the work of late Hemant Karkare is being continued to unravel the international conspiracy to destabilise India by hate-driven cadres of revanchists. This work is important for the future of India, and the Committee would keep a close watch on its progress.
- Programmes meant for the uplift of Dalits and tribals would be of particular interest for us to watch.
- The monitoring, evaluation and analysis of governmental action would be continuously evolving in methodology, approach and scope in months and years ahead to produce more in-depth, substantial, meaningful work.