

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

Rajya Sabha

Unstarred Question No. 2171

TO BE ANSWERED ON Thursday, the 12.03.2020

Discontinuance of legal size paper in courts

2171. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- a) Whether Government is considering to take up the issue of putting an end to use of legal size paper for legal documentation across courts in the country;
- b) Whether the use of legal size papers also add further burden on the litigants;
- c) Whether many developed countries do not use legal size papers and prefer their more modern A4 counterpart; and
- d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS
& INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) No, Madam. Supreme Court of India is empowered under Article 145 of the Constitution to make rules for regulating generally the practice and procedure of the Court. Similarly, in respect of High Courts, Article 227 of the Constitution of India empowers the Courts to make and issue general rules and prescribe forms for regulating the practice and proceedings of such courts. Recently, The Supreme Court of India resolved to use A4

sheets with Double-sided printing for filings, in a meeting of the Committee for Rationalization of Use of Papers in the Supreme Court of India and for Introduction of Paperless Courts with members of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCAORA). The decision was taken in environmental interest so as to minimize consumption of paper. The Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta, issued a Gazette Notification on 18th of February 2020 for use of A4 size white executive bond paper for all pleadings contained in petitions, affidavits and applications or otherwise and all memoranda of appeal.

Part (b):

Yes, Madam. Considering that the Courts are resolving for the use of A4 size paper with double-sided print and with environmental interest in view, so as to reduce consumption of paper, it is bound to economical for the litigant in reducing the cost on use of paper.

Parts (c) & (D):

No such information is available with the Government.