

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. But there is no such move to spell out the do's and don'ts for electronic media advertisement.

**Framing of rules under Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003**

4076. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rules under the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003 are yet to be framed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the requisite rules are likely to be framed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Conduct of Election (Amendment) Rules, 2003 were notified *vide* S.O.903 (E) dated the 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2003. Though it was mentioned in the said rules that they shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. Subsequently a corrigendum to the said notification was issued *vide* S.O.1047 (E) dated the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2003 to the effect that the said rules shall come into force on the date on which the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003 came into force. The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003 came into force *w.e.f.* 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2003 *vide* S.O. 1088 (E) dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2003.

**Legal advice by head of tribunals**

4077. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retired judges of High Courts and Supreme Court appointed as heads or members of various tribunals are allowed to give legal advice in the form of arbitration in private disputes;

(b) if so, how his Ministry justifies the judges of High Courts and Supreme Court appointed as heads or members of tribunals and getting full salary of a sitting judge to give legal advice by charging huge fee;

(c) whether there are any plans to stop heads or members of tribunals from giving such advice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Chairmen, Presidents, Vice Chairmen, Vice Presidents and Members of various tribunals are regulated by the Acts, Rules, Regulations etc. relating to the terms and conditions of their appointments which are administered by the respective Ministries/Departments. In so far as the President, Senior Vice President, Vice Presidents and Members of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, which is administered by the Ministry of Law and Justice, are concerned, the terms and conditions of their appointment do not permit them to undertake any arbitration work while functioning in these capacities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal is under consideration wherein persons functioning as Chairmen, Presidents, Vice Chairmen, Vice Presidents and Members are stopped from giving such advice in arbitration work.

#### **Status of pending cases**

4078. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the status of various measures undertaken by Government to dispose of mounting pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and various Subordinate Courts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): In order to facilitate disposal of cases by the judiciary, in the superior as well as the subordinate courts in the country, a number of measures have been taken by Government. In so far as the High Courts and the Supreme Court are concerned Government has already increased the strength of Judges. Upgrading of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the High Courts and the Supreme Court is being done as part of an on-going scheme. The scheme for computerization of district and subordinate courts of the country is under implementation as a Mission Mode Project. Through a scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary, Government is providing financial assistance to the States/Union Territories to augment their resources for construction of court buildings and the residential accommodation of the Judges. Since the inception of the scheme in 1993-94, an amount of Rs. 1102.61 crore has been provided to the States/UTs up to 31.3.2010. Government has also encouraged methods of alternate dispute redressal, mediation and