

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2288  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013  
BENCHES OF SUPREME COURT  
Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to establish benches of the Supreme Court in some regions to reduce the cost of litigations, etc. of ordinary litigants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps proposed by the Government to modify the present system to reduce financial burden on litigants; and
- (d) the details of regulation, if any, imposed by the Government on fees charged by the lawyers in the Supreme Court?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d) : According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. Representations have been received from time to time from various quarters, including the Law Commission (229th Report) for establishment of Benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the country. The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who has informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

The Supreme Court of India have introduced a system enabling the Advocates-on-Records / petitioner-in-person to file cases in the Supreme Court of India through internet to obviate the difficulties faced by the litigants.

The Government also set up National Legal Services Authority in all the States to provide free and competent legal services to those from the marginalised groups of the society. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee has also been set up in the Supreme Court.

The Government has also implemented e-Court project which will provide the Citizens, Litigants Online Services for Case filing, obtaining Certified copies of orders and judgments, information on Case Status etc., which will go a long way in mitigating the financial burden on litigants.