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INTRODUCTION

Ministry of Law and Justice is the oldest limb of the Government of India dating back to 1833 when the Charter Act 1833 was enacted by the British Parliament. The said Act vested legislative power in a single authority for the first time, namely the Governor General of Council, by virtue of this authority and the authority vested under him under section 22 of the Indian Councils Act 1861 to 1920. After the commencement of the Government of India Act 1919 the legislative power was exercised by the Indian Legislature constituted thereunder. The Government of India Act 1919 was followed by the Government of India Act 1935. With the passing of the Indian Independence Act 1947, India became a Dominion and the Dominion Legislature made laws from 1947 to 1949 under the provisions of section 100 of the Government of India Act 1935 as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order 1947. Under the Constitution of India which came into force on the 26th January 1950 the legislative power is vested in Parliament.

COMPOSITION OF THE MINISTRY

Ministry of Law and Justice comprises of the Legislative Department and the Department of Legal Affairs and Department of Justice. In so far as Department of Justice is concerned, a separate Chapter (Chapter III) has been brought out covering all details.

The Department of Legal Affairs is concerned with advising the various Ministries of the Central Government while the Legislative Department is concerned with drafting of principal legislations for the Central Government.

MISSION

To transform Government into an efficient and responsible litigant;

To bring reforms in the Indian Legal System to achieve expansion, inclusion and excellence in Legal Education, the Legal Profession and legal services, including the Indian Legal Service.

To develop a system towards creating legal professionals so that they can meet future challenges not only for India but also of the world both in litigation and non-litigation field and to focus on their social responsibility and strong professional ethics. Having realized the aspirations of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, constraints such as enormous litigation (3.3 cr.), consequent burden on the public exchequer or on resources including man power and need to confer wide discretionary powers on government authorities, our mission is aimed to have proper legal framework to channelize administrative power, conflict management, help in enforcing rule of law & achieving the objectives set by various wings of government.

OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate the functioning of Ministries and Departments for good governance by providing legal advice/opinion relating to matters referred to by them as well as examination of legislative proposals.
- To reform the Indian Legal Service to make it efficient, responsive and globally competitive.
- To develop a comprehensive e-governance solution for Central Agency Section and IT enabled transformation of the Department of Legal Affairs.
- To reduce litigation and encourage settlement of disputes by Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods.
- To promote excellence in the Legal Profession and to develop a frame work to usher in a new era in the field of legal education.
- To bring in Legal reforms.
- To effectively administer the acts under the purview of this Department viz., the Advocates Act, 1961, the Notaries Act, 1952, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the Advocates Welfare Fund Act, 2001.

CHAPTER-II

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Legislative Department acts mainly as a service provider in so far as the legislative business of the Union Government is concerned. It ensures smooth and speedy processing of legislative proposals of various administrative Departments and Ministries.

1. FUNCTIONS

- 1.1 The Legislative Department, being a service-oriented Department of the Government of India, is concerned with the following matters, namely:-
 - (i) Scrutiny of Notes for the Cabinet in relation to all legislative proposals from drafting angle;
 - (ii) Drafting and scrutiny of all Government Bills including Constitution (Amendment) Bills, translation of all the Bills into Hindi and forwarding of both English and Hindi versions of the Bills to the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha Secretariat for introduction in Parliament; drafting of official amendments to the Bills; scrutiny of non-official amendments and rendering assistance to administrative Ministries/Departments to decide the acceptability or otherwise of non-official amendments;
 - (iii) Rendering assistance to Parliament and its Joint/Standing Committees at all stages through which a Bill passes before enactment. This includes scrutiny of, and assistance in, preparation of reports and revised Bills for the Committees;
 - (iv) Drafting of Ordinances to be promulgated by the President;
 - (v) Drafting of legislation to be enacted as President's Acts in respect of States under President's rule;
 - (vi) Drafting of Regulations to be made by the President;
 - (vii) Drafting of Constitution Orders, i.e. Orders required to be issued under the Constitution;
 - (viii) Scrutiny and vetting of all statutory rules, regulations, orders, notifications, resolutions, schemes, etc., and their translation into Hindi;
 - (ix) Scrutiny of State legislation in the concurrent field, which require assent of the President under article 254 of the Constitution;
 - (x) Scrutiny of legislation to be enacted by the Union territory Legislatures;
 - (xi) Elections to Parliament, the Legislatures of States and Union territories and Offices of the President and Vice-President;
 - (xii) Apportionment of expenditure on elections between the Union and the States/Union territories having Legislatures;

- (xiii) Election Commission of India and electoral reforms;
 - (xiv) Administration of the Representation of the People Act, 1950; the Representation of the People Act, 1951; the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991;
 - (xv) Matters relating to Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners under the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991;
 - (xvi) Matters relating to the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly Constituencies.
 - (xvii) Legislation on matters relating to personal laws, transfer of property, contracts, evidence, civil procedure, etc., in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution;
 - (xviii) Imparting training in legislative drafting to the officers of the Union/State Governments, etc.
 - (xix) Publication of Central Acts, Ordinances and Regulations and their authorised translations in Hindi and other languages specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and also translation of legal and statutory documents;
 - (xx) Publication of Hindi translation of selected judgments of the Supreme Court and High Courts on cases pertaining to constitutional, civil and criminal laws in the form of law Journals (Patrikas);
- (2) Legislative Department does not have any statutory or autonomous body under its control. It has two other wings under it, namely, the Official Languages Wing and Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan, which are responsible for propagation of Hindi and other Official Languages in the field of law.
- (a) **Official Languages Wing** of the Legislative Department is responsible for preparing and publishing standard legal terminology and also for translating into Hindi, all the Bills to be introduced in Parliament, all Central Acts, Ordinances, Subordinate legislations, etc., as required under the Official Languages Act, 1963. This Wing is also responsible for arranging translation of the Central Acts, Ordinances, etc., into the Official Languages as specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution as required under the Authoritative Texts (Central Laws) Act, 1973. The Official Languages Wing also releases grants-in-aid to various registered voluntary organisations engaged in promotion and propagation of Hindi and other regional languages and those organisations, which are directly engaged in the publication of legal literature and propagation of Hindi and other Languages in the field of law.
 - (b) **Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan** is mainly concerned with bringing out authoritative Hindi versions of reportable judgements of the Supreme Court and the High Courts with the objective of promoting the progressive use of Hindi in the legal field. Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan brings out various publications of legal literature in Hindi. It also holds exhibitions in various States for giving wide publicity to legal literatures available in Hindi and to promote their sales.

2. ORGANISATIONAL SET UP

The organisational set-up of the Legislative Department includes the Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary & Legislative Counsel, Additional Legislative Counsel, Deputy Legislative Counsel and Assistant Legislative Counsel and other supporting staff. The work relating to legislative drafting in the case of principal legislation and to scrutinising and vetting of subordinate legislation have been distributed among various Legislative Groups. Each Legislative Group is headed by a Joint Secretary & Legislative Counsel or Additional Secretary, who in turn is assisted by a number of Legislative Counsel at different levels. The Secretary of the Legislative Department acts as the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and the Additional Secretary is in charge of all subordinate legislation. The Organisational Chart of the Legislative Department is at Annexure-IX.

3. LEGISLATION

Legislation is one of the major instruments of articulating the policy of the Government. In this context, the Legislative Department plays an important role to secure the policy objectives, which the Government may wish to achieve through legislation.

(2) Legislative Department not only performs functions as a servicing Department for drafting the legislation initiated by the administrative Ministries and Departments but also initiates legislative proposals in respect of the matters with which it is administratively concerned.

(3) Legislative Department drafts the Finance Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government every year. This exercise is undertaken in the Legislative Department on the budget proposals being brought before it by the Ministry of Finance. For the purposes of convenience, the various subjects on which Bills are drafted in the Legislative Department at the behest of administrative Ministries/Departments may be broadly categorised as under:-

- (a) Constitutional amendments;
- (b) Economic and corporate laws;
- (c) Civil Procedure and other social welfare legislation;
- (d) Repeal of obsolete laws; and
- (e) Miscellaneous laws.

4. During the period from 1st January 2016 to 31st December, 2016, this Department has examined **112** Notes for the Cabinet/new legislative proposals in consultation with different Ministries/Departments for drafting Bills/Ordinances for introduction in the Houses of the Parliament. A total number of **42** legislative Bills were forwarded to Parliament for introduction during this period.

