GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

L O K S A B H A UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 954 TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 22ND JULY, 2022.

Uniform Civil Code

954. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure gender and religion-neutral uniform grounds of succession and inheritance in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the proposals brought by certain State Governments to implement Uniform Civil Code in their respective States and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether there is a need for Uniform Civil Code in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any directions from the Supreme Court regarding the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in India under Article 44 of the Indian Constitution and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring a proposal/Bill to implement Uniform Civil Code in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e) Legislative interventions ensure gender and religion-neutral uniform laws. Article 44 of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. Personal lawssuch as intestacy and succession; wills; joint family and partition; marriage and divorce, relate to Entry 5 of List-III-Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, and hence, the States are also empowered to legislate upon them. The 21st Law Commission of India undertook examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code and uploaded a consultation paper titled "Reform of Family Law" on its website for wider discussions.

There are some writ petitions pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India regarding uniform civil code. Since the matter is sub-judice, no decision on implementation of uniform civil code in the country has been taken as of now.