

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7664
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2002
SETTING UP OF COMMISSION TO GO INTO THE QUESTION OF FREEDOM
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a commission to go into the question of freedom of speech of citizens regarding the judiciary, its functioning and the accountability of the judiciary itself in the context of issues arising out of the recent contempt of court ruling and conviction of Ms Arundhati Roy by the Apex court; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) and (b) The provisions of Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 were reviewed in pursuance of the suggestion of the P.C. Jain Commission set up to review the Administrative Laws and it was decided not to amend the said Act of 1971.

Further, at present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a Commission to go into the question of freedom of speech of citizens regarding the judiciary, its functioning and the accountability of the judiciary itself in the context of issues arising out of the recent contempt of court ruling and conviction of Ms. Arundhati Roy by the Supreme Court.