

Appointment of lawyers to provide legal assistance

†2005. SHRIAMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the process of appointing lawyers to provide legal assistance to the people by Government;
- (b) the number of such Government appointed lawyers in the country at present, whether the posts of such Government lawyers are vacant or there is a requirement of more lawyers;
- (c) whether with a view to provide justice for all, Government intends to set up free legal advice centres in every district or tehsil; and
- (d) if so, the details of the scheme thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 provides for criteria and procedure for empanelment of panel lawyers for providing legal assistance to the eligible sections of the population. The selection of panel lawyers is made by the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution in consultation with the Attorney General [for the Supreme Court], Advocate General [for the High Court], District Attorney or Government Pleader [for District and Taluka level] and the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee of the Institution.

(b) At present, there are 61,295 panel lawyers empanelled by Legal Services Authorities throughout the country for providing legal assistance to the people who are eligible to receive such assistance. The panel lawyers are empanelled by the Legal Services Institutions as per the work load. As of now, the required number of panel lawyers are available with the Legal Services Institutions.

(c) and (d) The Legal Services Institutions have been set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 at all levels from the level of Taluk Courts to Supreme Court. The Legal Services Institutions have set up Front Offices to provide legal advice to the visitors. More than 23,000 legal Services Clinics have also been set up in Jails, Courts, Juvenile Justice Board (JJBs), Community Centres, Villages/Rural areas and Law Colleges/Universities to provide free legal services.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.