



## **WHITE COLLAR CRIME AND ORGANISED CRIME**

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### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF WHITE COLLAR CRIMES**

The concept of white collar crime is usually associated with E.H. Sutherland whose penetrating work in this area focused the attention of criminologists on its demoralizing effect on the total crime picture. Sutherland pointed out that besides the traditional crimes such as assault, robbery, dacoity, murder, rape; kidnapping and other acts involving violence, there are certain anti social activities which the persons of upper strata carry on in course of their occupation or business. These activities for a long time were accepted as a part of usual business tactics necessary for a shrewd professional man for his success in profession or business. Thus any complaint against such tactics often went unheeded and unpunished.

Sutherland further pointed out that white collar crimes differ from the crimes committed by criminal syndicates. This distinction could be based on the extent of presumed respectability. Thus, if a person who belongs to a respectable class of society and possesses some degree of good reputation, sells shoddy goods, he is committing a white collar crime. But if a group of persons unknown to their victims, sell the same type of shoddy goods that would not be a white collar crime.

### **DEFINING WHITE-COLLAR CRIME**

- **Sutherland's View:** The concept of "white collar crime" found its place in criminology for the first time in 1941 when Sutherland published his research paper on white collar criminality in the American Sociological Review. He defined white collar crime as a "crime committed by persons of respectability and high social status in course of their occupation". A white collar criminal belongs to upper socio economic class who violates the criminal law while conducting his professional qualities. Thus misrepresentation through fraudulent advertisements, infringement of patents, copyrights and trademarks etc., are frequently resorted to by manufacturers, industrialists and other persons of repute in course of their occupation with a view to earning huge profits. Other illustrations of white collar criminality include publication of fabricated balance sheets and profit and loss account of business, passing of goods, concealment of defects in the commodity for sale etc.

Sutherland further pointed out that a white collar crime is more dangerous to society than ordinary crimes because the financial loss to society, from white collar crimes is far greater than the financial loss from burglaries, robberies larcenies etc. The most dismal aspect of white collar crimes is that there is no effective programme for the enforcement of criminal law against them and the influential persons involved in these crimes are able to resist enforcement of law against themselves.

- **Sir Walter Reckless:** White collar crime represents the offences of businessmen who are in a position to determine the policies and activities of business.



- **Edelhertz:** White collar crime is an illegal act or series of illegal acts committed by non-physical means and by concealment or guile, to obtain money or property, to avoid the payment or loss of money or property, or to obtain business or personal advantage.

**Criticism of Sutherland's views on White Collar Crime:** Sutherland's definition of white collar crime has evoked criticism from certain quarters.

1. Some critics allege that such violations come within the purview of the Special Commissions, Tribunals and 'Boards instead of normal criminal justice administrators. Therefore, strictly speaking, they cannot result into conviction of the offender and hence he cannot be called 'criminal' in real sense of the term. Commenting on this aspect of the issue, Tappan observes that treating persons committing white collar crime as criminals would mean deviating from legal definition of crime inasmuch as personal value considerations of the administrator would gain primacy in place of precision and clarity of legal provisions in deciding such cases. Sutherland however, justifies the special procedure of trial for white collar criminals by administrative agencies on the ground that it would protect the offender from the stigma of criminal prosecution.
2. Another criticism quite often advanced against Sutherland's definition of white Collar crime is that it includes even those violations of law which are not committed in course of occupation or profession and these violations do not necessarily belong to upper strata of society or the so called prestigious groups. For example, tax evasion is not committed in course of occupation and it can

be committed by persons belonging to upper, middle or even lower strata of society.

3. Yet another objection against the definition of white collar crime is that it does not necessarily require *mens rea* which is an essential ingredient of a crime.

### FEATURES OF WHITE COLLAR CRIMES

1. **Greater social injustice:** The crimes result in social injuries far greater than conventional crimes where only individuals are affected. However, these crimes/criminals have generally been regarded by criminologists as a class apart because the administrative, investigative and judicial procedures for many of them have been different from the procedures for other violations of criminal laws.
2. **Repeat Offenders:** A large number of these offenders are recidivists, though repetition is not necessarily of the same type of crime.
3. **Modus Operandi:** The illegal activities (or white-collar crimes) follow more or less the same modus operandi.
4. **Not looked down upon:** A white-collar criminal does not lose his status among associates because it is not considered a violation of the 'business code'. In fact, many successful criminals of this category are hailed as dynamic and innovative leaders of industry/society.
5. **Less severe punishment:** While ordinary criminals are afraid of enforcement agencies, white-collar criminals are rarely so, because they think that on being detected, they may only be transferred or fined or given a short-term simple imprisonment.