The list of Bills forwarded to Parliament during this period is as follows:

Sl. No.	Short Title
1.	The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016
2.	The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016
3.	The Finance Bill, 2016
4.	The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016
5.	The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016
6.	The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2016
7.	The Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016
8.	The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2016
9.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016
10.	The Appropriation Bill, 2016
11.	The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2016
12.	The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016
13.	The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2016
14.	The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2016.
15.	The Appropriation (Railways) No.2 Bill, 2016
16.	The Uttarakhand Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016.
17.	The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016
18.	The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2016
19.	The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016
20.	The Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2016
21.	The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016
22.	The High Courts (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2016
23.	The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016
24.	The Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2016
25.	The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016
26.	The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2016
27.	The Employees Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2016
28.	The Central Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 2016
29.	The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016
30.	The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016
31.	The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016
32.	The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016
33.	The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016
34.	The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016
35.	The Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016
36.	The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016
37.	The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2016
38.	The Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2016
39.	The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
40.	The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016
41.	The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2016
42.	The Major Port Authorities Bill, 2016

5. Out of the Bills which were pending before Parliament and those introduced during the period from 01-01-2016 to 31-12-2016, 52 Bills have been enacted into Acts including one Constitutional amendment Act. The list of the Acts enacted during this period is as follows:-

Sl.No.	Short Title of the Act
1.	The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015 (1 of 2016)
2.	The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (2 of 2016)
3.	The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 (3 of 2016)
4.	The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015 (4 of 2016)
5.	The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Act, 2015 (5 of 2016)
6.	The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 2015 (6 of 2016)
7.	The Appropriation (No. 4) Act, 2015 (7 of 2016)
8.	The Appropriation (No. 5) Act, 2015 (8 of 2016)
9.	The Sugar Cess (Amendment) Act, 2015 (9 of 2016)
10.	The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2016 (10 of 2016)
11.	The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 (11 of 2016)
12.	The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Act, 2016 (12 of 2016)
13.	The High Court and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2016 (13 of 2016)
14.	The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Act, 2016 (14 of 2016)
15.	The Appropriation (Railways) Act, 2016 (15 of 2016)
16.	The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (16 of 2016)
17.	The National Waterways Act, 2016 (17 of 2016)
18.	The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (18 of 2016)
19.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Act, 2016 (19 of 2016)
20.	The Appropriation Act, 2016 (20 of 2016)
21.	The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Act, 2016 (21 of 2016)
22.	The Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Act, 2016 (22 of 2016)
23.	The Repealing and Amending Act, 2016 (23 of 2016)
24.	The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2016 (24 of 2016)
25.	The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 (25 of 2016)
26.	The Appropriation (Railways) No.2 Act, 2016 (26 of 2016)

27.	The Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 (27 of 2016)
28.	The Finance Act, 2016. (28 of 2016)
29.	The Appropriation (No.2) Act, 2016. (29 of 2016)
30.	The Anti-Hijacking (Amendment) Act, 2016 (30 of 2016)
31.	The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (31 of 2016)
32.	The Dr. Rajendra Central Agricultural University Act, 2016 (32 of 2016)
33.	The Uttarakhand Appropriation (Vote on Account) Act, 2016 (33 of 2016)
34.	The Indian Trusts (Amendment) Act, 2016 (34 of 2016)
35.	The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 (35 of 2016)
36.	The Regional Centre for Biotechnology Act, 2016 (36 of 2016)
37.	The Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Act, 2016 (37 of 2016)
38.	The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (38 of 2016)
39.	The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2016 (39 of 2016)
40.	The Dentists (Amendment) Act, 2016 (40 of 2016)
41.	The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Act, 2016 (41 of 2016)
42.	The National Institute of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Act, 2016 (42 of 2016)
43.	The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 (43 of 2016)
44.	The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Act, 2016 (44 of 2016)
45.	The Central Agricultural University (Amendment) Act, 2016 (45 of 2016)
46.	The Appropriation (No. 3) Act, 2016 (46 of 2016)
47.	The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2016 (47 of 2016)
48.	The Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2016 (48 of 2016)
49.	The Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (49 of 2016)
50.	The Appropriation (No.4) Act, 2016 (50 of 2016)
51.	The Appropriation (No.5) Act, 2016 (51 of 2016)

6. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT ACT

1.	The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 (Goods and Services Tax)
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7. ORDINANCES

The Legislative Department drafted Ten Ordinances which were promulgated by the President under article 123 of the Constitution during the period from 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016:

Ordn. No.	Short Title
1.	The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2016 (1 of 2016)
2.	The Uttarakhand Appropriation (Vote on Account) Ordinance, 2016 (2 of 2016)
3.	The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Second Ordinance, 2016 (3 of 2016)
4.	The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 (4 of 2016)
5.	The Dentists (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 (5 of 2016)
6.	The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Third Ordinance, 2016 (6 of 2016)
7.	The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Fourth Ordinance, 2016 (7 of 2016)
8.	The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Fifth Ordinance, 2016 (8 of 2016)
9.	The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 (9 of 2016)
10.	The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Ordinance, 2016 (10 of 2016)

8. REGULATION:

One Regulation has been issued under article 240 of the Constitution:

	Short Title
1.	The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Anatomy Regulations, 2016 (1 of 2016)

9. CONSTITUTION ORDER:

One Constitution Order has been issued under article 342 of the Constitution:

	Short Title
1.	The Constitution (Puducherry) Scheduled Tribes Order, 2016

10. SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

During the period from 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016, the number of statutory rules, regulations, orders and notifications scrutinized and vetted by this Department was 3996.

11. REPEAL OF OBSOLETE LAWS

- (i) The Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Act, 2016 (22 of 2016) has been enacted repealing 756 Appropriation Acts.
- (ii) The Repealing and Amending Act, 2016 (23 of 2016) has been enacted repealing 294 Acts.

Cabinet has also approved for repeal of the 105 obsolete Acts of the remaining 422 Act, identified for repeal.

12. FUNCTIONS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION

Since the time of independence, free and fair elections are being held as per the principles enshrined in the Constitution and the laws governing elections in India. The Constitution has vested in the Election Commission the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process of conducting elections to Parliament, State Legislatures and to the offices of the President and Vice President of India.

(2) Election Commission is a permanent constitutional body. Initially, the Election Commission had only a Chief Election Commissioner. At present, it consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. For the first time, two additional Election Commissioners were appointed on 16th October, 1989 but they had a short tenure till 1st January, 1990. Later, on 1st October, 1993, two additional Election Commissioners were appointed. Since then, the multi-member Election Commission has been in operation.

(3) The Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners are appointed by the President of India. As per the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991 (11 of 1991), they have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as are available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only in the like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

(4) Political parties are registered with the Election Commission in terms of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951). The Election Commission ensures inner party democracy in their functioning by insisting upon them to hold organisational elections at periodic intervals. Political parties registered with the Commission are granted recognition at the State and National levels on the basis of their poll performance at general elections according to criteria specified by it.

(5) The Election Commission has its independent Secretariat for the work relating to the smooth conduct of elections to Parliament and State Legislatures. Legislative Department is entrusted with the functions as the nodal Department for providing Governmental sanctions.

(6) In the year 1950, in the matters of election expenses, it was decided by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments that the expenditure incurred in relation to the preparation of electoral roll to the Assembly constituencies would be shared on 50:50 basis between the Central Government and State Governments. Further, the expenditure on account of conduct of elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly would be borne by the Central Government and the concerned State Government and if the election to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly are held simultaneously, then, the expenditure would be shared on 50:50 basis between Central and concerned State Government. The initial expenditure will be borne by the respective State Governments and on submission of the audited report, the Central Government's share will be reimbursed.

13. ELECTION LAWS AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

Legislative Department is administratively concerned with the following Acts in connection with the conduct of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures and to the offices of the President and the Vice-President, reform of these laws/rules made there under and matters pertaining/incidental thereto:

- (i) The Representation of the People Act, 1950,
- (ii) The Representation of the People Act, 1951,
- (iii) The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952,
- (iv) The Delimitation Act, 2002,
- (v) The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Act, 2005,
- (vi) The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Act, 2010.

(2) The electoral system of our country, which is also called the first-past-the-post system of elections, has completed sixty seven years. We have covered the journey of these sixty-seven years after India became Republic with glory and exemplary successes in all the fields. This has been the result of the relentless toil and continuous struggle of the millions who have shaped the present and future of this great country with their sweat and blood. Undoubtedly, this journey has not been an easy sail and we have witnessed much turbulence and turmoil during this period. During this period, the political scenario and the electoral process of the country have undergone continuous epoch-making changes. With each election, the complexities of the electoral process and the election management have been increasing. Of late, the Indian polity is witnessing the era of coalition politics, which has put premium on every single seat in the legislative bodies. This has resulted in healthy competition as the election mandate has fractured extensively. Every single ballot has proved extremely valuable. In such a scenario, allegations and counter-allegations are invariably made. Some inroads by corrupt and criminal elements has posed a challenging task for the conduct of free and fair elections.

(3) The aforesaid scenario, which has been continuously changing, has necessitated reforms of electoral laws on several occasions. In the light of the experience gained during elections, recommendations of the Election Commission, the proposals from different sources including political parties, eminent men in public life and the deliberations in the Legislatures and various public bodies, the successive Governments have taken a number of measures, from time to time, to bring about electoral reforms; though need to effect a comprehensive package of electoral reforms cannot be gainsaid.

(4) The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 & Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 were amended vide notification dated 16th September, 2016. The object of the amendment is to simplify and make more user friendly the Form No. 6, 6A, 7, 8, 8A, 18 & 19 appended to Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 and Form No. 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G & 2H appended to Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. The Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 were further amended vide notification dated 21st October, 2016 to facilitate the transmission of postal ballot paper by the Returning Officer by such electronic means as may be specified by the Election Commission.

(5) On the 16th January, 2013 the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety has been referred to the Law Commission of India by the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice for its consideration, after taking into consideration the reports of various committees in the past, views of the Election Commission and other stakeholders, and to suggest comprehensive measures for changes in the law expeditiously, preferably within a period of three months. After consideration of these entire things, Law Commission of India submitted its 255th Report on 'Electoral Reforms' in 2015. The Legislative Department has constituted a task force to examine the 244th and 255th report on 'electoral reforms'.

The Task Force has submitted its reports with certain suggestion. At present, the 244th & 255th Law Commission Reports are under consideration for implementation of the same.

14. ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE

The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), the replacement of the ballot box is mainstay in the electoral process. First conceived in 1977 in the Election Commission, the Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL), Hyderabad was assigned the task to design and develop it. In 1979 a proto-type was developed, which was demonstrated by the Election Commission before the representatives of political parties on 6th August, 1980. The Bharat Electronic Ltd. (BEL), Bangalore, another public sector undertaking, was co-opted along with ECIL to manufacture EVMs once a broad consensus was reached on its introduction.

