

position by a public servant, on complaints by the concerned department, their vigilance branch or on complaints by members of public, an enquiry can be initiated and action taken. The allegations made in the complaint need to be specific and verifiable, before verification can be undertaken.

**Whether offering of a bribe to public servant amounts to an offence?**

Yes, offering a bribe by members of the public to a public servant amounts to an offence under section 12, read with section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

**Contact Details of ACB**

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**3.5 Survey Results and Statistics**

<b>Have you ever faced a situation where you have been forced to bribe ?</b>	
Yes	55 (71.43%)
No	22 (28.57%)
<b>If Yes, then why did you give a bribe ?</b>	
Force / No other option	23 (41.07%)
To get work done faster	29 (51.79%)
Other, please specify	4 (7.14%)
	Other Responses > It was cheaper > Officer wanted money but was not forced upon > Urgency > Convenience
<b>Are you aware of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) , Mumbai ?</b>	
Yes	60 (77.92%)
No	17 (22.08%)
<b>Are you willing to lodge a complaint in the ACB ?</b>	
Yes	48 (62.34%)

No	29 (37.66%)
<b>Do you know how to lodge a complaint with the ACB ?</b>	
Yes	9 (11.69%)
No	68 (88.31%)
<b>Any reason why you have not lodged a complaint with the ACB ?</b>	
Fear	3 (3.90%)
Inaction on the part of ACB	7 (9.09%)
Waste of time	36 (46.75%)
Others, please specify	31 (40.26%)
	<p>Other Reponses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Unawareness (11)</li> <li>&gt; Not required (12)</li> <li>&gt; Do not know its powers</li> <li>&gt; No huge reason to do so, very small bribes</li> <li>&gt; Don't believe in government organizations</li> <li>&gt; Never really bothered</li> <li>&gt; To avoid harassment</li> </ul>
<b>Will you lodge a complaint online ?</b>	
Yes	65 (84.42%)
No	12 (15.58%)
<b>If No, then please mention a reason as to why not ?</b>	
<p><b>Reasons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; I don't think ACB will be able to sort the matter without giving me trouble</li> <li>&gt; With Government Departments, in person you hardly ever get a response. So online seems a little far fetched</li> <li>&gt; Not comfortable (3)</li> <li>&gt; Willing to lodge if not pestered in future for unnecessary formalities</li> </ul>	
<b>Are you aware of the way ACB operates?</b>	
Yes	10 (12.99%)
No	67 (87.01%)
<b>If you have already given a bribe , then you want to make a complaint to the ACB , do you think it is valid?</b>	

Yes	37 (48.05%)
No	40 (51.95%)
<b>Did you know ACB operates only in the public sector ?</b>	
Yes	18 (23.38%)
No	59 (76.62%)
<b>Did you know that ACB operates only in Maharashtra ?</b>	
Yes	10 (12.99%)
No	67 (87.01%)
<b>Do you think the ACB is effective in the role that they play ?</b>	
Yes	20 (27.40%)
No	53 (72.60%)
<b>No, then please mention a reason as to why not ?</b>	
<p><b>Reasons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of published statistics about work done by the ACB (22)</li> <li>➤ Enforcement is poor</li> <li>➤ There is not enough awareness created about the bureau and its powers. It is not possible for any such body to actually punish all people who indulge in bribery. Rather if people know about such bodies then they themselves will shirk bribery. Half their job is done if there is awareness. The only way towards achieving their goal is "Creating Awareness of its existence"</li> <li>➤ The ACB is a government body, thus the perception is that, they do not work efficiently (4)</li> <li>➤ ACB itself could be a victim of corruption (4)</li> <li>➤ Execution time for a case is very long</li> <li>➤ Corruption has not reduced even though the ACB exists</li> <li>➤ ACB like Lokayukta have sincere officers. They catch the culprits and expose them. What happens next is that they are acquitted of their cases in a few days. They go scotfree. This issue should be addressed. A powerful and fast judiciary should complement ACB.</li> <li>➤ It's impossible to curb corruption</li> </ul>	

### **3.6 Observations and Suggestions**

The observations that can be made from this survey are:

- Most of the people are aware of the existence of the ACB, but do not know how to lodge a complaint.
- Convenience and urgency take precedence over morals and values.

- In most government offices, officers don't ask for bribes but it has become a norm and people follow it without asking questions.
- Lot of people tend to give bribes as they consider that it is cheaper to bribe and get away rather than pay the fine.
- People don't want to spoil relations with officers by complaining about them since they have regular business with these departments like Sales Tax, Octroi etc.
- Most people think that the ACB is just like any other government office and thus is very inefficient. Corruption is deep rooted and is very difficult to remove according to the public.

**Our suggestions based on this survey:**

- Publish success stories and statistics about the ACB.
- Spread awareness about the process of lodging complaints and the fact that giving bribes is also a crime.
- Project the fact that it will not be a waste of time for anyone who lodges a complaint as it will help the society.
- Complete transparency of the way the ACB operates should be made public.