6. **Wealthy status of offender:** In a majority of economic crimes, sentences imposed by the courts are ridiculously mild. Generally, some ground for the benefit of the doubt is brought into play and the accused is acquitted. Many white-collar offenders bribe the enforcement personnel and thus get out of the clutches of the law.

### **CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

1. **Economical industrial growth:** The changing socio economic scenario of the society coupled with increase in wealth and prosperity has furnished, opportunities for such crimes. Law Commission in its Twenty ninth Report observed, that modern scientific and technological developments and, monopolistic trends in business world have led to enormous increase in white collar crimes.
2. **Competitive business community:** Marshal B. Clinard asserted that the problem of white collar criminality has its root in, competitive business community which tries to out their rival competitors in order to earn huge profits. Sometimes such Crimes may also be committed merely for the sake of retaining existence in the competitive business. To illustrate, though there is a prescribed code of ethics for the practising lawyers but since the very nature of their profession involves the spirit of combat and competition, they often resort unlawful tactics such as concealment or misrepresentation of facts, which if detected, is punishable under the Law. To take another example, the private educational institutions in India which receive public aid or grants furnish false accounts simply for the sake of retaining their existence. Likewise, the members of industrial and business class

who enjoy high status in the society have a tendency to suppress their real profits by furnishing false and fabricated accounts of their income and property in order to claim tax exemptions or avoid payment of heavy taxes.

3. **High socio-economic status:** One more reason for the multiplicity of white collar crime is relatively high socio economic status of white collar criminals. They belong to an influential group which is powerful enough to handle their occupation tactfully and persons affected thereby hardly know that they are being victimised.

4. **Public apathy:** The public in general is also somewhat apathetic to such crimes thug causing obstruction in prosecution and punishment of white collar criminals. The reason for this public insensibility is that firstly such criminals operate within the strict letter of the law and exploit the credibility of their victims and secondly, the legal battles involved are dragged out for year in the courts, with the result the gravity of the offence is completely lost in the oblivion. That apart, the impact of white collar crime is so much diffused in the community that the individual victims are only marginally affected by it, and, therefore, they conveniently forget all about it.

### **WHITE COLLAR CRIME IN INDIA**

White collar criminality has become a global phenomenon with the advance of commerce and technology. Like any other country, India is equally in the grip of white collar criminality. The reason for enormous increase in white collar crime in recent decades is to be found in the fast developing economy and industrial growth of this developing country. The Santhanam



Committee Report in its findings gave a vivid picture of white collar crimes committed by persons of respectability such as businessmen, industrialists, contractors and suppliers as also the corrupt public officials.

This however, does not mean that white collar crimes are petty offences because they do not carry severe punishment. Undoubtedly, the penologist hitherto confined their attention to prevention of ordinary crimes but the recent penal programs sufficiently indicate emphasis has now shifted to suppression of white collar criminality with the equal vigor and strength. The amendments introduced in the Indian Companies Act in 1988, Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1992, Insurance and banking Laws, the appointment of Lokpal, Lokayukta and tightening of governmental control over private business groups sufficiently reflect upon the government's determination to suppress white collar criminality in India.

### WHITE COLLAR DISTINGUISHED FROM TRADITIONAL LAW

There is much resemblance between white collar crime and blue collar crime, both owe their origin to common Law and are adaptations of principles of theft, fraud etc. to modern socio-economic institutions and in fact there is no basic difference between the two.

1. **Men of high social status:** White collar criminality has a close affinity to the attitudes and values of culture in a particular society. This is evident from the fact that white collar criminals are intelligent, stable, and successful and men of high social status as compared with the ordinary criminals. They

are foresighted persons belonging to the prestigious group of society.

Edwin Sutherland, however, suggests that status alone is not determinant of white collar or blue collar crime. This is evident from the fact that even the most privileged and prestige persons may commit heinous crime such as murder, rape or kidnapping for which they can be severely punished, while on the other hand, most under-privileged people may be involved in a white collar crime like tax evasion, corruption or misrepresentation which may not be looked as serious offence.

