

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1583
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2017**

Apps Providing Legal Service

1583. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the large number of apps providing legal services on the internet and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that these apps also host advocate profiles and include social media ad-campaigns on behalf of legal service providers;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is aware that this is in contravention to the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961 which bars lawyers from soliciting business;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure the regulation of such apps;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW & JUSTICE AND
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam.

(c): The Bar Council of India informed that Rule-36 of Section-IV-Duty to Colleagues, Chapter-II, Part-VI of the Rules of the Bar Council of India provides that an advocate shall not solicit work or advertise, either directly or indirectly, whether by circulars, advertisements, touts, personal communications, interviews not warranted by personal relations, furnishing or inspiring newspaper comments or producing his photographs to be published in connection with cases in which he has been engaged or concerned. His sign-board or name-plate should be of a reasonable size. The sign-board or name-plate or stationery should not indicate that he is or has been President or Member of a Bar Council or of any Association or that he has been associated with any person or organization or with any particular cause or matter or that he specializes in any particular type of work or that he has been a Judge or an Advocate General.

(d) & (e): However the Rule 36 also provides that this Rule will not stand in the way of advocates furnishing information on website as prescribed in the Schedule under intimation to and as approved by the Bar Council of India.

(f): Does not arise.
