

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:661

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011

CORRUPTION IN JUDICIARY

Ajay Kumar SHRI ;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh

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

- (a) whether rampant corruption is prevailing in judiciary due to which people are not getting justice;
- (b) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check corruption prevailing on a large scale in the third pillar of democracy the judiciary; and
- (d) the extent of success achieved from the steps taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (d) : Allegations of corruption in the judiciary have come to the notice of the Government and have been reported in the press also from time to time.

Accountability in the higher judiciary is, at present, being enforced and maintained through an `in-house` system of the judiciary. As per this procedure, the Chief Justice of the High Court has the competence to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of his Court. The Chief Justice of India acts in a similar manner in regard to complaints relating to conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of the High Courts.

Removal of Judges by impeachment is governed by Article 124 (4) read with proviso (b) to Article 124 (2) and proviso (b) to Article 217 (1) of the Constitution. The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 lays down the procedure for the removal of Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court for proved misbehaviour or incapacity, by way of address of the Houses of Parliament to President.

To ensure greater accountability and transparency in the higher judiciary, a Bill titled, `The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010` was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 01.12.2010. The Bill provides a statutory mechanism for enquiring into individual complaints against the Judges of the High Court and Supreme Court, enabling declaration of assets and liabilities by the Judges and lays down judicial standards.