

The Government has not framed any standards of fee for lawyers in the Supreme Court.

Action against frivolous litigations

706. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently observed that the penalty imposed on a person indulging in frivolous and vexatious litigation be increased to 3000 per cent;

(b) if so, whether there is any urgent need to take a tough stand against frivolous litigations; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to prevent frivolous litigations in various courts across the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 8610 of 20.11, titled Sanjeev Kumar Jain Vs. Reghubir Saran Charitable Trust & Ors., has observed as below:

"At present, the maximum that can be awarded as compensatory costs in regard to false and vexatious claims is Rs.3,000/-. Unless the compensatory costs is brought to a realistic level, the present provision authorizing levy of an absurdly small sum by present day standards may, instead of discouraging such litigation, encourage false and vexatious claims. At present Courts have virtually given up awarding and compensatory costs as award of such a small sum of Rs.3,000/- would not make much difference. We are of the view that the ceiling in regard to compensatory costs should be at least Rs.1,00,000/-."

(b) and (c) Frivolous litigations are dealt in appropriate manner by the respective courts and their procedure.

Funds for improvement of judicial system

†707. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 13th Finance Commission has recommended that funds should be provided as grants for the improvement of judicial system in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.