

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**RAJYA SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2829

ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

**23<sup>rd</sup> Law Commission**

2829. **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted the 23rd Law Commission recently;
- (b) if so, terms of reference given to the Commission;
- (c) whether Government asked Law Commission to study Uniform Civil Code; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) and (b): The 23<sup>rd</sup> Law Commission of India has been constituted *vide* order dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2024 for a term of three years *w.e.f.* 01.09.2024. The terms of reference of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Law Commission of India are as under:-

(A) Review/Repeal of obsolete laws:

(i) Identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed.

(ii) Creating a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for periodic review of existing laws inter-alia for the undertaking of simplification of language and processes.

(iii) Identify laws which are not in harmony with the economic needs and requirements of the times and require amendments.

(iv) Identify laws which otherwise require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment.

(v) Consider in a wider perspective the suggestions for revision/amendment in laws given by Expert Groups in various Ministries/Departments with a view to coordinating and harmonizing them.

(vi) Consider references made to it by Ministries/Departments through the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, in respect of legislations having bearing on the working of more than one Ministry/Department.

(vii) Suggest suitable measures for quick redressal of citizens grievances, in the field of law.

**(B) Law and Poverty:**

(i) Examine the laws which affect the poor and carry out post enactment-audit for socio-economic legislations.

(ii) Take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor.

**(C) Keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure:**

(i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decision should be just and fair.

(ii) Simplification of processes and court procedures and suggesting harmonising Rules of various High Courts for the sake of uniformity and ease of understanding and implementation.

(iii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice.

(iv) Implementation of framework for case management hearing and case flow management.

**(D) Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution.**

**(E) Examine the existing laws with a view for promoting gender equality and suggesting amendments thereto.**

**(F) Revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.**

**(G) Consider and convey to the Government its views on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).**

(H) Consider the requests for providing research assistance/guidance to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).

(I) Examine the impact of globalization on food security, unemployment and recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalized.

(c) and (d): Yes. The subject-matter of the 'Uniform Civil Code' was referred by the Government to the 21<sup>st</sup> Law Commission of India for examination. The 21<sup>st</sup> Law Commission had issued a Questionnaire on the subject for inviting responses/comments from various stakeholders and general public. Thereafter, the said Commission placed a 'Consultation Paper on Reform of Family Law' in public domain for wider discussion, on 31.08.2018.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Law Commission could not finalise its Report and the subject was further taken for examination by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission. The Commission decided to solicit views (on the subject) of the public at large and recognized religious organizations and issued a public notice dated 14.06.2023. However, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission of India could not finalise its Report on the Uniform Civil Code and the term of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission ended on 31.08.2024.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Law Commission has been constituted *w.e.f.* 01.09.2024.

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