

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1060
ANSWERED ON-08/02/2021

International Law Firm

1060. **Shri Pinaki Misra**

Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has shortlisted international law firms to represent India in international arbitrations or disputes;
- (b) if so, the current status thereof including the anticipated timeline for its operationalization and the names of shortlisted firms;
- (c) the kinds of disputes wherein international law firms will be allowed to represent India and the scope of work that they will be permitted to undertake; and
- (d) whether any operational guidelines have been issued for the same and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance is the nodal Department for receiving the dispute notice under International Investment Agreements (IIAs). However, each such dispute is handled by the mechanism of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) chaired by the Secretary of the concerned administrative Department. DEA had made a panel of law firms – domestic and international - for representing India in the international investment arbitrations or disputes in August 2017. But the concerned IMG may not restrict themselves to the panel created by DEA for selection of law firm. No operational guidelines have been issued for selection of law firms or their scope of work, each IMG decides the scope of the work depending on the facts of the case on a case-to-case basis.