(2) First time use of EVMs occurred in a bye-election in Kerala in May, 1982, however, the absence of a specific law prescribing its use led to the Supreme Court striking down that election. Subsequently, in 1989, the Parliament amended the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to create a provision for the use of EVMs in the elections. A general consensus on its introduction could be

reached only in 1998 and these were used in 25 legislative assembly constituencies spread across three states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. Its use was further expanded in 1999 to 45 parliamentary constituencies and later, in February 2000, to 45 assembly constituencies of the Haryana assembly elections. In the state assembly elections, held in May 2001, in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and West Bengal, the EVMs were used in all the assembly constituencies. Since then, for every state assembly elections, the Commission has used the EVMs. In 2004, in the general elections to the Lok Sabha, the EVMs (more than one million) were used in all 543 parliamentary constituencies in the country.

(3) An EVM consists of two units, namely, Control Unit (CU) and Ballot Unit (BU) with a cable (5 mtr long) for connecting the both. A Ballot Unit caters upto 16 candidates. There are number of variants available for the EVMs. Time-to-time it has evolved and has become more robust. In case of pre-2006 and post-2006 EVMs, 4 (Four) Ballot Units can be cascaded together to accommodate upto a maximum of 64 candidates (including NOTA), which can be used with one Control Unit. In case of upgraded post-2006 EVMs, 24 (Twenty Four) Ballot Units can be cascaded together catering to 384 candidates (including NOTA) which can be used with one Control Unit. It runs on a power pack (Battery) having 7.5 volts. In case of upgraded post-2006 EVM, power packs are inserted in 5th, 9th, 13th, 17th & 21st Ballot Units, if more than 4 BUs are connected to a Control Unit. On the right side of the BU along the candidates' vote button digits 1 to 16 are embossed in Braille signage for guidance of visually impaired electors. Subsequently, the Commission has introduced Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) with the EVMs in select assembly constituencies to take the voting experience at higher level.

(4) The design and application of EVMs in the elections are considered a significant achievement in global democracy. It has brought more transparency, swiftness, and acceptability in the system. It has also helped in creating a vast pool of election officials well versed in its use. In its evolution, the Commission has issued series of instructions, frequently asked questions, and technical guidelines. During this period a number of judicial pronouncements has also helped in making the EVMs an integral component of our electoral system.

15. EVOLVEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF EVMs FORMATION OF TECHNICAL EXPERT COMMITTEE.

ECI-EVMs were endorsed by a technical experts subcommittee appointed by the Government of India at the initiative of the Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms in 1990. This Committee was headed by Prof. S. Sampath, then Chairman RAC, Defence Research and Development Organization, with Prof. P.V. Indiresan, then with IIT, Delhi and Dr. C. Rao Kasarbada, the then Director, Electronics Research and Development Center, Trivandrum as members. Subsequently, the Commission has been consulting a group of technical experts comprising Prof. P.V. Indiresan (member of the earlier committee), Prof. D.T. Shahani and Prof. A.K. Agarwala of IIT Delhi, on all EVM related technical issues. In November, 2010, the Commission has expanded its Technical

Expert Committee by including two more experts, namely, Prof D.K. Sharma from Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT of Mumbai and Prof. Rajat Moona from Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT of Kanpur (now Director General, C-DAC). After the demise of Prof. Indiresan in the year 2013, the Committee is being headed by Prof. D.T. Shahani.

(2) All the matters, related to upgradation and disposal of EVMs, are consulted with the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) and thereafter a decision in the matter is taken. At present, the Commission has three version of EVMs in use i.e. Pre-2006, Post-2006 and Upgraded Post-2006. The upgraded Post-2006 (Post-2013) EVMs were used in the General Elections to the House of the People, 2014.

(3) The EVMs manufactured in the year 1989-90 are being destroyed, as advised by the manufacturers, the life of EVMs is about 15-years and that it is risky to use machines more than 15 years old and a phase-out plan for the disposal of EVMs, manufactured in the year 2000-2005, has been communicated to the M/o Law and Justice.

(4) The details of EVMs, procured till date are as under-

S.No.	Financial year	Total no. of BUs	Total no. of CUs	Total amount paid/ Amount Sanctioned (in Rs.)	Total amount paid/ Amount Sanctioned (in Crores)
1	2000-01	142631	142631	1499880443	149.99
2	2001-02	135481	135481	1422900000	142.29
3	2002-03	190592	190592	2006100000	200.61
4	2003-04	336045	336045	3530000000	353.00
5	2004-05	125681	125681	1315400000	131.54
6	2006-07	250000	250000	2893742332	289.38
7	2008-09	180000	180000	1900000000	190.00
8	2009-10	127000	100000	1150000000	115.00
9	2013-14	382876	251650	2159435745	215.94
	Total	1870306	1712080	17877458520	1787.75

(5) Recently approval for procurement of EVMs, in the three financial years, has been received from Ministry of Law & Justice as under:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Ballot Units	Control Units
1	2016-17	5,50,000	5,45,000
2	2017-18	4,10,000	3,14,000
3	2018-19	4,35,306	71,716
	TOTAL	13,95,306	9,30,716

16. STATUS FOR THE PROGRESS OF ELECTORS PHOTO IDENTITY CARD (EPIC)

The use of electors' photo identity cards by the Election Commission is slowly and surely making the electoral process simple, smoother and quicker. A decision was taken by the Election Commission of India in 1993 to issue photo identity cards to electors throughout the country to check bogus voting and impersonation of electors at elections. The electoral roll is the basis for issue of EPICs to the registered electors. The electoral rolls are normally revised every year with 1st January of the year as the qualifying date. Every Indian citizen who attain the age of 18 years or above as on that date is eligible for inclusion in the electoral roll and can apply for the same. Once he is registered in the roll, he would be eligible for getting an EPIC. The scheme of issuing the EPICs is, therefore, a continuous and ongoing process for the completion of which no time limit can be fixed as the registration of electors is a continuous and ongoing process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of electoral process) on account of more number of persons becoming eligible for the right of franchise on attaining the age of 18. The Commission's continuous effort is to provide the EPICs to the electors who have been left out in the previous campaigns as well as the new electors. The Election Commission, which is in overall charge of implementation of the scheme of issuance of photo identity cards to electors has been monitoring its progress on regular basis.

(2) It has been the endeavor of the Election Commission to achieve the target of 100% coverage under the EPIC scheme, as far as practicable, in a time-bound manner. No standard time period is defined by the Commission for issue of EPIC. However, constant efforts are being made to issue EPIC to all such persons whose names have already been enrolled in the electoral roll:

- (i) Special photography campaigns are organized to make EPIC of all voters.
- (ii) Photographs of electors in the cases where these are not available in the electoral database are collected/taken by conducting a special drive from time to time.
- (iii) Booth Level Officers are appointed by the Commission to collect photographs and make EPIC of all voters.
- (iv) 25th January has been declared as the National Voters' Day so as to ensure hassle free enrolment and issue of EPIC to all newly registered electors.

(3) Latest data (2016) in respect of coverage of EPIC in States/UTs, available in the Commission is given below:-

STATEMENT SHOWING THE STATUS OF EPIC, 2016

S. No.	Name of the State	EPIC %
S01	Andhra Pradesh	100.00
S02	Arunachal Pradesh	99.55
S03	Assam	93.85
S04	Bihar	100.00
S05	Goa	99.55
S06	Gujarat	99.99
S07	Haryana	100.00
S08	Himachal Pradesh	100.00
S09	Jammu & Kashmir	89.49
S10	Karnataka	99.43
S11	Kerala	100.00
S12	Madhya Pradesh	100.00
S13	Maharashtra	95.18
S14	Manipur	100.00
S15	Meghalaya	100.00
S16	Mizoram	100.00
S17	Nagaland	98.06
S18	Orissa	97.96
S19	Punjab	98.57
S20	Rajasthan	99.60
S21	Sikkim	100.00
S22	Tamil Nadu	100.00
S23	Tripura	100.00
S24	Uttar Pradesh	99.70
S25	West Bengal	100.00
S26	Chhattisgarh	97.57
S27	Jharkhand	99.92
S28	Uttarakhand	100.00
S29	Telangana	100.00
U01	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	98.97
U02	Chandigarh	99.98
U03	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	100.00
U04	Daman and Diu	97.91
U05	National Capital Territory of Delhi	100.00
U06	Lakshadweep	100.00
U07	Puducherry	99.99
	ALL India	99.04

* DATA OF 2015

17. VOTER VERIFIABLE PAPER AUDIT TRAIL(VVPAT)

In a meeting of all political parties held on 4th October, 2010, the parties expressed satisfaction with the EVM but some parties requested the Commission to consider introducing Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail for further transparency and verifiability in poll process. The Commission referred the matter to its Technical Expert Committee on EVMs for examining and making a recommendation in this regard. The Expert Committee had several rounds of meeting with the manufacturers of EVM, namely, BEL & ECIL, on this issue and then had met the political parties and other civil society members to explore the design requirement of the VVPAT system with the EVM. Election Commission has informed vide letter dated 26th December, 2016 that after considering various aspects, Election Commission of India has identified two CPSUs i.e. ITI Ltd, Bangalore and CEL, Ghaziabad besides BEL and ECIL for manufacturing of VVPATs.

(2) The Government of India notified the amended Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 on 14th August, 2013, enabling the Commission to use VVPAT with EVMs. The Commission used VVPAT with EVMs first time in bye-election from 51-Noksen (ST) Assembly Constituency of Nagaland. Thereafter, VVPATs have been being used in selected constituencies in every election to Legislative Assembly and 8 Parliamentary Constituencies in General Election to the House of the People-2014.

(3) Recently, the Commission has placed orders for supply of 67,000 VVPATs on the manufacturers namely; M/s. Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore and M/s. Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad.

