

'Issue citizenship number to bring down corruption'

[april 20/2010(Times of India)]

FACT India, an NGO that fights against corruption, has demanded that the Government provide a citizenship number to the people, as preparations get under way for India's 15th census. They feel that this number would help fight corruption as well as track offenders easily.

Selvaraj of FACT India said, "The newly-introduced biometric element in the census will take another five years, as it has to cover a massive population. Let that project take place simultaneously along with the citizen number plan."

He was speaking at the first anniversary celebrations of FACT India, where the NGO launched a Web TV and a website. While the FACT India Web TV, was launched by actor-director Cheran, a staunch supporter of anti-corruption, the website <http://www.factindia.org.in>, was launched by Dr T R Pachamuthu, Chancellor, SRM University.

FACT (Federation of Anti Corruption)-India, which through its RTI campaigns across the State, has created awareness for over 1 lakh people to fight for their rights without resorting to bribing.

T Retnapandiyan, general secretary of FACT India said, "Over 80 per cent of the people in India have to bribe government officials as they are clueless about their basic rights. We are focused on creating awareness amongst these people so that they know what their rights are."