

Creation of Welfare Fund for lawyers

*16. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enact a legislation for creation of Welfare Fund for lawyers of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the circumstances which have prompted Government to initiate the aforesaid legislation and the objectives to be achieved thereby;

(c) whether the Bar Council of India has been consulted in the matter;

(d) if so, the details of the suggestions; and

(e) by when a Bill on the subjects is likely to be brought before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (e) A legislation for creation of Welfare Fund for lawyers, namely, the Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001 (45 of 2001) has already been enacted and come into force with effect from 1st November, 2001 in the whole of India except the States in which the enactments specified in Schedule II to the said Act are applicable.

(b) Social security in the form of financial assistance to junior lawyers and welfare schemes for indigent or disabled advocates has long been a matter of concern for the legal fraternity. Some States have established funds for the benefit of advocates and certain States have even enacted legislations also. However, there is neither any uniformity nor the said provisions are considered adequate. Moreover, the Advocates Act does not authorize levy of any welfare fund stamp of *Vakalatnama*. There has, therefore, been felt a need for a Central legislation applicable to the Union Territories and the States which do not have their own enactments on the subject, for constitution of 'Advocates' Welfare Fund' by the appropriate Government.

(c) and (d) Bar Council of India had been consulted and its suggestions were duly considered before introduction of the Bill on the subject in Parliament.

Disinvestment of Petroleum related PSUs

*17. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to offer petroleum related PSUs for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the names thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The disinvestment policy of the Government is that the Government, in generality of cases, will reduce its equity to 26% or below in Central Public Sector Undertakings operating in non-strategic areas. The strategic Public Sector Enterprises are those operating in the areas of arms and ammunition and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircraft and warships; atomic energy, except in the areas relating to the generation of nuclear power and the applications of radiation and radio isotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries; Railway transport.

The consideration of proposals for disinvestment in Central Public Sector Undertakings including Public Sector Oil Companies is a continuous process. The Government has decided to retain 26% equity in IBP Co. Ltd. and to disinvest 33.6% through strategic sale through international competitive bidding. The process of disinvestment in IBP Co. Limited has not yet been completed.

The Government had also accorded approval in May, 1998 for disinvestment of 10% equity capital of Indian Oil Corporation Limited through GDR/domestic issue. The GDR/domestic issue has not taken place thus far.

Unspent amount under Urban Employment Generation Programme (UEGP)

***18. SHRI KHAGEN DAS:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Central and States share of fund of Rs. 2039.89 crore released under Urban Employment Generation Programme (UEGP), a sum of Rs. 645.98 crore remained unspent as on 31st March, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that 910 schemes under the programme in the States were abandoned mid-way after incurring Rs. 6.02 crore;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by Government on both the counts?