

**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?

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

(a) The details and number of High Courts in the country are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Three new High Courts one each for the States of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura have been established at Imphal, Shillong and Agartala respectively and made functional *w.e.f.* 23rd March, 2013.

*Statement*

*Name of High Courts, their principal seats, benches and their jurisdiction*

Sl. No.	High Court	Principal Seat	Jurisdiction
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Bombay	Mumbai	Maharashtra; Goa; Daman and Diu; Dadra and Nagar Haveli
4.	Calcutta	Kolkata	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh
6.	Delhi	New Delhi	NCT of Delhi
7.	Gauhati	Guwahati	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh
8.	Gujarat	Sola (Ahmedabad)	Gujarat
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Jharkhand
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Karnataka
13.	Kerala	Kochi	Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3	4
15.	Madras	Chennai	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry
16.	Orissa	Cuttack	Orissa
17.	Patna	Patna	Bihar
18.	Punjab and Haryana	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh
19.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
20.	Sikkim	Gangtok	Sikkim
21.	Uttarakhand	Nainital	Uttarakhand
22.	Manipur	Imphal	Manipur
23.	Meghalaya	Shillong	Meghalaya
24.	Tripura	Agartala	Tripura

**Introductions of receipt voting machine**

3031. SHRI ANIL DESAI :

SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

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

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce receipt voting machine in the coming Assembly Elections;

(b) if so, the requirement of voting machines for each Assembly constituency;

(c) what would be the delivery time for such machines and the estimated expenditure therefor; and

(d) whether receipt voting machine plan would fructify if Government goes in for early elections than scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Election Commission has intimated that the design of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail system has been approved by the Technical Expert Committee and the Commission has requested the Government for amendment in the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 to enable them to use these machines in elections in consultation with political parties. The amendment proposal is under consideration.