

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1397  
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012  
PERMISSION TO RELATIVES TO APPEAR IN THE COURTS  
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court's charter of values adopted in 1977, prohibit judges from permitting close relatives to appear before them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of complaints about the lack of integrity in a section of the judges; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for checking various forms of judicial misconduct?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

- (a) & (b): The Supreme Court of India in its Full Court meeting on 07.05.1997 had adopted the ``Restatement of Values of Judicial Life` to serve as a guide to be observed by Judges, essential for an independent, strong and respected judiciary, indispensable in the impartial administration of justice. The said charter of values inter alia provides that a Judge should not permit any member of his immediate family, such as spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law or any other close, relative, if a member of the Bar, to appear before him or even be associated in any manner with a cause to be dealt with by him.
- (c): As per the `in-house mechanism` of the higher judiciary, the Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justices of the High Court. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of their Courts. In view of this, the Central Government do not maintain records of such complaints and it has no mechanism to monitor the action taken on the same.
- (d) : In order to ensure greater accountability and transparency in the higher judiciary, a Bill titled `The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010` was introduced in Lok Sabha on 01.12.2010. The Bill provides for a statutory mechanism for enquiring into individual complaints against the judges of the High Court and Supreme Court, enabling declaration of assets and liabilities by the Judges besides laying down the judicial standards.