18. FACTS OF VVPAT

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail is an independent system attached with the Electronic Voting Machines that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended. When a vote is cast, a slip is printed containing the serial number, name and symbol of the candidate and remains exposed through a transparent window for 7 seconds. Thereafter, this printed slip automatically gets cut and falls in sealed drop box of the VVPAT.

(2) VVPAT consists of a Printer and a VVPAT Status Display Unit (VSDU). VVPAT runs on a power pack (Battery) of 15 volts. Control Unit and VSDU are kept with the Presiding Officer/Polling Officer and Ballot Unit and Printer are kept in the voting compartment.

(3) The VVPATs have been used in the following elections, so far:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. and Name of AC/PC/	Polling Station	Election held	Manufacturer
During bye- election to Nagaland Legislative Assembly, 2013 VVPAT used in the following AC					
1.	Nagaland ECIL	51-Noksen (ST) AC	21	4/9/2013	B E L &
During General Election to Mizoram Legislative Assembly, 2013 VVPAT used in the following ACs					
2.	Mizoram	1. 10-Aizawl North-I (ST)		25/11/2013	ECIL
		2. 11-Aizwal North-II (ST)			
		3. 12-Aizwal North-III (ST)			
		4. 13-Aizwal East-I			
		5. 14-Aizwal East-II (ST)			
		6. 15-Aizwal West-I (ST)			
		7. 16-Aizwal West-II (ST)			
		8. 17-Aizwal West-III (ST)			
		9. 18-Aizwal South-I (ST)			
		10. 19-Aizawl South-II (ST)			
During General Election to Mizoram Legislative Assembly, 2013 VVPAT used in the following ACs					
3.	NCT of Delhi	40-New Delhi AC		4/12/2013	BEL
During General Election to Lok Sabha, 2014 VVPAT used in the following PCs					
4.	Mizoram	385 Polling Stations of 1-Mizoram PC	385	11/4/2014	BEL
5.	Bihar	30-Patna Sahib PC	1746	17/4/2014	BEL
6.	Karnataka	26-Bangalore PC	1926	17/4/2014	BEL
7.	Chhattisgarh	8-Raipur PC	2204	24/4/2014	ECIL
8.	Tamil Nadu	4-Chennai Central PC	1153	24/4/2014	BEL
9.	Gujarat	6-Gandhinagar PC	1770	30/4/2014	BEL
10.	Uttar Pradesh	35-Lucknow PC	1728	30/4/2014	ECIL
11.	West Bengal	22-Jadavpur PC	1959	12/5/2014	ECIL
During General Election to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 2014 VVPAT used in the following ACs in September-October, 2014					
12.	Maharashtra	38-Amravati AC	245	15/10/2014	ECIL
		42-Achalpur AC	290		
		47-Wardha	332		
		61-Bhandara (SC)	429		
		71-Chandrapur (SC)	336		
		78-Yavatmal	387		

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. and Name of AC/PC/	Polling Station	Election held	Manufacturer
		107-Aurangabad Central	258		
		108-Aurangabad West (SC)	274		
		109-Aurangabad East	250		
		123-Nashik East	313		
		124-Nashik Central	279		
		125-Nashik West	290		
		225-Ahmednagar City	259		

During General Election to Mizoram Legislative Assembly, 2013 VVPAT used in the following ACs

13.	Haryana	13-Thanesar AC	161	15/10/2014	BEL
		21-Karnal AC	170		
		25-Panipat City AC	168		
		31-Sonipat AC	144		
		62-Rohtak AC	145		
		77-Gurgaon AC	171		

During General Election to Jharkhand Legislative Assembly, 2014 VVPAT used in the following ACs

14.	Jharkhand	36-Bokaro AC	566	14/12/2014	BEL
		40-Dhanbad AC	424	14/12/2014	
		48-Jamshedpur East AC	262	2/12/2014	
		49-Jameshpur West AC	290	2/12/2014	
		63-Ranchi AC	364	9/12/2014	
		64-Hatiya AC	434	9/12/2014	
		65-Karke (SC)AC	388	9/12/2014	

During General Election to Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, 2014 VVPAT used in the following ACs

15.	J&K	71-Gandhi Nagar	172	20/12/2014	BEL
		72-Jammu East	82		
		73-Jammu West	171		

During General Election to NCT of Delhi Legislative Assembly, 2015, held in January-February, VVPAT used in the following ACs

16.	NCT of Delhi	38-Delhi Cant.	150	7/2/2015	BEL
		40-New Delhi	220		

During General Election to Legislative Assembly of Bihar, 2015, held in October-November, VVPAT used in the following ACs

17.	Bihar	183-Kumhrar	355		ECIL
		182-Bankipur	330		
		181-Digha	383		
		230-Gaya Town	227		
		94-Muzaffarpur	275		
		83-Darbhanga	258		
		194-Arrah	261		
		172-Biharsarif	331		

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. and Name of AC/PC/	Polling Station	Election held	Manufacturer
		118-Chapra	274		
		105-Siwan	263		
		156-Bhagalpur	301		
		63-Katihar	228		
		62-Purnia	258		
		165-Munger	284		
		75-Saharsa	312		
		208-Sasaram	315		
		146-Begusarai	264		
		223-Aurangabad	273		
		200-Buxar	256		
		54-Kishanganj	238		
		216-Jahanabad	286		
		237-Nawada	303		
		28-Sitamarhi	244		
		133-Samastipur	227		
		48-Forbesganj	279		
		241-Jamul	259		
		36-Madhubani	281		
		149-Khagaria	210		
		101-Gopalganj	285		
		43-Supaul	240		
		73-Madhepura	272		
		161-Banka	238		
		205-Babua	257		
		19-Motihari	256		
		132-Hajipur	277		
		8-Bettiah	213		
During General Election to Legislative Assembly of Mizoram, 2015, held in October-November, VVPAT used in the following ACs					
18.	Mizoram	12-Aizwal NE-III (ST)		21.11.2015	BEL
During General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal, 2015, held in October-November, VVPAT used in the following ACs					
19.	West Bengal	4-CoochBehar Dakshin	253	March-May	ECIL
		12-Alipurduar	273	2016	
		17-Jalpaiguri (SC)	280		
		26-Siliguri	238		
		35-Raiganj	194		

Ministry of Law and Justice

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. and Name of AC/PC/	Polling Station	Election held	Manufacturer
		39-Balurghat	188		
		51-Englishbazar	251		
		64-Murshidabad	272		
		Krishnanagar	268		
		119-Barasat	283		
		150-Jadavpur	340		
		161-Ballygunge	291		
		162-Chowrangee	222		
		171-Howrahmadhya	308		
		189-Chandannagore	258		
		203-Tamluk	287		
		236-Medinipur	296		
		242-Purulia	266		
		252-Bankura	303		
		260-Bardhaman Dakshin	294		
		154-Behala Paschim	341		
		285-Suri	287		

During General Election to Legislative Assembly of Kerala, 2016, held in March-May, VVPAT used in the following ACs

20	Kerala	133-Vattiyoorkavu	141	March-May, 2016	ECIL
		135-Nemom	148		
		124-Kollam	154		
		104-Alappuzha	153		
		97-Kottayam	158		
		82-Eranakulam	122		
		83-Thrikkakara	147		
		67-Thrissur	149		
		56-Palakkad	140		
		40-Malappuram	154		
		27-Kozhikode North	142		
		11-kannur (Town area)	42		

During General Election to Legislative Assembly of Tamilnadu, 2016, held in March-May, VVPAT used in the following ACs

21	Tamilnadu	21-Anna Nagar	255	March-May 2016	BEL
		43-Vellore	244		
		53-Krishnagiri	294		
		89-Salem (North)	284		
		99-Erode (West)	285		

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. and Name of AC/PC/	Polling Station	Election held	Manufacturer
		114-Tiruppur (North)	327		
		118-Coimbatore (North)	285		
		132-Dindigul	268		
		140-Tiruchirappalli (West)	271		
		155-Cuddalore	228		
		37-Kancheepuram	316		
		74-Villupuram	281		
		189-Madurai (East)	302		
		214-Thoothukudi	271		
		224-Tirunelveli	305		
		229-Kanniyakumari	300		
During General Election to Legislative Assembly of Puducherry, 2016, held in March-May, VVPAT used in the following ACs					
22	Puducherry	15-Ouppalam	24	March-May, 2016	BEL
		16-Orleampeth	23		
		27-Karaikal South	27		
During General Election to Legislative Assembly of Assam, 2016, held in March-May, VVPAT used in the following ACs					
23	Assam	9-Silchar	232	March-May, 2016	BEL
		23-Dhubri	192		
		32-Bongaigaon	222		
		37-Goalpara East	222		
		51-Jalukbari	212		
		52-Dispur	375		
		53-Gauhati East	240		
		54-Gauhati West	285		
		73-Tezpur	200		
		98-Jorhat	191		
During Bye Election to Telangana Legislative Assembly 2016, VVPAT used in the following AC					
24	Telangana	113-Palair	243	March-May, 2016	ECIL

19. COURT CASES INVOLVING ELECTION LAWS

Legislative Department, being administratively in-charge of election laws has also to handle various court cases involving validity of election and election laws. In the beginning of the year 2016, there were 235 cases pending in the Supreme Court and different High Courts on election related matter. During the said year, 17 fresh cases were received, in which para-wise comments, counter affidavits and appropriate instructions, respectively, have been conveyed to the concerned Government

Counsel. Out of the 17 fresh cases filed during the year under reference, 1 case has been disposed of and, apart from this, 6 old pending cases have also been disposed of during this period. Now, there are about 245 cases pending before the Supreme Court and various High Courts. All cases are being effectively monitored.

