GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2110 TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE $12^{\rm TH}$ DECEMBER, 2025

PRE-LEGISLATIVE CONSULTATION POLICY, 2014

2110. Shri Praveen Patel:

Shri Nalin Soren:

Smt. Smita Uday Wagh:

Shri P P Chaudhary:

Shri Mahendra Singh Solanky:

Dr. Nishikant Dubey:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the effectiveness of the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy of 2014;
- (b) if so, the details of compliance by Ministries/Departments over the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the Legislative Impact Assessment (LIA) framework to make socio-economic, environmental and institutional impact analysis mandatory for all major legislative proposals;
- (d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to introduce a statutory mandate for pre-legislative consultation and legislative impact assessment to ensure uniformity across Ministries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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) to (f): No such evaluation of effectiveness of the Pre-legislative Consultation Policy, 2014 has been conducted and no record relating to compliance of Pre-legislative Consultation by Ministries is maintained.

As per chapter 9 of the Manual of Parliamentary Procedure, it is provided that the concerned Ministry/Department has to formulate the legislative proposals in consultation with all the interests

and authorities concerned, including holding discussions on the necessity for the proposed legislation and on all matter of substance to be embodied therein.

Further, Pre-legislative Consultation Policy was formulated by the Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary in the meeting held on 10th January, 2014. In order to give effect to the decision of that Committee, Legislative Department has circulated the said Policy to all Ministries/Departments for strict adherence and compliance thereof.

There is no proposal of the Government to make the Pre-legislative consultations and the Legislative Impact Assessment mandatory for all major legislative proposals. Under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, each Ministry/ Department has been allocated subject matters on which that Ministry/ Department initiates, processes and implements legislative proposals and also studies social, economic, environmental and institutional impact of such laws, post their enactment.

The Ministry/Department concerned with the subject matter initiates pre-legislative consultations, holds deliberations with the public and all stakeholders and on that basis, finalises its legislative policy. After inter-ministerial consultations and finalisation of the legislative policy, the Bill is drafted and introduced in Parliament.

The Ministry/Department concerned with the subject matter carries out the post-legislative scrutiny of the legislation on the basis of inputs, suggestions and feedback received from the public, experts and other stakeholders; takes appropriate decision for modifications, if any.

Further, as part of Government initiative to bring reforms in the legal system, the Law Commission of India has also been mandated to review and suggest reforms in the laws of the country. As per notification dated 02.09.2024, the Twenty-third Law Commission of India was constituted with the mandate, *inter-alia* to, -

- (i) identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed.
- (ii) identify laws which are not in harmony with the economic needs and requirements of the times and require amendments.
- (iii) identify laws which otherwise require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment.
- (iv) consider in a wider perspective the suggestions for revision/amendment in laws given by Expert Groups in various Ministries/Departments with a view to coordinating and harmonizing them.
- (v) examine the laws which affect the poor and carry out post enactment-audit for socioeconomic legislations.

- (vi) examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution.
- (vii) examine the existing laws with a view for promoting gender equality and suggesting amendments thereto.
- (viii) revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
