

**Government of India
Ministry of Law & Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 973
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH DECEMBER, 2023**

Guidelines for Legal Practice in India and Abroad

973. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:
SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA:
DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI:
SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:

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

- (a) whether it is true that the Bar Council of India (BCI) has released guidelines allowing foreign law firms and foreign lawyers to practice in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that the BCI guidelines state that foreign lawyers from only those countries are to be permitted to practice in India, where Indian Lawyers are also permitted to practice and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of countries that have allowed Indian law firms and lawyers to practice in their jurisdiction under the reciprocity clause;
- (d) the details of Indian law firms and lawyers practicing in foreign countries; and
- (e) the details of foreign law firms and lawyers registered with the Bar Council of India?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) Yes Sir, the Bar Council of India (BCI) *vide* its notification dated 10.03.2023 has published the “Bar Council of India Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022.”
- (b) The Bar Council of India has informed that the entry of foreign lawyers/law firms would be on reciprocal basis. The BCI rules have provided for cancellation of the registration of any foreign lawyer or law firm, if it comes to the notice of the BCI

through any source that the Indian lawyers or Indian law firms are being discriminated by the concerned counterpart foreign country in any manner. The BCI shall cancel such registration after giving the concerned foreign lawyers/foreign law firm or the concerned Government an opportunity to place their views. The Foreign lawyers and foreign law firms shall not be allowed to appear in any Court, Tribunal, Board, before any statutory or regulatory authority or any forum legally entitled to take evidence on Oath and/or having trappings of a Court. The Foreign Lawyers would be allowed to appear for their clients in International Arbitration cases.

(c) and (d) No information is available in this regard.

(e) No registration of foreign lawyers/ foreign law firms has taken place under the aforesaid Rules.