

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2034

ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND STANDARDS BILL

2034. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the Supreme Court in a full court meeting held on 7th May, 1997 had adopted the "Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" which was codified as Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010;
- (b) whether Government is planning to enact a law for judicial accountability and standards in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The Supreme Court of India, in its full Court meeting on 7th May, 1997, adopted two Resolutions namely (i) "The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" which lays down certain judicial standards and principles to be observed and followed by the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and (ii) "In-house procedure" for taking suitable remedial measure against Judges who do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life including those in the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life. A bill titled, "The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010", was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 01.12.2010. The Bill lapsed consequent to the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

As per the established "in-house procedure" for the Higher Judiciary, the Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justices of the High Courts. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of High Court Judges. The complaints/representations received are forwarded to the Chief Justice of India or to the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, as the case may be, for appropriate action.
