

Quality legal aid to poor

3029. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that exorbitant legal fees charged by advocates are beyond the reach of common man;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the absence of good quality legal aid to poor, the chances of them succeeding in their cases are minimal; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to bring a legislation for making it compulsory for senior advocates to accept at least 25 per cent cases from poor at reasonable fees?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has framed the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010, to ensure quality legal services and to monitor the progress of the free legal aided cases filed in the courts. The quality of the legal services rendered by the panel lawyers of the legal services institutions is ensured by making the selection on basis of their experience and commitment and through review by the Monitoring Committees set up at each level. In appropriate cases, services of senior lawyers are made use of by the Legal Services Authorities for prosecuting or defending the case of an applicant, if the matter is affecting his/her life and liberty. NALSA is also conducting training and sensitization programmes to upgrade the skills of panel lawyers.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

Establishment of new High Courts

3030. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of High Courts established in the country;

(b) whether Government is proposing to establish new High Courts in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?