

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:378

ANSWERED ON:06.09.2012

FOREIGN LAW FIRMS

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) the present status of grant of permission to the foreign law firms for practising in India;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed the Reserve Bank of India not to grant permission to register foreign law firms to set up liaison offices in India under Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 for fighting litigation in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Bar Council of India has protested on allowing foreign law firms in the country; and
- (e) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 378 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.09.2012

(a): The Government has no proposal to grant permission to the foreign law firms to practise law in India;

(b) and (c): Yes, Madam. The Hon`ble Supreme Court of India has given directions in its Order dated 04.07.2012 in the SLP (Civil) Nos. 17150-17154/2012 titled Bar Council of India Vs. A.K. Balaji & Ors. that the Reserve Bank of India shall not grant any permission to the foreign law firms to open liaison offices in India under section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973

(d): Yes, Madam.

(e): The Government has not granted any permission to the foreign law firms to practise law in India.