

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Bar Council of India has informed that there is no provision in the Bar Council of India to provide any financial assistance to the advocates belonging to SC/ST/OBC category.

(b) Does not arise.

Electoral reforms

79. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to bring about a comprehensive electoral reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) With a view to carrying out comprehensive electoral reforms, a Core-Committee has been constituted on the 1st October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of an Additional Solicitor General. The talking points of the Committee included (i) Criminalisation of Politics; (ii) Funding of Elections; (iii) Conduct and Better Management of Elections; (iv) Regulation of Political Parties; (v) Audit and Finances of Political Parties; (vi) Review of Anti-Defection Law. The Committee under the aegis of Legislative Department and in co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted seven regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Bengaluru and Guwahati, wherein the stakeholders have been consulted, who *inter-alia* included leaders and workers of the political parties, legislators, legal luminaries, representatives of NGOs, eminent persons, civil servants (serving and retired), students etc. and views have been gathered. On the basis of the inputs received in all these consultations, legislative process as may be considered necessary will be initiated by the Government in due course.

Funds for Fast Track Courts

80. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: