

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

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**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 854**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025**

**Facilities to Women Advocates**

**854. Dr. Ganapathy Rajkumar P:**

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

- (a) the details of the facilities being provided to women advocates in Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for adequate financial help to women advocates in the country;
- (c) whether there is any reservation for women advocates for enrolment in Bar Association Job and Higher Education;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) 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) : The Supreme Court of India and various High Courts have implemented special facilities to support women lawyers. The Supreme Court provides dedicated restrooms, waiting areas, and lounges exclusively for women lawyers. A notable facility is the establishment of a crèche (childcare center) within the court premises to assist women advocates with young children, along with enhanced security measures such as surveillance systems to ensure safety within the court complex.

Similarly, various High Courts across the country have introduced facilities tailored to the needs of women lawyers. Some High Courts have separate women's bar associations or committees focused on gender specific concerns, along with exclusive restrooms, lounges, and changing rooms for female advocates. Additionally, many High Courts have improved security through better

lighting, CCTV surveillance, and the presence of security personnel, particularly in areas frequented by women lawyers. Courts also conduct gender-sensitization programs and workshops to create awareness about legal rights and workplace safety for women in the legal profession.

(b): The Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs is concerned with the administration of the Advocates Act, 1961, under the provision of the said Act, there is no special provision for women. All class of Advocates are treated at a same pedestal. While central legislation may not provide gender-specific provisions, various State Bar Councils/Bar Association shave introduced schemes to support women advocates in various ways including financially.

(c) to (e): The Advocates Act, 1961 does not provide any specific provisions for the reservation of women. The Act treats all classes of advocates equally. As informed by the BCI, it has proactively directed the State Bar Councils to co-opt at least 25% women into various Disciplinary and other Committees of the Bar Council. This directive aims to ensure greater representation of women in key decision-making bodies within the legal fraternity, thereby fostering an environment of equity and diversity.

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