

Response of the trustees of India Vision Foundation to the ongoing allegations on Kiran Bedi

After receiving the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1994, Dr Kiran Bedi established a Foundation called the India Vision Foundation for Prison Reforms, Police Reforms, Women Empowerment, Sports Promotion and Mental Disability. These were inherent strengths of the founders.

With her award money she set up the bread making factory inside Tihar Jail called. India Vision Bread Unit, to provide fresh bread daily for 10.000 inmates. This venture is today grossing crores annually and is being used for various welfare activities of prisoners. Alongside she institutionalized a play-school for children who come inside the jail with their mothers. The Foundation additionally trains women prisoners and adolescent boys in vocational skills.

She generated funds for causes from several of her personal sources including her reward monies, speaking fees, writing honorariums, book royalties, promotional gains, savings from travel tickets, including gallantry, donations from friends etc.

Travels for causes based on invites received, included invitations from corporate/ organizations. A travel agency owned by a fellow trustee issued all tickets, business or economy and received and acknowledged all payments. They duly maintained the account. Worthy Invitations which could not offer any travel expense, the cost of the said was met from the savings in the same travel account with the travel agency.

In none of the accounting or saving was there any personal financial gain for her. On the contrary she stretched out to causes by investing her own self.

As trustees, we say with total clarity that at no point of time was there any intention on her part to mislead anyone. She volunteered to travel lower class only for the purpose of benefitting other causes such as those who could not afford travel costs.

But little did she/we as trustees realize that it would be misconstrued to the extent that her lifelong integrity be placed in doubt..

The Trustees of the India Vision Foundation have resolved to refrain her from such saving measures, even though based on personal discomfort, to avoid any cause for misinterpretation in future. Dr Bedi also has personally written to many of her past hosts sharing with them her intentions and whether they were in sync with her approach. Several have expressed their respect for this commitment.

Signed Trustees---Prahlad Kakkar, Dr lavlin Thadani, Mr Achal Paul, Mr Sunil Nanda, Amarjit, Mr Pradeep halwasiya