

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4414  
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012  
PANEL OF GOVERNMENT ADVOCATES  
Jahan Kaisar

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

- (a) Whether the government constitutes a panel of Government advocates to file and plead cases in courts pertaining to various Ministries/Departments;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The qualifications laid down by the Government for empanelling the said advocates in various Departments/Ministries?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SH. SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) Yes, Madam, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of Rule 8 B of Order XXVII of the First Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, Central Government appoints Government Pleaders (Central Government Standing Counsel) in relation to any suit by or against the Central Government in various courts and in exercise of powers conferred by the provisions of sections 24 and 25 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, Central Government appoints public prosecutors, including special public prosecutors, in Criminal cases on behalf of Central Government before various courts.

(b) The appointment of the Central Government Standing Counsel is made by the Government on the recommendation of Committees at various levels constituted for the purpose of preparing panels. These Committees are at Supreme Court level and at High Courts/State level. The panels are prepared by these Committees after scrutinizing bio-data of the aspiring advocates followed by interview/interaction.

However certain Ministries/Departments viz. CBI, CBEC, ED of Ministry of Finance, NCB, NIA of MHA, Ministry of Railways and CBI have been authorized to have their separate panels to file or defend their cases. They assess the competency etc of the advocates at their end and send the proposals for approval of this Ministry before appointment.

- (c) The required qualifications for a person for his inclusion in the panel of Central Government Standing Counsel includes:-
- (i) he must be enrolled as an advocate;
  - (ii) he should have sufficient standing at the Bar;
  - (iii) he should be a person of integrity and honesty.