

on 9th March 2010. The Bill is yet to be passed by the Lok Sabha and is also required to be ratified by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States by resolution.

Bringing improvement in judicial system

†2271. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the proposal of All India Judicial Service;
- (b) whether Government intends to bring fairness and transparency in selection of judges of High Courts and to ensure accountability in judicial system;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government is aware of the alleged corruption prevalent in judiciary; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken/to be taken to remove the same and for structural improvement of judicial system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Constitution was amended in 1977 to provide for an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) under Article 312 of the Constitution. There has been support in favour of AIJS by the Law Commission in its Reports, the First National Judicial Pay Commission, Committee on Centre State Relations and Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee. However, consensus on having AIJS has not been possible in the consultations held with the State Governments and the High Courts. The proposal was placed for consideration in the Conference of Chief Ministers of the States and Chief Justices of the High Courts held on 07th April, 2013. It has been decided that further consultation on the matter would be required with States and High Courts.

(b) and (c) The Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under Article 124 (2) of the Constitution while the Judges of the High Courts are appointed under Article 217 (1) of the Constitution. The appointment of Judges is made as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998. In order to make the mechanism for appointment of Judges more

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

broad based and transparent, a proposal has been initiated by the Government to establish a Judicial Appointments Commission.

(d) and (e) As per the "in-house mechanism" for the higher judiciary, Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of the High Courts. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of their Courts. Administrative control over the members of the subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and State Government.

"The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill" has been moved by the Government to provide for a comprehensive mechanism for handling complaints made by citizens on grounds of alleged misbehaviour and incapacity against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and for taking action against those found guilty after investigation. The Bill also lays down judicial standards and makes it incumbent on the Judges to declare their assets/liabilities.

Status of statutory document to election manifesto

†2272. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the election reform process, election manifestos of political parties should be granted the status of statutory document so that political parties should not be able to gather votes on false promises and they must have to fulfil the promises made in their election manifesto;

(b) whether in a situation in which promises are not fulfilled as per the manifestos, the cancellation of recognition and party symbol of political parties, would make them responsible to the people; and

(c) whether Government will consider this in the interest of people?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to give statutory backing to the manifestos of the political parties.

Financial assistance for setting up of Fast Track Courts

†2273. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

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