

Public Sector Undertaking Litigation Policy and Strategies' (1988) *inter-alia* observed that the lack of accountability in the officer in whom the power vests to determine whether to initiate litigation or perpetuate the same by preferring appeals, is largely responsible for mounting litigation. Another independent cause generating this tendency to initiate or perpetuate litigation and that is to avoid taking decisions which in the current culture, may lead to doubting the *bona fides* of the officer who has to take decision.

Code of conduct for press briefings

1812.DR. BHARAT KUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the observation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the sensational media coverage during the ongoing trials of cases in the courts;

(b) whether Government proposes to enforce a code of conduct for press briefing in a manner that the investigation is not hampered during the trial period; and

(c) whether Government is in the process of devising a regulatory mechanism to enforce code of conduct devised in this regard, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NOTA option in Assembly elections

†1813. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made a provision of 'None of the Above' (NOTA) candidates in the Assembly elections of few States last year, if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi