

Therefore, India should focus on policies promoting economic growth which in turn reduces poverty and good governance would follow. Apart from these there is a need for reconstructing the administrative system, improving anti-corruption law enforcement and fast tracking corruption cases so that their negative impact on development can be minimized.

2. *(a) Probity in governance is an essential and vital requirement for an efficient and effective system of governance and for socio-economic development. Discuss. Also, state ways to enhance probity in governance. (150 words) 10*

**Approach:**

- Explain what you understand by probity.
- State its importance for an efficient and effective system of governance and for socio-economic development.
- Suggest ways to enhance probity in governance.
- Conclude appropriately.

**Answer:**

Probity is the quality of having strong moral principles and strictly following them. It includes principles such as - honesty, integrity, uprightness, transparency and incorruptibility. Probity is confirmed integrity. It is usually regarded as being incorruptible.

It is considered as an essential requirement for an effective and efficient governance, because:

- It helps build up the **legitimacy of the system**, i.e., the state. It builds trust in the institutions of the state and a belief that the actions of the state will be for the welfare of the beneficiaries.
- It leads to **avoidance of sub-optimal outcomes, corruption** and poor perception as it ensures an objective and independent view on the fairness of the process
- It helps in **checking the abuse and misuse of power** by various organs of government such as magistracy, police and all other providers of public service e.g. PWD, health, education, etc.

It is also an essential and vital requirement for socio-economic development, because:

- A large number of people are **poor and illiterate**. They are either unaware about their rights and entitlements or do not have means to fight for them. In the absence of probity, this section would remain deprived.
- Because of **scarcity of resources**, it is essential that their best allocation and optimal utilisation takes place.
- It **prevents corruption that leads to diversion of funds** towards unauthorised sources affecting socio-economic development. Thus, ensuring prudent and ethical outcomes.

Therefore, it is essential that probity should be enhanced in the governance. It can be done through:

- **Controlling Misfeasance in public office:** A comprehensive law should be brought to make the public servants liable for the losses made to the State by their mala fide actions or omissions of a palpable character.
- **Forfeiture of properties:** There is a need to strictly implement legislation for confiscation of illegally acquired assets of public servants.
- **Ethics Act:** Civil Services Conduct Rules should be given statutory status in the form of Ethics Act to ensure its better implementation.
- **Strengthening criminal judicial system:** The criminal judicial system that consists of the police/investigating agency, the prosecuting agency, the advocates, witnesses and the judiciary needs to be strengthened so that quality judgment takes place without unnecessary delays.

Probity helps in ushering good governance which not only leads to effective use of public resources but will also lead to higher socio-economic growth and human development. Thus, it is very necessary to take initiatives, enact strong legislations and ensure their effective implementation to inculcate a culture of probity in governance.