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Title: Need to withdraw the service tax on legal profession-laid.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, the legal profession in India is one of the largest in the world and second only to USA. There are more than 1 million people working in this profession. Our country is having very few rich lawyers but there are many lawyers who are poor and they find it hard to make both ends meet and their plight in small places is known to all. Against this backdrop of the position of the members of the Bar, the Government of India has to examine where it would be fit and proper to introduce Service Tax on the legal profession.

The Service Tax was first introduced in the year 1994 and the main objective was the service sector should continue to the growth of the economy. It should be highlighted that this is in addition to profession tax levied by the various State Governments. The average lot of professional lawyer is very miserable. If the legal profession is brought under the tax net, the service provider will pass on the same to the poor litigants and it again increases the cost of legal services.

I shall, therefore, fervently request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to kindly reconsider the imposition of Service Tax on the members of the legal profession so as to save them from additional burden and to safeguard the interests of the poor litigants.