2. **Difficult to detect:** White collar crimes which are committed in commercial world are indirect, anonymous, impersonal and difficult to detect. As against this, ordinary criminals commit crime which are direct and involve physical action, such as beating, removal of property or use of force, etc. which can be easily be identified and detected.

**Mens rea:** Mens rea or guilty mind is an essential ingredient of every blue collar crime but many statutes dealing with white collar crime do not require mens rea in strict sense of the term. The doctrine of constructive mens rea applies in such cases.

### MEANING OF ORGANISED CRIME

Organised crime is defined as "those involved, normally working with others, in continuing serious criminal activities for substantial profit, elsewhere". Organised criminals that work together for the duration of a particular criminal activity or activities are what we call an organised crime group. Organised crime group structures vary. Successful organised crime groups often consist of a durable core of key



individuals. Around them, there's a cluster of subordinates, specialists, and other more transient members, plus an extended network of disposable associates.

Many groups are in practice loose networks of criminals that come together for the duration of a criminal activity, acting in different roles depending on their skills and expertise. Collaboration is reinforced by shared experiences (such as prison), or recommendation from trusted individuals. Others are bonded by family or ethnic ties – some 'crime families' are precisely that.

Organised criminals make use of specialists who provide a service, sometimes to a range of crime gangs. Services include transport, money laundering, debt enforcement, or the provision of false documentation (identity crime underpins a wide variety of organised criminal

### DEFINITIONS OF ORGANISED CRIME

1. *In the United States a definition of Organised Crime is to be found in Federal statutes is set out by Public Law 90-351, the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968: "Organised Crime means the unlawful activities of members of a highly organised, disciplined association engaged in supplying illegal goods and services, including but not limited to gambling, prostitution, loan sharking, narcotics, labour racketeering, and other unlawful activities of members of such associations"*
2. *The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised crime, 2000 defines Organised Crime as Organised criminal group shall mean a "structured group of three or more persons existing for a*

period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offenses established pursuant to this Convention, in order to obtain, directly, or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit."

3. *International Police Organisation (Interpol) defines Organised Crime as "Any group having a corporate structure whose primary objective is to obtain money through illegal activities, often surviving on fear and corruption.*
4. *The Maharashtra Control of Organised crime Act (MCOCA) 1999, defines "Organised Crime" as, any continuing unlawful activity by an individual, singly or jointly, either as a member of an Organised Crime syndicate or on behalf of such syndicate, by use of violence or threat of violence or intimidation or coercion, or other unlawful means, with the objective of gaining pecuniary benefits, or gaining undue economic or other advantage for himself or any person or promoting insurgency.*

### NATURE OF ORGANISED CRIME

Generally speaking, the term Organised Crime has always been used to indicate that professional criminals distinguish themselves not only by the efficient and business like way in which they commit certain crimes, but also by the close relations they have amongst themselves. In the way things were looked at, they formed with each other a separate social world: an illegal, undesirable, despicable world an underworld, with its 23 own hierarchical relations, its own division of rights, duties and tasks, its own language and so on.1



The above definitions of 'Organised Crime' tend to converge, so that the term denotes a method of conducting criminal operations which is distinct from other forms of criminal behaviour. Its salient features are violence, corruption, ongoing criminal activity, and the precedence of the group over any single member. Organised criminal groups are characterized by their continuity over time regardless of the mortality of their members. They are not dependent on the continued participation of any single individual

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF ORGANISED CRIME**

1. **Continuity:** The criminal group operates beyond the life time of individual members and is structured to survive changes in leadership.
2. **Structure:** The criminal group is structured as a collection of hierarchically arranged interdependent offices devoted to the accomplishment of a particular function. It may be highly structured or may be rather fluid. It is, however, distinguishable as the ranks are based on power and authority.
3. **Membership:** The membership in the core criminal group is restricted and based on common traits such as ethnicity, criminal background or common interests. The potential members are subjected to a lot of scrutiny and required to prove their worth and loyalty to the criminal group. The rules of membership include secrecy, a willingness to commit any act for the group and intent to protect the group. In return for loyalty, the member of a criminal group receives economic benefits, certain prestige, and protection from law enforcement.
4. **Criminality:** The criminal group relies on continuing criminal activity to generate income. Thus, continuing criminal

conspiracy is inherent in organized crime. Some activities such as supplying illegal goods and services.

