

Govt forces 10 tainted officials into retirement

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Min Doubted Integrity Of These Officers

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New Delhi: The government has forced-retired 10 senior telecom department officials, some with doubtful integrity, as part of zero tolerance towards corruption. The move follows similar measures taken over the past few years where nearly 400 officers with a dubious track record were removed from the government.

The current action in the communications ministry has been taken by communications and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw who had also initiated a similar step in his Railways portfolio previously.

Vaishnaw approved the forced retirement for 10 senior DoT (Department of Telecom) officials, including a joint secretary, according to an official source. This is the



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first time DoT employees have been given forced retirement under Section 56(J) under Pension Rule 48 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972.

"Telecom minister has approved forced retirement for 10 senior DoT officials for doubtful integrity and the government's zero tolerance for corruption. Out of 10, nine officials were working at director level and one as joint secretary," the source said.

The move comes a day before the 'Good Governance Day' celebrated by the gov-

ernment every year.

In September, a senior BSNL official, who was caught napping in Vaishnaw's meeting after the cabinet cleared a Rs 1.6 lakh-crore package for the public sector enterprise, was given voluntary retirement from service.

In the Railways, Vaishnaw had approved forced retirement for about 40 officials for non-performance and doubtful integrity which had included a secretary level officer and two special secretary level officers.

Earlier this year, the government had told Parliament that between July 2014 and June 2022, the provision had been invoked against 395 officers across government departments and ministries. This included 203 Group A officers and 192 from Group B.

The revenue department was among the first to use the clause to compulsorily retire officials whose track record was not clean.

Subsequently, other departments, including railways, have used the provision to deal with deadwood.