

DEEPAK JOSHI

Former Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh

1, Jay Nagar, Civil Lines, Dewas (M. P.) – 455001

Mobile No. +91-94250-38500; E-mail: deepakjoshiminister@yahoo.com

Date: 06.01.2025

To

Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Prime Minister's Office

7, Lok Kalyan Marg

New Delhi – 110011

Subject: Request for a High-Level CBI Inquiry into the Recent Income Tax Raid in Bhopal and Protection of the Upper Lake (Bhoj Wetland), a Ramsar Site.

Respected Sir,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. I am writing to draw your kind attention to a matter of public concern involving serious allegations of corruption, environmental violations, and misuse of state resources, which requires urgent intervention and investigation.

The recent Income Tax raid conducted in Bhopal on Mr. Rajesh Sharma and his associates has reportedly uncovered assets and properties worth approximately ₹400 crores. It is widely alleged that Mr. Sharma, a small businessman, is merely a benamidar or frontman for Mr. Iqbal Singh Bains, the former Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh, who retired shortly after the state assembly elections in

DEEPAK JOSHI

Former Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh

1, Jay Nagar, Civil Lines, Dewas (M. P.) – 455001

Mobile No. +91-94250-38500; E-mail: deepakjoshiminister@yahoo.com

December 2023. Given Mr. Sharma's modest business background, the origin of such vast wealth raises serious suspicions, with claims that these properties actually belong to Mr. Bains.

Additionally, it has come to light that Mr. Rajesh Sharma, along with others, promoted a residential **housing project** named '**Central Park**' in joint venture in Village Sewaniya Gond on 12.86 hectares of land. This land is adjacent to the Upper Lake of Bhopal and lies in its catchment area and submergence area. The necessary permissions and clearances for this project were allegedly granted by violating rules, regulations, and the Master Plan of Bhopal, as the land is designated as a low-density area near the lake.

This housing project poses a grave threat to the ecological character of the Bhoj Wetland, a Ramsar Site of international importance. It is further alleged that Mr. Iqbal Singh Bains misused his official position to facilitate clearances for the project, which would have been otherwise impossible. The project is suspected to be a Benami Project of Mr. Bains. Furthermore, large sums of black money are reported to have been involved in the purchase of plots within the project.

The Bhoj Wetland, an engineering marvel built in the 11th century by Raja Bhoj, is not just a local treasure but a site of international ecological significance. As a Ramsar Site, it supports unique biodiversity and serves as a critical habitat for hundreds of migratory birds including numerous endangered species from various parts of the globe. Our country is a proud Member State of the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species: CMS (Bonn Convention), and

DEEPAK JOSHI

Former Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh

1, Jay Nagar, Civil Lines, Dewas (M. P.) – 455001

Mobile No. +91-94250-38500; E-mail: deepakjoshiminister@yahoo.com

the Convention on Biological Diversity: CBD. Activities such as illegal construction and encroachments in the catchment and submergence areas of this wetland not only violate these conventions but also threaten irreparable damage to the lake's ecosystem and ecological character.

The Upper Lake is more than just a Ramsar Site; it is the identity and lifeline of Bhopal. It is a symbol of pride for the residents of the city and a vital natural resource that must be protected for current and future generations. Allowing irresponsible individuals to exploit such treasures for personal gain will result in irretrievable losses. Such persons should be punished, and swift action must be taken to preserve our heritage.

In addition to the financial irregularities, there are other alarming violations linked to Mr. Bains that further underscore the need for immediate action:

1. Illegal Construction in Submergence Area: Mr. Bains has reportedly constructed a massive bungalow in the submergence area of the Bhoj Wetland, the Upper Lake of Bhopal, a Ramsar Site, which is of international ecological significance.

2. Violation of Environmental Norms: Such construction not only contravenes established rules and regulations but also poses a severe threat to the conservation and protection of this ecologically significant wetland.

3. Misuse of State Resources: A cement concrete approach road leading to Mr. Bains' bungalow has been constructed by the Govt. of MP, using funds from the state exchequer, reflecting blatant misuse of public resources.

DEEPAK JOSHI

Former Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh

1, Jay Nagar, Civil Lines, Dewas (M. P.) – 455001

Mobile No. +91-94250-38500; E-mail: deepakjoshiminister@yahoo.com

The Upper Lake, being a Ramsar site, is an invaluable natural asset that supports local biodiversity, provides critical ecosystem services, and is a symbol of Bhopal's heritage. Any encroachments or constructions in its submergence area are detrimental to its ecological health and must be addressed with urgency.

Therefore, I request your kind intervention to ensure the following actions are taken:

1. Immediate Demolition of Illegal Structures: The bungalow, the approach road, and the Central Park housing project constructed in the submergence and catchment area of the Bhoj Wetland (Upper Lake) should be demolished at the earliest. This will not only rectify the violations but also save and protect the Bhoj Wetland from further ecological damage, ensuring its conservation for future generations.

2. High-Level CBI Inquiry: A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry should be ordered into the recent Income Tax raid findings to uncover the full extent of corruption and expose misuse of power by individuals in high offices.

Mr. Bains has a history of controversies and allegations of corruption during his tenure as a senior bureaucrat. The current revelations not only highlight financial irregularities but also reflect a disregard for environmental norms and public accountability.

Ordering a high-level investigation and taking swift corrective action will reaffirm the government's commitment to environmental conservation and its

DEEPAK JOSHI

Former Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh

1, Jay Nagar, Civil Lines, Dewas (M. P.) – 455001

Mobile No. +91-94250-38500; E-mail: deepakjoshiminister@yahoo.com

zero-tolerance stance against corruption. This will also help restore the faith of the common people of Madhya Pradesh in the principles of justice and good governance.

Thank you for kind your attention to this urgent matter. I am confident that under your able leadership, prompt action will be taken to address these grave concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Deepak Joshi

S/o: Late Shri Kailash Joshi, former Chief Minister of MP

1, Jay Nagar, Civil Lines

Dewas- 455001 (MP)

E-mail: deepakjoshiminister@yahoo.com

Mobile No. +91-94250-38500;