

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

**Lok Sabha**

**Unstarted Question No. 534**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.12.2022**

**Government Counsels**

**534. SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any centralized policy in place towards method/procedure for empanelment of counsels and advocates pan India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of expenses borne by the Government for engaging panel counsels during 2021-2022, State-wise;
- (d) whether there exists any fixed procedure for the assignment of cases to panel counsels and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has laid down any requisite qualifications and eligibility criteria to empanel counsels and if so, the details thereof ?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) Ministry of Law & Justice receives large number of applications from practicing advocates across the country for empanelment as Government Counsel at various levels in Hon'ble Supreme Court, various High Courts/Tribunals and District Courts throughout the country. The Ministry has its own search mechanism through which it scrutinizes the applications

based on the experience, merit and goodwill of the practicing advocates. The ministry after obtaining inputs from various quarters in respect of applicant advocates empanels them at various levels as Central Government Counsels, Standing Government Counsels and Panel Advocates at Supreme Court, High Courts/Tribunals and District Courts.

- (b) Government of India has already fixed the eligibility criteria for empanelment of advocates as Government Counsel, which is registered advocates under Advocates Act, 1961.
- (c) This Department has Litigation Branches in Delhi (Delhi High Court & Central Agency Section for Supreme Court), Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai & Bengaluru. The expenses incurred for engaging Law officers and panel counsels including retainership fee by this Department during 2021-2022 is Rs. 48,94,54,767/- (**As per Annexure-A**)
- (d) Yes. The cases are being assigned to Various Government Advocates at various levels as manner prescribed in various Office Memoranda of this Ministry, which includes consultation with Ld. Attorney General/ Ld. Solicitor General and various Ld. Additional Solicitors General and Ld. Deputy Solicitors General, wherever it is necessary.

## Annexure-A

S.No	Litigation Sectoin	Amount in Rs.
1.	Central Agency Section, Supreme Court, New Delhi	28,78,26,268/-
2.	Delhi High Court, New Delhi	10,99,99,885/-
3.	Cash Section, Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	2,31,48,563/-
4.	Branch Secretariat, Department of Legal Affairs, Mumbai	1,56,60,990/-
5.	Branch Secretariat, Department of Legal Affairs, Kolkata	1,83,83,790/-
6.	Branch Secretariat, Department of Legal Affairs, Chennai	3,06,67,875/-
7.	Branch Secretariat, Department of Legal Affairs, Bengaluru	37,67,486/-
<b>Total</b>		<b>48,94,54,767/-</b>