

tones disparaging the products of each other, initiated and carried on in print, assume the colour of unfair 'trade' practice, repugnant to journalistic ethics. The question as when it assumes such an unethical character is one of the fact depending on the circumstances of each case.

- (iii) The practice of taking security deposit by an editor from the journalists at the time of their appointment is unethical.
- (iv) The media house must retain its impartiality in functioning as media house and reporting cannot be permitted to become subservient to other business interests which the owner of the media house may have when such private interest conflict with public duty of such vast magnitude segregation of the two is not only justified but essential.

Legal opinion to DoPT on Kendriya Bhandar

2698. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the duties and functions of Legal Affairs Departments;
- (b) whether the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has sought opinion of the Ministry relating to applicability of decisions rendered by the constitution bench of Supreme Court on Kendriya Bhandar, a welfare project of the Central Government;
- (c) whether the requisite opinion has been furnished to DoPT and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Kendriya Bhandar is a 'State' falling under Article 12 of the Constitution and if not, the reasons therefor?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The duties and functions of Department of Legal Affairs are specified in the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961. A copy of the revised list showing the subject falling within jurisdiction of Department of Legal Affairs is placed below;

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ministry of Law and Justice (Vidhi aur Nyaya Mantralaya)

A Department of Legal Affairs (Vidhi Karya Vibhag)

1. Advice to Ministries on legal matters including interpretation of the Constitution and the laws, conveyancing and engagement of counsel to appear on behalf of the Union of India in the High Courts and subordinate courts where the Union of India is a party.

2. Attorney General of India, Solicitor General of India, and other Central Government law officers of the States whose services are shared by the Ministries of the Government of India.

3. Conduct of cases in the Supreme Court and the High Courts on behalf of the Central Government and on behalf of the Governments of States participating in the Central Agency Scheme.

4. Reciprocal arrangements with foreign countries for the service of summons in civil suits, for the execution of decrees of Civil Courts, for the enforcement of maintenance orders, and for the administration of the estates of foreigners dying in India intestate.

5. Authorization of officers to execute contracts and assurances and of property on behalf of the President under Article 299(1) of the Constitution, and authorization of officers to sign and verify plaints or written statements in suits by or against the Central Government.

6. Indian Legal Service.

7. Treaties and agreements with foreign countries in matters of civil law.

8. Law Commission.

9. Legal Profession including the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961) and persons entitled to practice before High Courts.

10. Legal Education.

11. Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001.

12. National Tax Tribunal (NTT) Act, 2005.

13. Enlargement of the jurisdiction of Supreme Court and the conferring thereon of further powers; persons entitled to practice before the Supreme Court; references to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution of India.

14. Administration of the Notaries Act, 1952 (53 of 1952).

15. Income-tax Appellate Tribunal.

16. Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange.

17. Legal aid to the poor.

East Punjab Rent Restriction Act

2699. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exist a rent-law known as East Punjab Rent Restriction Act;