

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Section 3 of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 states that the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and five Members to be nominated by the Central Government from amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity, provided that the five Members including the Chairperson should be amongst the minority community. Till date, it has been the practice that the Chairperson and one of the Members were appointed from the Muslim community and rest of the Members including the Vice Chairperson were appointed one each from remaining four minority communities. One Member was appointed from the majority community.

Legal aid clinics

*389. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up legal aid clinics in all the villages in the country to help the poor strata of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the main aim of the clinics would be to help solve disputes without allowing them to mature into litigation in courts or otherwise;

(d) whether women lawyers are proposed to be given preference for appointment in such clinics; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has notified the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011. These Regulations provide for establishment of legal aid clinics in all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending upon the size of such villages, especially where the people face geographical, social and other barriers for access to the legal services institutions.

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

(c) The aim of setting up the legal aid clinics is to provide inexpensive local machinery for rendering legal services of basic nature like legal advice, drafting of

petitions etc. The para-legal volunteers and the lawyers engaged in the legal aid clinics shall attempt to amicably resolve the pre-litigation disputes and if they feel that such dispute can be resolved through any of the ADR mechanisms, they may refer such disputes to the legal services institutions.

(d) and (e) The Legal Services institutions may depute women panel lawyers to such clinics, subject to their availability.

Bill to protect evictees' rights

*390. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing Land Acquisition Act, 1894 has adequate provisions to safeguard the interests of farmers and adivasis, who loose their livelihood sources due to land acquisition for mining, infrastructure projects, economic zones, etc.;

(b) if not, by when the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill would be introduced as some Ministries have asked for a deeper study of Social Impact Assessment to make it more acceptable;

(c) whether there would be sufficient built-in safeguards to protect evictees' rights, their land and sources of livelihood; and

(d) whether some relief and rehabilitation schemes are being presently implemented by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) The Land Acquisition Act, 1894 has adequate provisions to safeguards interests of farmers and adivasis, whose land is acquired for mining infrastructure projects and economic zones etc. However, there are no provisions in the Act to safeguard the interests of livelihood losers who don't own any land.

(b) and (c) To address various issues related to land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has drafted the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement (LARR) Bill, 2011. This proposes to replace the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The aforesaid Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7th September, 2011. The Bill safeguards the interests of livelihood losers and provides comprehensive rehabilitation and resettlement benefits for the affected families.