20. CONDUCT OF PARLIAMENTARY WORK

During the year 2016-17, the Legislative Department, which has been allocated the job of coordination/conduct of Parliamentary business of the Ministry of Law and Justice, handled the following work:-

S. No.	Item of Business	Figures for the Ministry of Law and Justice.
1.	Lok Sabha Questions	358
2.	Rajya Sabha Questions.	121
3.	Private Members' Bill in Lok Sabha.	8
4.	Private Members' Bills in Rajya Sabha	6
5.	Private Members' Resolutions	4
6.	Calling Attention Notices in Lok Sabha.	-
7.	Calling Attention Notices in Rajya Sabha.	1
8.	Short Duration Discussion in Lok Sabha.	2
9.	Matter raised during Zero Hour	28
10.	Matter raised under Rule 377 in Lok Sabha.	8
11.	Special Mention in Rajya Sabha.	10

21. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to the Ministry of Law and Justice was constituted on the 3rd September, 2014 with 11 Members under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice. During the year 2016, one meeting of the Consultative Committee attached to this Ministry was held on 5th April, 2016.

22. LEGISLATION UNDER CONCURRENT LIST

As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the following subjects which fall within List III-Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution as regards legislation only has been allocated to this Department:-

- (a) marriage and divorce, infants and minors, adoption, wills, intestate and succession, joint family and partition;
- (b) transfer of property other than agricultural land (excluding benami transactions, registration of deeds and documents);

- (c) contracts, but not including those relating to agricultural land;
- (d) actionable wrongs;
- (e) trusts and trustees, administrators-General and Official Trustees;
- (f) evidence and oaths;
- (g) civil procedure including limitation and arbitration;
- (h) Charitable and religious endowments and religious institutions.

23. REPORT OF THE LAW COMMISSION

At present, the Legislative Department is pursuing 41 Reports of the Law Commission of India on personal laws and on subjects mentioned in List III-Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, with which this Department is administratively concerned. The recommendations of the Commission are being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments/Union territories.

24. JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON OFFICE OF PROFIT

The Joint Committee on Offices of Profit which has been constituted during the tenure of each Lok Sabha (since the second Lok Sabha) undertakes the work of continuous scrutiny in respect of nature, character and composition of Office of Profit, statutory and non-statutory bodies under the Government of India or any State Government with a view to recommending to the Government of India for amending the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959.

(2) A Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament was constituted to examine the constitutional and legal provisions relating to office of profit during the 14th Lok Sabha and inter-alia, to suggest a comprehensive definition relating to the expression “office of profit” for the purposes of articles 102 (1) (a) and 191 (1) (a) of the Constitution. The Committee, after deliberations and taking evidence from the stakeholders and the State Governments, recommended for amendment of the Constitution for laying down a comprehensive definition of the expression “office of profit”. Accordingly, a draft Note for the Cabinet on the subject “Action on the Report of the Joint Committee of Parliament constituted to examine the constitutional and legal provisions relating to Office of Profit” along with a draft Bill to amend the Constitution has been prepared in this Department and circulated to all the Ministries/Department as well as the State Governments/Union territory Administrations for their views/comments. Comments of certain State Governments/ Union territory Administration and Ministries/Departments of the Central Government are still awaited.

25. EXPERT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE SPECIFIC RELIEFACT, 1963

In order to make the law relating to enforcement of contract more effective and business friendly for ease of doing business, an expert committee was constituted by Legislative Department on 28th January, 2016 to examine the provisions of the Specific Relief Act, 1963 and to make suggestions for

amendments therein. The said committee has submitted its report, which is being examined in this Department.

(2) In the context of the present day needs, the importance being attached to the ease of doing business and the enormous legal and regulatory reforms being carried out to facilitate the ease of doing business, enforcement of contracts, settlement of disputes, etc., it is proposed to amend the Act to bring it in conformity with the present needs.

26. PETITIONS AND OTHER COURT CASES RELATING TO PERSONAL LAWS AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

The Legislative Department, being in-charge of personal laws and matters relating to List III-Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, such as, the Contract Act, 1872, the Evidence Act, 1872, the Indian Trust Act, 1882, the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Partition Act, 1893, the Code of Civil procedure, 1908, the Limitation Act, 1963, etc. and also relating to office of profit, handled various petitions and other court cases in the Supreme Court and different High Courts. During the period from 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016, nine fresh cases have been received. Parawise comments, counter affidavits as per instructions have been prepared and conveyed to the Government Counsel.

27. STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

State Legislative proposals relating to the subjects falling under concurrent list of the Constitution and allocated to this Department, which, by virtue of the provisions of clause (2) of article 254 of the Constitution, require assent of the President are scrutinised in the Department. During the period from 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016, sixty eight references relating to State Bills/Ordinances have been scrutinised.

28. INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING AND RESEARCH (ILDR)

Legislative Drafting is a specialised job which involves drafting skill and expertise. Continuous and sustainable efforts are required to enhance the skills in drafting of laws. The existing resource persons need training and orientation to develop the aptitude and the skill in legislative drafting. In January, 1989, with a view to increasing the availability of trained Legislative Counsel in the country, the Institute of Legislative Drafting and Research (ILDR) was established as a Wing of the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice. Since its inception, ILDR has been imparting theoretical as well as practical training in Legislative Drafting. ILDR has been awarded ISO 9001:2008 Certification on the basis of evaluation of the working of QMS in ILDR. Now Dr. Mukulita Vijaywargiya is course Director of ILDR, who also functions as the controlling officer of the Institute. The following activities have been performed by ILDR during the period 2016-17.

- (i) Basic course in Legislative Drafting of three months' duration for the middle level law officers of the Central/State Governments/Union territory Administrations;

- (ii) Appreciation Course of two weeks' duration for the middle level officers of the Central Government Ministries/Departments/Attached/Subordinate Offices and Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- (2) During the period under report, ILDR has conducted one Basic Course, one Appreciation Course and one Refresher Course namely, the Twenty-Eight Basic Course in Legislative Drafting was conducted from 11th July, 2016 to 10th October, 2016, the Nineteenth Appreciation Course in Legislative Drafting was conducted from 20th January, 2016 to 3rd February, 2016.
- (3) ILDR offers Voluntary Internship Scheme for Law Students to motivate students in creating interest in legislative drafting skills and secure knowledge about the nature and working of the Legislative Department. Till now 284 trainees were benefited by the Basic Course and 263 officers got the training in Appreciation Course. More than 100 students were given opportunities till now under the Voluntary Internship Schemes.

29. E-GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES

- (i) Open Source Content Management Framework: As part of the Digital India Programme, the Legislative Department has accepted to adopt and migrate to the said Open Source Content Management Framework (CMF) through the National Informatics Centre (NIC) so as to make the Department's website more citizen friendly, which are in the final stages of completion and hosting. The Open Source Content Management Framework is being adopted with the objective of improving the Government Department websites so as to enable static sites to migrate to a dynamic portal, automatically making available certain special features like Mobile Friendliness, Text Speech Enablement, Language Translation/Transliteration, Payment Gateway Enablement and Visitor Analytic Dashboard. The CMF Team of NIC is in the final stages of completion of the said migration and the Open Source CMF website will be hosted very soon.
- (ii) Implementation of e-Office: Implementation of e-Office, as part of good governance and being an important part of the Mission Mode Projects of the Government, is under active consideration of the Department. It has been decided to implement e-Office Premium in the Legislative Department, provided by National Informatics Centre (NIC)/ National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICS). e-Office Premium is a standard product and is a re-useable one and one amenable to replication across the Ministries/Departments of the Government. The project will be implemented with the assistance of NICS. The Legislative Department has received the proposal from NICS to implement e-Office. Necessary administrative approval on the said proposal has been obtained and presently the same is being processed for obtaining financial approval. Once financial approval is received, steps will be taken in coordination with NIC and NICS to start implementation of the project in the Department in a phased manner as per the schedule provided by NICS in its proposal.

(iii) Migration of internet protocol from IPv4 to IPv6: Necessary steps have been taken by the Legislative Department in coordination with NIC Cell for conversion of the internet protocol of the computer systems installed in the Department from IPv4 to IPv6. NIC Cell examined the matter and has conveyed that all network routers in this Department's LAN have been made IPv6 compatible by replacing all non-manageable Hubs by Manageable Switches. On receipt of the preparedness report from the Network Administrator, NIC Head Quarters, NIC Cell will undertake pilot test network regarding IPv6 migration.

(iv) Cyber Security Instructions to thwart any possible cyber attack in the Legislative Department: The Cyber Security Instructions as provided by the Government to sensitise the officers and staff of the Legislative Department on the continuing threat of data pilferage, hacking and similar cyber attacks by non-State entities have been circulated for strict adherence in order to thwart any possible cyber attack and secure the Department's website.

30. RTI APPLICATIONS

Consequent upon the enactment of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (22 of 2005), the Legislative Department constituted a Right to Information Cell with effect from the 12th August, 2005 with one Appellate Officer, One Central Public Information Officer and one Central Assistant Public Information Officer. At Present Dr. Mukulita Vijayawargiya, Additional Secretary, Shri S.K. Chitkara, Deputy Secretary and Ms. Vidyawati, Under Secretary are functioning as the Appellate Authority, Central Public Information Officer and Central Assistant Public Information Officer. This Department has launched a separate webpage under the caption "Right to Information" on the Department's official website and maximum information pertaining to this Department has been disseminated therein in consonance with the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 so as to ensure the object of proactive disclosure of information envisaged under the Act. Further, contact E-mail addresses have been created in coordination with the NIC Cell for Appellate Authority and Central Public Information Officer of this Department, so as to make this Department's website more user friendly for the public to utilise the provisions of the said Act. The contact e-mail address of the Appellate Authority is aa-rti-legis@nic.in and that of the Central Public Information Officer is cpio-rti-legis@nic.in.

