

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3793  
ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025**

**Amendment to Advocates Act, 1961**

**3793 Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal:**

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

- (a) the details of the proposed amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961 and their impact on the independence of the Bar Council of India and State bar councils;
- (b) whether Government has consulted legal professionals and bar associations before finalizing the amendments, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the rationale behind restricting lawyers' right to strike while proposing changes that may affect their autonomy; and
- (d) the steps taken to balance necessary reforms with safeguarding the independence of legal professionals and ensuring fair access to justice?

**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 Government of India proposed amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961, and published the Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025, for public consultation on 13th February 2025. Key changes include defining new legal terms like Advisory Board, Bar Association, Bar Examination, and Centre of Legal Education. Amendments have been proposed in multiple sections, including Sections 3, 4, 6, 7, 9A, 24, 49, and 49A. Additionally, outdated transitional provisions were removed to modernize and streamline the Act.

The Department incorporated the proposed amendments to address emerging needs, enhance transparency and inclusivity in the legal profession, and strengthen BCI's role in Viksit Bharat. However, the consultation process has been concluded, and based on the feedback received, the draft Bill, as revised will be processed afresh for consultation with stakeholders.

(b) The Government engaged in discussions with the Bar Council of India (BCI) before proposing amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961. Following this, the draft of the proposed amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961, was uploaded on the website of the Department of Legal Affairs for public consultation.

(c) It was based on the observations/decision of the Apex Court in a matter before them. However, since the consultation process for the proposed amendments has been concluded, the revised draft bill will be processed afresh for consultation.

(d) The proposed amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961, aim to modernize the legal profession, enhance accessibility, and align it with global standards while preserving its independence. The Central Government introduced these amendments after extensive consultation with the BCI. However, the BCI raised concerns, prompting a decision to conclude the consultation process. Based on feedback received, the draft Bill, as revised will be processed afresh for consultation with stakeholders.