5. **Violence:** Violence and the threat of violence are an integral part of a criminal group. The violence or threat of it is used against the members of the group to keep them in line as also against the outsiders to protect the economic interests of the group. Members are expected to commit, condone or authorize violent acts.
6. **Power/Profit Goal:** The members of the criminal group aim at maximizing the group's profits. The political power is achieved through the corruption of public officials, including legislators and political executive. The criminal group maintains power through its association with the "protectors" who defend the group and its profits.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANISED CRIME IN INDIA**

1. **THUGS:** In India OC can be traced back to the groups of thuggees; the historical reference to the thugs is made in the history during Firoz shah period written by Zia-ud-Bami in the year 1356.35 They were further mentioned during the reign of Akbar (1556-1605).3. The Thugs were a well-organised confederacy of professional assassins who traveled in various guises through India in gangs of 10 to 200, worming themselves into the confidence of wayfarers of the wealthier class. The advent of British to India established a well organised police setup, which played a major role in disbanding the thuggees.
2. **DACOITS:** The end of thugs in such organised manner was broken up; the thugs disbanded, spread across the country and



were divided into small groups. These small groups who were professional criminals were not able to accommodate themselves to the surroundings where they lived in; gradually some of them indulged in theft, burglary, robbery, highway robbery and dacoity and took to predatory habits.

### 3. **EXTORTION AND BLACKMAILING:**

The zamindari system in India was also a major contributor to professional criminals. The zamindars maintained band of body guards, who were trained and used to collect rents, use force to grab others land and were very loyal to their masters. The body guards were guarded under the influence and money power of zamindars and carried out their activities without any fear at their whims and fancies .The first war of independence of 1857 and the consequences that followed later; broke up the zamindars army of body guards to a very large extent. The bodyguards who were well trained and did not know any other profession, collectively started extortion, blackmailing, robbery and collected far more wealth by their nefarious activities than they could by honest work<sup>46</sup>.

4. **MAFIAS AND DON:** Organised Crime in its current form emerged in Bombay after Independence with the introduction of prohibition which gave rise to a thriving and lucrative clandestine trade in illicit liquor. The Bombay underworld dons, over a period of time, have become role models for other mafia gangs and have created avenues to earn name and fame by illegal means in the country.

### LEGAL POSITION IN INDIA ON ORGANISED CRIME

1. **Criminal Conspiracy:** Sec. 120-A of the Indian Penal Code defines criminal conspiracy and Section 120-B of the India Penal Code provides for punishment for criminal conspiracy.

2. **Dacoity and Related Offences:** Dacoity is one of the oldest forms of crimes in India and is committed purely for the purpose of looting or extortion and is defined in Section 391 of the Penal Code.

3. **Law on Gangsters:** There is no central legislation to suppress 'gang activity' having countrywide applicability. The State of Uttar Pradesh, most populous and politically most powerful in enacted Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act,1986, which is applicable in that State only. The gang has been defined as a group of persons, who, singly or collectively, indulge in anti-national activities by violence or threat of violence for gaining undue political, economic or physical advantages and includes, offences against the body, boot legging, forcible possession of immovable property, creating communal disturbances, obstructing public servants in the discharge of their duties, kidnapping for ransom, diverting an aircraft or public transport vehicle from its schedule path, etc.

### 4. **Other Laws**

There are several other central statutes which deal with specific facets of organized crime. Some of them are:

- a. The Customs Act,
- b. 1962; the Narcotics Drugs and
- c. Psychotropic Substances Act, 1984; the
- d. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956; the



e. Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973

f. the Public Gambling Act, 1867 etc.

Besides, the State Government has also legislated on subjects like excise, Prohibition and gambling etc.

5. **Preventive Action:** The National Security Act 1980 provides for preventive detention by the Central Government or the State Government or by the officers designated by this Government. The detention order is issued for one year with a view to preventing a person from acting in any manner prejudicial to the defense of India or to the friendly relations with foreign powers. The detention has to be approved by an Advisory Board headed by a serving High Court judge. The expression ‘security of India’ is open to liberal interpretation and this Act has been used, though sparingly, against anti-national elements and hard core gangsters. Detention is an executive action and the case does not go to the court for trial.