(2) Keeping in view, the various provisions of RTI Act, 2005, the applications received from the applicants are thoroughly examined and the available information collected from the concerned administrative units of the Legislative Department is provided to the applicants. Also, the applications which contain the subject matter pertaining to other Ministries/Departments of the Central Government are promptly transferred to the concerned Ministries/Departments in consonance with the relevant provisions of the said Act. Further, in case of first appeals, the same are independently examined by the Appellate Authority and disposed of within the prescribed time limit. During 2016-17 (1st April, 2016 to 31st December, 2017) seven hundred seventy (770) applications seeking information under the said Act were received, which were promptly attended to

by giving due reply to the applicants as per the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 and the rules made thereunder. Seventy one (71) first appeals preferred before the Appellate Authority have been duly disposed of on merits during the period of 1st April, 2016 to 31st December, 2016. As per the trends of inflow of applications, it is expected that some 300 more applications are expected during the remaining three months of 2016-2017. On account of handling of RTI applications, this Department has earned Rs.4270/- towards application fee and photo copying charges till December, 2016.

31. CORRECTION SECTION

(1) Maintenance of Central and State Codes

The Correction Section is responsible for maintenance and up-dating of the Central legislations, the Constitution of India and Orders issued thereunder, Manual of Election Laws, Central Ordinances, Regulations, President's Acts, General Statutory Rules and Orders and compilation of State Acts for the use of officers in the Ministry of Law and Justice. The amendments made by the amending Acts, passed by Parliament during the Budget Session, Monsoon Session and Winter Session 2016, which were brought into force, have been carried out in the master copies of India Code Volumes. This is an ongoing exercise. Out of the twenty-nine States, this Section has received the State Acts from thirteen States for the year 2016, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Delhi. This Section maintains master copies of the India Codes, which contains unrepealed Central Acts for reference by the Ministers-in-charge, officers in the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department) and the Law Officers of the Government of India. These are valuable reference books and are also used for publishing the revised editions of Acts by the Central Government. The Central Acts have been updated in the master copies of the India Codes upto the year 2015 and the work of updation for the year 2016 is under process. Index to Central Acts both Alphabetical and Chronological (Chronological table) have also been made available on the official website of Legislative Department under the heading Legislative References at www.lawmin.nic.in.

(2) During the year 2016, Correction Section has downloaded Gazette copies of Fifty-nine Acts of Parliament (including Ordinances, Appropriation Acts and Finance Act) and one Constitutional Amendment Act from the official website i.e. www.egazette.nic.in. Out of the above, 13 are Principal Acts, 24 are Amendment Acts and 10 are Ordinances promulgated by the President of India.

A. Principal Acts received during the year (excluding Appropriation Acts and Finance Act):

1. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2015 (1 of 2016)
2. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (2 of 2016)

3. The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Divisions of High Courts Act, 2015 (4 of 2016)
4. The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 (11 of 2016)
5. The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (16 of 2016)
6. The National Waterways Act, 2016 (17 of 2016)
7. The Aadhaar (A Targeted Delivery of Financial and other subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (18 of 2016)
8. The Anti- Hijacking Act, 2016 (30 of 2016)
9. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy code, 2016 (31 of 2016)
10. The Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University Act, 2016 (10 of 2016)
11. The Regional Centre for Biotechnology Act, 2016 (36 of 2016)
12. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (38 of 2016)
13. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (49 of 2016)

B. Amendment Acts including one Constitution Amendment Act received during the year:

1. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2016 (3 of 2015)
2. The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Act, 2016 (5 of 2016)
3. The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 2015 (6 of 2016)
4. The Sugar Cess (Amendment) Act, 2015 (9 of 2016)
5. The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2016 (10 of 2016)
6. The Carriage By Air (Amendment) Act, 2016 (12 of 2016)
7. The High Court and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2016 (13 of 2016)
8. The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Act, 2016 (21 of 2016)
9. The Repealing and Amending Act, 2016. (23 of 2016)
10. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order Amendment Act, 2016. (24 of 2016)
11. The Mines and Minerals (Development) and Regulation Amendment, 2016. (25 of 2016)
12. The Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016. (27 of 2016)

13. The Indian Trusts (Amendment) Act, 2016. (34 of 2016)
14. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 (35 of 2016)
15. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Act, 2016 (37 of 2016)
16. The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2016 (39 of 2016)
17. The Dentists (Amendment) Act, 2016 (40 of 2016)
18. The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Act, 2016 (41 of 2016)
19. The National Institutes of Technology, Science, Education and Research (Amendment), Act, 2016 (42 of 2016)
20. The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 (43 of 2016)
21. The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Act, 2016 (44 of 2016)
22. The Central Agricultural University (Amendment) Act, 2016 (45 of 2016)
23. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2016. (47 of 2016)
* The Constitution (One Hundredth and First Amendment) Act, 2016
24. The Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2016 (48 of 2016)

C. Ordinances promulgated by the President of India during the year:

1. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2016 (1 of 2016)
2. The Uttarakhand Appropriation (Vote on Account) Ordinance, 2016 (2 of 2016)
3. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Second Ordinance, 2016 (3 of 2016)
4. The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 (4 of 2016)
5. The Dentists (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 (5 of 2016)
6. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Third Ordinance, 2016 (6 of 2016)
7. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Fourth Ordinance, 2016 (7 of 2016)
8. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Fifth Ordinance, 2016 (8 of 2016)
9. The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 (9 of 2016)
10. The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Ordinance, 2016 (10 of 2016)

(3) Based on the above mentioned Acts of Parliament, the amendments have been carried out in the master copies of the Principal Acts. During the year 2016, the Acts which have been brought into force by the respective administrative Ministries, date of enforcement and their Notification numbers have been entered at the relevant places of master copies of the respective Acts.

32. GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS

During the year 2016, Correction Section has received Gazette of India Notifications upto 2015. According to the Ministry of Urban Development, (PSP Division) O.M. dated 25th February, 2016 all the Gazette Notifications and Acts of Parliament for the year 2015-16 shall be e-published by uploading on the official website i.e. www.egazette.nic.in. The Gazette copies of the same have been downloaded, arranged and entered in the respective folders.

33. STATE ACTS

During the year 2016, total 295 State Acts and 66 Ordinances were received from different States. All the Acts and Ordinances have been entered in the relevant Registers and Folders.

34. PRINTING SECTIONS

The Printing Sections of the Legislative Department, namely, the Printing I and Printing II, undertake the processing of legislation for printing at various stages. These two Sections handle the work relating to the editing of manuscripts of the Bills (including preparation of contents and annexures, wherever required), Ordinances, Regulations, Adaptation Orders, Orders issued under the Constitution of India, Delimitations Orders and other statutory instruments before sending them to Press. Proofs of the Bills, etc., are checked at multiple stages and after approval, the same are sent to Legislative I Section, which forwards them to Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariats for printing of 'To be introduced in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha' stage copies. The Bills, which are required to be introduced at a short notice are also got printed by the Printing Sections on behalf of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats. Subsequently, the printed copies of the Bill are examined at various stages, viz., 'To be/As introduced' stage, 'As passed by the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha' stage, 'As passed by Both the Houses' stage, 'Assent copy' stage, 'Signature copy' stage and at last, after assent of the President, the Act is prepared and processed for publication in the Official Gazette. Immediately thereafter, the Act is prepared and edited again for publishing the same as A-4 stage copy for public sale. Proofs of the A-4 size copies of the Acts are again scrutinised and get approved before returning to the Government Press for final printing and the printed copies of the Acts are checked for errata and released for sale.

(2) Besides. the editing and proof-checking of various other publications like the Constitution of India, India Code, Acts of Parliament, updated modified editions of the Central Acts, etc., are also undertaken by the Printing Sections, as per the departmental requirements.

(3) During the period from the 1st January, 2016 to the 31st December, 2016, the following tasks were undertaken by the Printing I and Printing II Sections, namely:-

- (a) processing and enactment of some important Acts, like Finance Act, 2016 (28 of 2016), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Act, 2016 (31 of 2016), the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016(38 of 2016) and the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 (43 of 2016).
- (b) edited manuscripts and checked the proofs, scrutiny copies of 100 Bills, 10 Ordinances, 2 Constitution Orders, 2 Regulations and 1 Gazette;
- (c) checked the computer printout copies $480 \times 2 = 960$ pages of the Constitution of India;
- (d) edited and checked 31 Acts of Parliament;
- (e) checked the proof and printed copies of 17 Diglot modified editions of Central Acts;
- (f) checked computer printout of Acts of Parliament for the year 1993, 2011 and 2012;
- (g) India Code updated Acts printout pages for the year 2015 to 2016 containing approximate pages 9000 has been checked.

35. GENERAL STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS (G.S.R.O). SECTION

The revised edition of the Central Acts is published by the Legislative Department and the subordinate legislation under the Acts are published by the administrative Ministry or the Department concerned.

(2) The subordinate legislation consisting of general statutory rules and orders, notifications, etc., under an enactment is prepared and issued by the Ministry or Department which is administratively concerned with the Act, after getting it vetted from the Legislative Department. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation, a scheme for maintaining subordinate legislation up-to date and making the same available expeditiously to the public was formulated. The administrative Ministries are required under the said scheme, to maintain folders, containing up-to date copies of rules, orders and notifications issued by them.

(3) The Rajya Sabha Committee on subordinate Legislation in its 135th Report has categorically recommended that Ministries, as part of their e-governance initiative may, put all legislation on their websites, preferably bilingually. The Committee has further recommended that the Ministry of Communication and information Technology would develop standard application software with an internet interface for use in all Ministries, which would provide a searchable database of subordinate legislation linked to the principal Acts, administered by the respective Ministry.

