

Ref. – UPA- 4 / 1-11 /9-2006
Date- 30.9.2006

To
Chief Vigilance Commissioner
Satarkata Bhawan
New Delhi.

Sir,

Sub: Your guide lines for inviting professional services.

Your kind attention is drawn towards an anomaly that your guide line to hire /invite the professional services on the basis of lowest fees quotations/ tenders basis for Govt. departments / public sector organizations. We would like to submit in the matter as under-

1. The Architects are professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers, chartered accountants etc. Our profession is govern by a statutory body known as " Council of Architecture", founded under Parliamentary act known as " The Architects Act-1972".
2. The Architects Act 1972 prohibits an Architect from competing with a fellow Architect on fees and defines it as professional misconduct

But unfortunately the Government departments and undertakings are inviting the tenders/ quotations from Architects for Architectural services and selecting Architects purely on the ground of lowest fees, while for the services of other professionals like doctors, advocates, chartered accountants etc. are never invited through tenders/ quotations. The implications of this system of selection are as under –

- i. Generally this system ignores professional qualities like competency, experience and Professional standing. Low profile professionals are designing buildings of high magnitude and complex nature, which results ugly, unsafe and uneconomical buildings.
- ii. This system come across the provisions of "The Architects act 1972" which mandates not to compete with fellow Architects on the matter of fees. It also encourages the Architects for the violation of law and ultimately promoting unethical practices in the profession.
- iii. It is the prime object of enactment of the said act to safe guard the general public from unscrupulous persons in building construction and utilizes the national resources with help of qualified and competent professionals, which is being diluted.

Hence we request you to kindly look into the matter and issue necessary instructions for the purpose. It will contribute to the objectives of the said act and will also help us in making ethical environment in the profession. We are sure that your attention will contribute a lot in making the built environment economical and safe.

Thanking You
Yours Sincerely

President

