

agricultural produce in the country. Based on the figures provided by Central Statistics Office (CSO), Gross Value Added in the food processing sector in 2014-15 has been estimated at about ₹ 1.64 lakh crore.

(b) To promote food processing units in the country, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing schemes of Mega Food Parks, Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure, Setting up/Modernisation of Abattoirs and Strengthening of Institutions. Under these schemes, grants-in-aid is given for setting up projects. Further 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed through automatic route in food processing in the country. Recently, Government also announced 100% FDI in marketing of food products produced and manufactured in India.

(c) No estimate has been made on private equity expected to be attracted in the food processing sector.

Legal Aid Clinics

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

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Legal Aid Clinics or other such centres in all villages of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the main aim of such Clinics is to help solve disputes without allowing them to mature into litigation in the courts; and

(c) whether women lawyers are proposed to be given preference in appointment in such courts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) to (c) The National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011 provide for establishment of Legal Aid Clinics in all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending on the size of such villages, especially where the people face geographical, social and other barriers for access to the legal services institutions. A Statement showing the number of Legal Aid Clinics set up till January, 2016, State/Union Territory-wise is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The objective of the Regulations is to provide inexpensive local machinery for rendering legal services of basic nature like legal advice, drafting of petitions, notices, replies, applications and other documents of legal importance and also for resolution of disputes without having to go to the courts. In cases where legal services of a higher

level are required, the matter can be referred to the legal services institutions established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

The Regulations provide that preference shall be given to women lawyers having the practice of at least 3 years.

Statement

Statement showing the number of Legal Aid Clinics set up till January, 2016

Sl. No.	Name of the State Authority	No. of Legal Aid Clinics set up till January, 2016
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	849
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3.	Assam	197
4.	Bihar	363
5.	Chhattisgarh	377
6.	Goa	98
7.	Gujarat	989
8.	Haryana	462
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2628
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	183
11.	Jharkhand	389
12.	Karnataka	701
13.	Kerala	1329
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1058
15.	Maharashtra	645
16.	Manipur	21
17.	Meghalaya	125
18.	Mizoram	75
19.	Nagaland	134
20.	Odisha	363
21.	Punjab	381
22.	Rajasthan	1588

1	2	3
23.	Sikkim	22
24.	Tamil Nadu	677
25.	Telangana	14
26.	Tripura	99
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3679
28.	Uttarakhand	272
29.	West Bengal	1019
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
31.	Chandigarh U.T	18
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12
33.	Daman and Diu	8
34.	Delhi	137
35.	Lakshadweep	2
36.	U.T. of Puducherry	55
TOTAL		18973

Vacancy of Chairperson and Members of Law Commission

742. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairperson and other Members of the Law Commission was lying vacant for a period of six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is no law or guideline that provides for time-bound manner of appointment of the Members of the Law Commission; and

(d) whether the Ministry would consider to expand the tenure of the Law Commission to cover up the loss of work due to delay in appointment of the Members of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) to (c) The Government has constituted 21st Law Commission of India for a period of three years from Septemebr 1, 2015 to August 31, 2018 *vide* notification dated 14th