

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5732
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012
ETHICAL NORMS FOR LAWYERS
Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to notify new ethical norms for lawyers by the year end;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the objectives thereof; and
- (d) the views of lawyers, NGOs and States in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) and (b) The Bar Council of India has informed that it has proposed a new draft Code of Professional Standards, Ethics and Etiquette. The said draft Code is available on the website of Bar Council of India (i.e. barcouncilofindia.org)

(c) The Objectives of the proposed draft Code are as under:

This Code provides a general guide for ethical standards to be adhered to by members of the Bar whether practising individually or as a law firm and whether engaged in litigation or transactional/ corporate work. The expression `advocate` in these rules/Code of Conduct shall include to the extent practicable, any lawyer or group of lawyers practising as part of a law firm and the law firm itself.

An advocate shall, at all times, comport himself in a manner befitting the high standards of the Indian Bar and of his/her status as an officer of the Court and a privileged member of the community, bearing in mind that what may be lawful and moral for a person who is not a member of the Bar, or for a member of the Bar in his/her non-professional capacity may still be improper for an advocate. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing obligation, an advocate shall fearlessly uphold the interests of his/her client and in his/her conduct, conform to the rules both in letter and in spirit. The rules contain canons of conduct and etiquette adopted as general guides; yet the specific mention there of shall not be construed as a denial of the existence of others equally imperative though not specifically mentioned.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.