Thus, India has laws scattered in various statutes to deal with various facets of organized crime. The existing laws, however, drastically fall short of the requirements to curb the menace. The Government of India is conscious of this and has drafted the Organized Crime Control Act.

### **TYPES OF ORGANISED CRIME**

#### **A. Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking**

It is perhaps the most serious organised crime affecting the country and is truly transnational in character. India is geographically situated between the countries of Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent and is a transit point for narcotic drugs produced in these regions to the West.

India also produces a considerable amount of licit opium, part of which also finds place in the illicit market in different forms. Illicit drug trade in India centres around five major substances, namely, heroin, hashish, opium, cannabis and methaqualone. Seizures of cocaine, amphetamine, and LSD are not unknown but are insignificant and rare.

#### **B. Smuggling**

Smuggling, which consists of clandestine operations leading to unrecorded trade, is another major economic offence. The volume of smuggling depends on the nature of fiscal policies pursued by the Government. The nature of smuggled items and the quantum thereof is also determined by the prevailing fiscal policies.

India has a vast coast line of about 7,500 kms and open borders with Nepal and Bhutan and is prone to large scale smuggling of contraband and other consumable items. Though it is not possible to quantify the value of contraband goods smuggled into this country, it is possible to have some idea of the extent of smuggling from the value of contraband seized, even though they may constitute a very small proportion of the actual smuggling.

#### **C. Money Laundering & Hawala**

Money laundering means conversion of illegal and ill-gotten money into seemingly legal money so that it can be integrated into the legitimate economy. Proceeds of drug related crimes are an important source of money laundering world over. Besides, tax evasion and violation of exchange regulations play an important role in merging this ill-gotten money with tax evaded income so as to obscure its origin. This aim is generally achieved via the intricate steps of placement, layering and integration so that



the money so integrated in the legitimate economy can be freely used by the offenders without any fear of detection. Money laundering poses a serious threat world over, not only to the criminal justice systems of the countries but also to their sovereignty

#### **D. Terrorism & Narco-Terrorism**

Terrorism is a serious problem which India is facing. Conceptually, terrorism does not fall in the category of organised crime, as the dominant motive behind terrorism is political and/or ideological and not the acquisition of money-power. The Indian experience, however, shows that the criminals are perpetrating all kinds of crimes, such as killings, rapes, kidnappings, gun-running and drug trafficking, under the umbrella of terrorist organisations.

#### **E. Contract Killings**

The offence of murder is punishable under section 302 IPC by life imprisonment or death sentence. Conviction rate in murder cases is about 38%. The chance of detection in contract killings is quite low. The method adopted in contract killings is by engaging a professional gang for a monetary consideration.

#### **F. Kidnapping for Ransom**

Kidnapping for ransom is a highly organised crime in urban conglomerates. There are several local as well as inter-State gangs involved in it as the financial rewards are immense vis-a-vis the labour and risk involved.

#### **G. Illegal Immigration A large number of Indians are working**

abroad, particularly in the Gulf region. Young people want to move to foreign

countries for lucrative jobs. Large scale migration is fostered by the high rate of unemployment in the country and higher wage levels in foreign lands. As it is not easy for the aspirants to obtain valid travel documents and jobs abroad, they fall into the trap of unscrupulous travel agents and agencies.

#### **H. Prostitution**

Trading in sex and girl-running is a very profitable business in which the underworld plays an important part. Flesh trade has been flourishing in India in various places and in different forms. The underworld is closely connected with brothels and call girl rackets, making plenty of money through this activity. They supply young girls to brothels in different parts of the country, shuttling them to and from the city to minimise the risk of their being rescued. According to a study conducted by the Indian Health Organisation, there are over 1,000,000 prostitutes in Bombay and an equal number in Calcutta. Delhi and Pune have an estimated 40,000 each.

### **PROBLEM IN CONTROLLING ORGANISED CRIME**

1. **Inadequate Legal Structure:** India does not have a special law to control/suppress organised crime. Being a continuing conspiracy, the incidents of organised crime are dealt with under the general conspiracy law and relevant special Acts. The existing law is inadequate as it targets individuals and not the criminal groups or criminal enterprises. Conspiracies are hatched in darkness and proving them in a court of law is a herculean task.



