

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

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**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2978  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2020**

**UNREGULATED GROWTH OF LAW COLLEGES**

**2978.: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:**

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

- (a) whether a large number of law colleges are functioning in the country without proper infrastructure or faculty;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by Government to improve the falling standards of legal education as well as to check the unregulated growth of law colleges across the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) It is the function of the Bar Council of India (BCI) under the Advocate Act, 1961 to promote Legal Education and lay down standard of such education. The BCI has informed that it is very much concerned about the mushroom growth of law colleges in the country. The BCI is taking this issue of mushrooming of law colleges and has made schemes to conduct surprise inspections and crack down on Law Universities/Colleges/Institutions/Centers of Legal Education running without following the norms prescribed by the Legal Education Rules of BCI.

The BCI comes into picture only at the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage by which time No Objection Certificate (NOC) is granted by State Government, and thereafter Affiliation is granted by the University concerned, and the infrastructure is ready; and faculties appointed and students in many cases are already admitted, practical difficulties in recommending disapproval come up as future of students already admitted opens up another dimension of the problem.

(c) The following remedial steps are taken by the BCI to improve the falling standards of legal education as well as to check the unregulated growth of law colleges across the country:-

- i. The Syllabus and other norms are laid down by the BCI only in consultations with the Universities of the country.

- ii. The BCI lays down norms; decides syllabus; has provided at least 70% attendance in class-room teachings mandatory, but the immediate responsibility to implement them lies with the Universities.
- iii. The BCI has decided to close down all such colleges from next year and the Institutions, if they do not fill up the vacancies of teaching staff, they will not be allowed to admit students from next academic session.
- iv. If in course of surprise visit, any Institution is found to be lacking proper infrastructure, faculty, no regular class of students, then approval of affiliation of such Institutions would be withdrawn with effect from next academic sessions. The Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and Deans have been requested to look into these serious matters and take appropriate steps to cancel their affiliations.
- v. The BCI has issued a circular asking all Centers of Legal Education to ensure that biometric attendance of students should be ensured.
- vi. The Legal Education Rules of BCI, are in the process of being amended with aid and advise of Hon'ble sitting judges of various High Courts. Law Professors, inclusive of Vice Chancellors of reputed Universities, and various legal luminaries and it has been sent for circulation among all the Universities and State Bar Councils for their opinion and further suggestions.
- vii. The BCI vide resolution No. 114/2015 dated 06.06.2015 requested all the State Governments and Universities to restrict the number of being granted NOCs/Affiliation for coming three years, so that no one invests money for construction of new Law Colleges in the country."
- viii. A Moratorium imposed by the BCI vide council resolution dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 to grant of approval of affiliation/recognition to any new centre of legal education or to any existing centre of legal education (law college and law university) for opening a new course or/and additional section.
- ix. The BCI's circular dated 05.02.2020 has specifically stated and clarified that unless the Rules of Legal Education 2008 which are in existence as on date is complied with by the Centres of Legal Education, approval of affiliation shall not be granted w.e.f. the academic year 2020-2021 and that a compliance affidavit with evidence of such compliance, unless furnished to the satisfaction of the BCI, approval for running/operating law course/s shall not be given w.e.f. the academic year 2020-2021.
- x. The BCI is also issuing circulars from time to time to the Universities, State Government's Higher Education Departments/ Institutions for improving the standards of Legal Education.

