

the Government/BCI to regulate the fee charged by the Advocates. However, since the charging of high fees relates to the standard of professional conduct and etiquettes of advocates, the representations received in this regard are forwarded to the Bar Council of India for necessary action as deemed appropriate.

Merger of Tribunals having identical functions

1436. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for merger of various Tribunals and bringing a comprehensive Bill that would provide for sitting High Court Judges to be appointed as Chairman, is under active consideration of the Government; and

(b) whether this move of the Government would help in bringing down the number of such quasi-judicial bodies from 35 to a single digit, where Tribunals with identical functions could be bunched together and a High Court Judge appointed to head it, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The proposal for merger/conversion of Tribunals is under active consideration of the Government. It will take some more time for finalisation.

Uniform Civil Code

1437. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are separate sets of personal laws for each religion governing marriage, divorce, succession, adoption and maintenance, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether, with a view to have a Uniform Civil Code, Government has asked the Law Commission to examine and prepare a report in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Law Commission has been asked/expected to give its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. Presently, there are different personal laws applicable to persons belonging to different religion. The details of the said laws are under -

(i) Hindus, Budhists, Jainas, Sikhs and all other persons who are not Christians, Muslims, Parsis and Jews are governed by -

(1) the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (25 of 1955);

- (2) the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (30 of 1956);
- (3) the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (78 of 1956);
- (4) the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956 (32 of 1956);

However, the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 (7 of 1909) has been enacted to remove doubts as to the validity of the marriage ceremony common among Sikhs called Anand;

(ii) the Parsis are governed by the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 (3 of 1936);

(iii) the Christians are governed by -

- (1) the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (15 of 1872);
- (2) the Divorce Act, 1869 (4 of 1869);

(iv) the Muslims are governed by -

- (1) the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 (26 of 1937);
- (2) the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights) on Divorce Act, 1986 (25 of 1986);
- (3) the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939 (8 of 1939).

In addition to the above, the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 (8 of 1890), the Indian Succession Act, 1925 (39 of 1925) and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (43 of 1954) are applicable to all in the manner provided therein.

(b) Yes, Sir. In view of the importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved, and it requiring in-depth study of the provisions of various personal laws governing different communities, the Law Commission of India has been requested for detailed and exhaustive examination of various issues relating to Uniform Civil Code by undertaking wider consultations with all stakeholders and to make recommendations thereof.

(c) The Law Commission has not been given any specific time-frame to submit its report.

Separate High Courts for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

1438. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the crisis over division of High Court existing in Telangana, if so, the details thereof;