

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4050
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
SEXUAL HARASSMENT
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to address the issue of increasing allegations of sexual harassment against the members of judiciary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring any legislation to deal with such issues related to higher judiciary or undertaken any consultation with judiciary in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other measures the Government intends to take to free the judiciary from sexual harassment and corruption?

Answer

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

(a)& (b): In the Conference of Chief Justices held in 1990, it was decided that the Chief Justice of the High Court has the competence to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of his Court and he/she was to look into the complaint to find out if it deserves to be closely looked into. After examination of the complaint, if he/she is of the opinion that the matter is such that should be reported to the Chief Justice of India, he/she would do so on the basis of the facts ascertained. Administrative control over the members of the subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court.

The Chief Justice of India acts in similar manner in regard to complaints relating to the conduct of the Chief Justices of the High Courts and Judges of the Supreme Court. Therefore, all types of allegations and complaints including the allegations of sexual harassment in respect of the judiciary are enforced and maintained through an 'in-house' system for the higher judiciary.

(c) to (e): To ensure greater accountability and transparency in the higher judiciary, a Bill titled 'The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill' which incorporates a mechanism for enquiring into complaints against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, enabling declaration of assets and liabilities of Judges and laying down judicial standards to be followed by the Judges is at present under consideration of the Parliament.