

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAW AND JUSTICE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:491  
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2010  
SENIOR ADVOCATES  
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) the number of lawyers designated as Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court of India and the various High Courts across the country as on 01-04-2010, court-wise;
- (b) the criterion followed by the Supreme Court and the various High Courts for designating lawyers as Senior Advocates;
- (c) whether the criterion is uniform or does it vary from court to court;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of lawyers who are wives, sons and daughters of sitting or retired High Court and Supreme Court Judges who are still on the bench or retired and currently designated as Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court or the High Courts;
- (f) whether the Government has received representations for the amendments in the Advocates Act and other relevant statutes so as to abolish the category of Senior Advocates; and
- (g) if so the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO REPLY TO PART (a) to (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.491 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29-04-2010

As per section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961, there shall be two classes of advocates namely, senior advocates and other advocates.

Under section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, an advocate may, with his consent, be designated as senior advocate if the Supreme Court or a High Court is of opinion that by virtue of his ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law he is deserving of such distinction.

Under Order IV of the Supreme Court Rules, 1966, the Chief Justice and the Judges may, with the consent of the advocate, designate an advocate as senior advocate if in their opinion by virtue of his ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law.

Similarly, under the Rules framed by the High Court under section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, the Hon'ble Chief Justice and other Judges of the concerned High Court may, upon a written proposal made by a Senior Advocate with the consent of the Advocate concerned endorsed thereon, designate such an Advocate as Senior Advocate, if in their opinion, by virtue of the ability, experience and standing at the Bar or the special knowledge or experience in law.

Therefore, the information is being collected from the Supreme Court of India and all the High Courts and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.