

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:958
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012
DEFRAYING LEGAL EXPENDITURE FOR POOR
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering defraying or subsidising legal expenses of poor and below poverty line people who have to approach the Supreme Court for cases involving of their fundamental rights;
- (b) if so, the details of the funding and /or subsidy schemes being worked out thereon;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been drawn up to help the poor people who have to litigate in Supreme Court for their rights; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a)&(b) Under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, read with rule 7 of Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Rules,2000, a person in receipt of annual income less than Rs.1,25,000/-, if the case is before the Supreme Court of India, is entitled to free legal services.

(c)&(d) The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Regulations, 1996, and the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations 2010, have been framed to help poor people who need free legal services in the Supreme Court of India.