2. **Difficulties in Obtaining Proof:** As organised criminal groups are structured in a hierarchical manner, the higher echelons of leadership are insulated from law enforcement. It may be possible to have the actual perpetrators of crime convicted, but it is difficult to go beyond them in the hierarchy because of rules of evidence, particularly, non-admissibility of confessions made by criminals before the police. The witnesses are not willing to depose for fear of their lives and there is no law to provide protection to the witnesses against organized gangs. The informers are not willing to come forward as some kind of stigma is attached to being an 'informer'.

3. **Lack of Resources & Training:** In our Constitutional frame-work, the police are the State's subject. Investigation of cases, their prosecution and the setting up of the criminal courts is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Most of the States face a resources crunch and are not in the position to spare adequate resources for the criminal justice system agencies. The number of police personnel posted in police stations is inadequate. Besides, hardly any training facilities exist for the investigation of organised crime.

4. **Lack of Co-ordination:** India does not have a national level agency to co-ordinate the efforts of the State/city police organisations as well as central enforcement agencies, for combating organised crime. Further, there is no agency to collect, collate, analyse, document and function as a central exchange of information relating to international and inter-state gangs operating in India and abroad. Similarly, there is no system of sustained pursuit of selected gangs at the national and State level. Apart from lack of

institutional frame-work, there are problems of coordination between the Central Government and the State Governments and between one State Government and another State Government due to differences in political perceptions.

5. **Criminal, Political & Bureaucratic Nexus:** There has been a rapid spread and growth of criminal gangs, armed Senas, drug mafias, smuggling gangs, drug peddlers and economic lobbies in the country which have, over the years, developed an extensive network of contacts with the bureaucrats, government functionaries, politicians, media persons and democratically elected individuals at the local level. Some of these syndicates also have international linkages, including with the foreign intelligence agencies.

6. **Dual Criminality:** The crime syndicates do not respect national boundaries. Certain crimes, particularly drug trafficking, are planned in one part of the world and executed in another. Criminals also move fast from one part of the globe to another. Different nations have different legal structures. A certain act may be 'crime' in one country but not in another. To illustrate, money laundering is crime in USA and several European countries but not in India.

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

In a country like India where large scale starvation, mass illiteracy and ignorance affect the life of the people, white collar crimes are bound to multiply in large proportion. Control of these crimes is a crucial problem for the criminal justice administration in this country. However, some of the remedial measures for combating white collar criminality may be stated as



follows

1. Creating public awareness against these crimes through the media of press, platform and other audio visual aids. An intensive legal literacy programmes may perhaps help in reducing the incidence of white collar criminality to a considerable extent.
2. Special tribunals should be constituted with power to award sentence of imprisonment upto ten years for white collar criminals.
3. Stringent regulatory laws and drastic punishment for white collar criminals may help in reducing these crimes. Even legislations with retrospective operation may be justified for this purpose.
4. A separate chapter on white collar crimes should be incorporated in the Indian Penal Code by amending the Code so that white collar criminals who are convicted by the court do not escape punishment because of their high social status.
5. White collar offenders should be dealt with sternly by prescribing stiffer punishments keeping in view the gravity of injury caused to society because of these crimes. The Supreme Court, in *M. H. Haskot v. State of Maharashtra* in this context observed, "soft sentencing justice is gross injustice where many innocents are the potential victims".
6. There is an urgent need for a National Crime Commission which may squarely tackle the problem of crime and criminality in all its facets.
7. Above all, public vigilance seems to be the cornerstone of anti white collar crime strategy. Unless white collar crimes become abhorrent to public mind, it will not be

possible to contain this growing menace. In order to attain this objective, there is need for strengthening of morals particularly, in the higher strata and among the public services. It is further necessary to evolve sound group norms and service ethics based on the twin concepts of absolute honesty and integrity for the sake of national welfare. This is possible through character building at grass root level and inculcating a sense of real concern for the nation among youngsters so that they are prepared and trained for an upright living when they enter the public life.

It is for the criminal law administrators to contain the tendency by stringent legislative measure. It is rather disappointing to note that though white collar crimes such as black market activities, evasive price violations, rent-ceiling violations, rationing-law violations, illegal financial manoeuvres etc. by the businessmen are widespread in society, no effective program for repressing them so far been launched by the law enforcement agencies.

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