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Q12

Case study. In the light of the above case, comment upon the ethical issues that may arise due to the politicization of bureaucracy.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · GS IV · 20 marks · Ethics Case Studies

Case Studies on above issues.

Core demand of the question

- In the light of the above case, comment upon the ethical issues that may arise due to the politicization of bureaucracy

Revision summary

Politicisation is the use of officers and files for party gain rather than for law and public safety.

Ethical harms include lost neutrality, fear of transfer, a political roof for corruption, and opposition capture of the same officer.

Article 311's spirit, the **Second Administrative Reforms Commission** and the **Hota Committee** all point to tenure and professional insulation.

The way forward is lawful political policy, professional implementation, independent vigilance and no campaign theatre by serving officers.

- **Vinod's case is the test:** a bribe video must go to the law, not to a party office.

Flow diagram

Politicisation -> Neutrality lost

Politicisation -> Arbitrary transfer

Politicisation -> Corruption roof

2nd 2nd ARC and Hota and Hota -> Stable tenure

Stable tenure -> Professional implementation

Independent vigilance -> Professional implementation

Conclusion

- Train officers that lawful policy of the elected government is to be implemented with energy, and that unlawful party work is to be refused in writing.
- Protect whistle-blowing through the **Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014** in letter, not only in a speech.
- **Keep the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** as a criminal path that does not depend on which party sent the clip.
- Ministers should own policy in public; officers should own the speaking order and the tender.

- **The ethical civil servant in a politicised climate does what Vinod should do:** facts to vigilance, safety to the passenger, and no theatre for either side.

Politicisation turns the civil service into a party instrument. The ethical losses are neutrality, tenure, courage and public safety. The repair is lawful policy with professional implementation, protected tenure in spirit, and vigilance that can bite a Chairman as well as a clerk.

Facts & figures

Article 311, Constitution of India

Protects civil servants against dismissal, removal or reduction in rank except by the prescribed procedure; politicisation often evades its spirit through transfers rather than dismissal.

Second Administrative Reforms Commission

Recommended reforms on ethics, tenure and a clearer professional space for the civil service vis-à-vis political executive.

Hota Committee

A committee on civil service reform that stressed integrity, domain competence and less arbitrary use of postings.

All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968

Require that AIS officers remain politically neutral in service and not use their office for a party.

Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014

A statute meant to protect persons who disclose corruption in public bodies; weak implementation is itself an ethical issue in a politicised service.

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