(4) General Statutory Rules and Orders (GSRO) Section maintains alphabetical registers regarding General Statutory Rules and Orders (GSRO) issued by the various Ministries/Departments published in the Gazette of India and also compiles them in book form for official use. Entries of various notifications have been made in the alphabetical registers relating to Part-II Section 3, Sub-sections (i) and (ii) of various Ordinary and Extraordinary Notifications up to the month of December, 2014.

(5) General Statutory Rules and Orders (GSRO) Section has during the year 2015 sorted out the Gazette notifications relating to subordinate legislation issued by various Ministries/Departments under Part-II, Section 3, Sub- sections (i) and (ii), both pertaining to Ordinary and Extraordinary notifications upto the month of December, 2014 and bound in book form.

(6) The Gazette notifications issued by various Ministries/Departments under Part-II, Section 4 and Part-III, Section 4 both pertaining to Ordinary and Extraordinary notifications for the period upto 2015 have been sorted out and under process for binding in book form.

(7) During the year 2016, the General Statutory Rules and Orders (GSRO) Section has received notifications upto, the month of May, 2015, May. According to Ministry of Urban Development, (PSP Division) O.M, dated the 25th February, 2016, all the notifications for the year 2015-16 shall be e-published by uploading on the official website i.e. www.egazette.nic.in.

36. INTEGRATED FINANCE AND BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS SECTION (IFD)

The Integrated Finance and Budget and Accounts Section is responsible for the work relating to preparation of Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates for all the three Departments of the Ministry of Law and Justice, namely, Department of Legal Affairs, Legislative Department and Department of Justice and also for various autonomous bodies such as ICADR, ICPS, BCI, ITAT, NALSA, Supreme Court Legal Association etc. Further, the work relating to finalisation of Budget, Pre-Budget Discussion, Vote on Account and seeking supplementary/ additional funds are also looked after by this Section. The preparation of the Detailed Demands for Grants of the whole Ministry and compiling of Election Commission of India and Supreme Court of India is also done by Budget and Accounts Section. The Section is also accountable for preparing and printing of the Annual Report and Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Law and Justice. Apart from this, the Section is also dealing with the proposals which involve financial implications and wherever specific opinion is required to be taken from the Ministry of Finance. The work relating to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Law and Justice is also co-ordinated by this Section.

(2) IF&B&A Section is also responsible for the work relating to provisional release of funds to the States/Union territories (having Legislatures) on account of Election related expenditure under the Major Head 2015. The Section releases the funds under the following categories:

- (a) Electoral Offices: This relates to day to day establishment related expenditure including salaries of election staff. The expenditure is shared on a 50:50 basis between the Government of India and State Governments /Union territories (having Legislatures).
- (b) Preparation and Printing of Electoral Rolls: This relates to printing of electoral rolls and excludes expenditure incurred on computerisation of electoral rolls undertaken by the State Governments /Union territories (having Legislatures) on the direction of the Election Commission of India to them.
- (c) Charges for conduct of elections to the Lok Sabha - This expenditure is borne fully by

the Union Government when such elections are held independently but shared in equal proportion when held simultaneously with State Legislative Assembly elections.

- (d) Charges for conduct of elections to Parliament (Rajya Sabha)- This expenditure is borne fully by the Union Government.
- (e) Issue of Photo Identity Cards to Voters - This expenditure is shared on a 50:50 basis between the Government of India and States/Union territories (having Legislatures) and is a recurring expenditure.
- (f) Expenditure on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Expenditure on Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections- This expenditure is borne fully by the Union Government.

37. PUBLICATION SECTION

Publication Section brings out, from time to time, modified editions of the Central Acts and other important publications like the Constitution of India, Manual of Election Law, Orders issued under the Constitution of India, Index to Central Acts in Alphabetical and Chronological orders, Index Statutory Definitions etc.

- (2) The Constitution of India (English and Hindi version) incorporating the latest amendments have been compiled for bringing out the fifth edition of the pocket size Constitution in diglot form.
- (3) The proof of the Constitution of India was scrutinised and vetted for being published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- (4) Manuscripts of English version of fifteen Acts including the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the Evidence Act, 1872, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 duly incorporating the up to date amendments have been prepared and forwarded to Official Languages Wing for necessary action and publication of some Central is also under process.

38. THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE SECTION

The Official Language Section of the Legislative Department is administratively responsible for the effective implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Union of India, the Official Language Act, 1963 and the Official Language Rules, 1976. This Section is also responsible for the increase of the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes of the Union, in addition to translation of various materials from English to Hindi and vice-versa.

(2) Implementation of Constitutional and other provisions regarding the Official Language Policy

- (i) During the period from 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016, the Legislative Department has taken the following steps to implement the Official Language Policy :-
As per the provisions of the Official Language Rules 1976 , at present, more than

90%, 75% and 64.2% letters to regions ‘A’ , ‘B’ and ‘C’ are being sent in Hindi respectively. Constant efforts are being made in this regard to achieve the targets stipulated in the Annual Programme issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs. The replies to the letters, applications, representations etc., received in Hindi are being sent invariably in Hindi. All the Resolutions, General Orders, Rules, Notifications, Administrative Reports, other Reports and Documents laid before Parliament, Contracts, Notices etc., are issued bilingually as per sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Official Language Act, 1963 .

- (ii) Legislative Department was notified on 29th April, 1979 under sub-rule (4) of rule 10 of the Official Language Rules, 1976 for conducting the official business in Hindi. The officers and employees who are proficient in Hindi have been directed to submit the drafts etc., only in Hindi. For this purpose, 17 Sections out of 31 have been specified to transact the official work in Hindi under sub-rule (4) of rule 8 of the Official Language Rules, 1976.

(3) The Quarterly Progressive Reports for the Progressive Use of Official Language Hindi

The Quarterly Progressive Reports of Hindi are regularly being sent to the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs. Through these Reports, position of employees regarding Hindi training and their overall work in Hindi are reflected and it is ensured that the percentage of correspondence as well as noting and drafting in Hindi increase as per the Annual Programme issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.

(4) Meetings of the Official Language Implementation Committee

An Official Language Implementation Committee has been constituted in this Department under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel (OL Wing). The meeting of this Committee is held once in every three months regularly to assess the progressive use of Hindi for official purposes. The agenda and minutes of these meetings are sent to the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs. The minutes are also circulated to all the officers and Sections of the Department for compliance. Quarterly meetings of the Official Language Implementation Committee were held during the year on 18th March, 2016 (1st), 20th June, 2016 (2nd), 29th September, 2016 (3rd) and 22nd December, 2016 (4th) respectively. This Committee provides effective means to identify problems and find out the solutions for the progressive use of Hindi. In the meetings of this Committee, the Annual Programme issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs for transacting the official work of the Union in Hindi is also discussed and every effort is made to achieve the prescribed targets therein. The orders, circulars, directives, notifications, resolutions, recommendations etc., regarding the implementation of Official Language Policy of the Union of India are also discussed in these meetings.

(5) Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry

As per the guidelines issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Law and Justice was constituted on 4th August, 1967 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Law and Justice. This Committee has jointly been constituted for Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department. The Committee comprises the Members of Parliament, nominated by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Committee of Parliament on Official Language, the nominees of Kendriya Sachivalaya Hindi Parishad, nominees of prominent All India Hindi Voluntary Organisations, nominees of the Ministry of Law and Justice and those of Department of Official Language as non-official members. The Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and the concerned Joint Secretaries of the Department of Legal Affairs, Legislative Department and Department of Official Language are the official members of this Committee.

After formation of the 16th Lok Sabha, the committee has been reconstituted and its first meeting has been held in Udaipur, Rajasthan on 7th July, 2015.

(6) Hindi Training

This Department nominates its officers/employees for various training courses of Hindi conducted by Hindi Teaching Scheme, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs. These Hindi Language Courses are Prabodh, Praveen and Pragya. There are training courses for Hindi typing and Hindi shorthand also. The nomination to these Hindi courses is a continuous process as the officers/employees get recruited, promoted and transferred on regular basis.

(7) Hindi Fortnight

A ‘Hindi Fortnight’ from 14th September to 30th September, 2016 was organised in this Department. Various Hindi competitions were held during this period and a large number of officers and employees participated in these competitions. Out of these, two competitions were organised exclusively for non-Hindi speaking personnel. The first, second, third and consolation prizes of Rs.2500/-, Rs.2000/- Rs.1500/- and Rs.500/- respectively. have been awarded to the winners of the competition. Amount of Rs.64,000/- has been sanctioned to be given to the winner of these competitions.

(8) Incentive Schemes for working in Hindi

There are three incentive schemes in operation in this Department for the progressive use of Hindi as directed by O.L. Department. This year, applications are received only for the original noting and drafting in Hindi under which prizes are to be given to ten employees. Apart from these schemes, officers and employees are granted cash prizes and advance increments on passing the Hindi Training Courses of Hindi Language, Hindi shorthand and Hindi typing conducted by the Hindi Teaching Scheme.

(9) Committee of Parliament on Official Language

The Committee of Parliament on Official Language was set up in 1976 to monitor and give suggestions for the progressive use of the Official Language in Central Government Ministries/Departments and their offices. As far as Legislative Department is concerned, orders issued by the Department of Official Language, based on the recommendations of this Committee are being implemented.

39. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES WING

(1) FUNCTIONS

The Official Languages Wing is a successor Organisation of the Official Languages (Legislative) Commission under the Legislative Department. It has been entrusted with the following functions :-

- (i) Preparation and publication of a standard legal terminology for use, as far as possible, in all Official Languages;
- (ii) Preparation of authoritative texts in Hindi of all Central Acts and Ordinances and Regulations promulgated by the President;
- (iii) Preparation of authoritative texts in Hindi of all Rules, Regulations and Orders made by the Central Government under any Central Act or any Ordinance or Regulation promulgated by the President;
- (iv) Preparation of authoritative texts of all Central Acts and Ordinances and Regulations promulgated by the President in the respective Official Languages of the States and to arrange for the translation of all Acts passed and Ordinances promulgated in any State into Hindi, if the texts of such Acts or Ordinances are in a language other than Hindi; and
- (v) Translation into Hindi of deeds, legal documents like contracts, agreements, leases, bonds, mortgages etc. of different Departments;
- (vi) Translation into Hindi of all statutory Notifications under Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963 ;
- (vii) Translation into Hindi of statutory Rules issued by Governments of States under Presidential Rule;
- (viii) Translation into Hindi of all the Parliament Questions/Answers, Assurances etc, relating to the Ministry of Law and Justice;
- (ix) Training in Legislative Drafting in Hindi to Officers from Hindi speaking States;
- (x) Work relating to Coordination Committee of Hindi speaking States for ensuring effective coordination in the evolution of uniform legal phraseology and model of standard clauses in Hindi and publication thereof;

- (xi) Work relating to Hindi Salahkar Samiti of the Ministry of Law and Justice;
- (xii) Work relating to providing Grants-in-Aid to voluntary organisations for promotion of Official Languages in the field of law;
- (xiii) Publication of diglot editions of Central Acts (with legislative history) and popularisation thereof;
- (xiv) Preparation and maintenance of India Code in Hindi (Bharat Sanhita) and also in diglot form; and
- (xv) Publication of regional language versions of the Constitution of India and their release.

(2) LEGAL GLOSSARY

Since the inception of Official Languages (Legislative) Commission in 1961, seven editions of Legal Glossary have been brought out and every successive edition is larger in size. While the first edition (1970) contained 20,000 entries, the latest sixth edition (2001) of Legal Glossary contained approximately 63,000 entries spread over in eight parts. Latest 7th Edition of Legal Glossary has been published in the year 2015 and contained approximately 65,000 entries spread over in seven parts. The Legal Glossary brought out by the Official Languages Wing, which is one of the most important and prestigious publications, has received wide acclaim by discerning men of law and letters.

(3) CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

Besides, the authoritative text of the Constitution of India in Hindi (the Official Language of the Union), the authoritative texts of the Constitution have been brought out in 15 other regional languages, namely, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Sindhi, Nepali and Konkani.

Special Edition of Constitution of India published on the occasion of First Constitution Day i.e. 26th November, 2015.

(4) BHARAT SANHITA

All the Central Acts have been compiled and brought out in the form of India Code in handy volumes. The last edition of India Code consisting of eight volumes was published in 1959. Action has already been initiated for bringing out Bharat Sanhita (Revised Edition of India Code) in diglot form in chronological order.

One of the salient features of the Code is that the statement of objects and reasons appended to the principal Bills have also been added at the end of each Act and included in the revised edition of India Code. Volume I to XXXI of the revised edition of India Code have already been published and manuscripts of the India Code Volume XXXII and XXXIII have been sent to Press.

(5) PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION OF AUTHORITATIVE TEXTS OF CENTRAL ACTS

During the period under report, authoritative texts of about 38 Acts in Hindi have been published in the Official Gazette under section 5 (1)(a) of the Official Languages Act, 1963. Now the total number of such Acts since 1963 have gone up to 2391.

(6) PUBLICATION OF DIGLOT EDITIONS OF CENTRAL ACTS

Central Acts, for which there is likelihood of public demand, are published by the Official Languages Wing in diglot form. When there is a public demand for a particular Act, the same is published in diglot form (Hindi & English) for sale to general public. Total number of such Acts is 401 as on date.

(7) AUTHORISED HINDI TRANSLATION OF BILLS, ORDINANCES, ETC.

Sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 requires that all Bills to be introduced or amendments thereto moved in either House of the Parliament shall be accompanied by Hindi translation of the same. During the period under report, the Hindi translation of 87 Bills, simultaneously with their English texts, was supplied to the Houses of Parliament. Besides this, Hindi translation of 07 Ordinances and 06 Notes for the Cabinet and 40 Acts were also prepared.

(8) GENERAL STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS (G.S.R.Os)

Sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 lays down the foundation for bilingual working of the Central Government. Under clause (1) of that sub-section, all resolutions, general orders, rules, notifications etc., issued or made by the Central Government must be both in Hindi and English languages. During the period under report, 8477 pages of such statutory rules/notifications etc., were prepared for different Departments of the Central Government.

(9) PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION OF AUTHORITATIVE TEXTS OF RULES, REGULATIONS, ORDERS ETC.

Clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 requires that translation in Hindi published under the authority of the President in the Official Gazette of any Order, Rule, Regulation or Bye-law issued under the constitution or under any Central Act shall be deemed to be the authoritative text thereof in Hindi. Some Rules, Regulations, Orders etc., are at different stages of translation. During the period under report, 2788 pages of Recruitment Rules were translated. Authoritative texts of seven Regulations were published under sub-section 3(1)(b) of the said Act.

(10) MAINTENANCE OF CENTRAL ACTS, ETC.

The Correction Section of the Official Languages Wing is maintaining and updating the Central legislations kept as master copies in the form of India Code, India Code (Diglot) as well as Bharat Sanhita. It also keeps Constitution of India and important manuals including Manual of Election

Law up-to-date for reference by the officers in this Wing. This Section is responsible for carrying out the amendments made by the amending Acts passed by the Parliament in the aforesaid master copies of Central legislation.

Besides, manuscripts of Hindi Central Acts for publication in diglot form have also been prepared and printed copies of 08 diglot edition have been printed by O.L. Wing.

In addition to above, this Section supplied—

- (a) 15 up-to-date English copies of Central Acts (diglot edition) to various State Governments for translation into various regional languages; and
- (b) Gazette copies of Hindi version of Central Acts to Hindi speaking States for re-publication in their State Gazettes. This year Index to Central Acts in Alphabetical and chronological order (Diglot) and Constitution of India (Diglot) were prepared and published.
- (c) Work relating to publication mainly undertaken by this Section.

(11) EDITING OF MANUSCRIPTS OF BILLS, ACTS, ORDINANCES, DIGLOT EDITIONS, ETC. AND PUBLICATION THEREOF

The Printing Section of the Official Languages Wing is primarily concerned with the editing of manuscripts and checking of proofs of Bills, Ordinances, Regulations, President's Acts etc; issued under the Constitution of India, Delimitation of Council Constituencies orders, etc; Bills, which are required to be introduced in a short time, are also printed on behalf of the Houses of People or the Council of States. Editing and Proof-Checking of the publication in diglot form of the Constitution of India, Manual of Election Law, revised Edition of India Code, modified diglot edition of Central Acts, statutory Rules and Orders, Annual Reports etc. are also done in this Section. This Section is also responsible for the printing and publication of Central Acts, Ordinances, Regulations, President's Act, etc; and their subsequent reprints in diglot form as publication for sale. This Section discharged all its responsibilities during the year under review.

The Printing Section of the Official Languages Wing is also performing the duties of the publication Section. During the period under report, 38 Acts were authenticated and 7 Ordinances were got published by this Section. Moreover, Legal Glossary (VII Edition) and Constitution of India (Hindi) (Royal 8V0 Size) were published.

(12) PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION OF STANDARD LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Section 3 (3)(iii) of the Official Languages Act, 1963 requires that both Hindi and English Languages are to be used for agreements, contracts, leases, bonds, tenders etc., issued by or on behalf of the Central Government. or any Ministry, Department or office thereof. In order to comply with the requirement of the said Act, the Official Languages Wing has prepared Hindi version of the documents in eight volumes for various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government with a view to achieve uniformity in their translation. During the period under report, the Hindi version of 2655 pages of Parliament Questions Answers/Assurances of this Ministry was also prepared.

(13) ESTABLISHING THE INDIAN LANGUAGES IN THE SPHERE OF LAW

The Official Languages Wing, Regional Languages Unit is constantly doing the work of translation of Central Acts into Hindi as enshrined in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. So far as the regional languages are concerned, this work is being done with the co-operation of respective State Governments.

The Official Languages Wing has also published the authoritative texts of Central Acts in regional languages as envisaged under section 2 of the Authoritative Texts (Central Laws) Act, 1973 (50 of 1973). During the period under report, translation of 21 Central Acts have been approved by the Working Group (Regional Languages) and 10 Central Acts in Regional Languages and 38 Central Acts in Hindi have been authenticated as authoritative texts by the President of India. Besides the Authoritative texts of the Constitution of India in addition to Hindi has been brought out in 15 other Regional Languages that is, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telgu, Urdu, Sindhi, Nepali and Konkani.

(14) WIDE DISTRIBUTION OF CENTRAL ACTS, LEGAL GLOSSARY ETC.

The Gazette copies of Hindi version of Central Acts after they have been authenticated and published in the Gazette of India have been sent to Hindi speaking States. They were also sent to Gujarat and Maharashtra and the High Courts in these States. Further, these copies were sent to the concerned Ministries and Departments of Government of India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Nagri Pracharini Sabha, Parliament Library and other Libraries. Copies of the Central Acts in diglot form are regularly sent to all States (Hindi as well as non-Hindi speaking States), Supreme Court of India, Parliament Library and all High Courts.

(15) WORK RELATING TO THE HINDI SALAHKAR SAMITI

The Twelfth Hindi Salahkar Samiti of this Ministry was constituted vide Resolution No.E.4(1)/2014-O.L.Wing(LD) dated 14th May, 2015 for three years or remaining tenure of present Lok Sabha which consists of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Members and about eleven official members and invitees. The first meeting of Twelfth Hindi Salahkar Samiti was held on 7th July, 2015 at Udaipur, Rajasthan. The functions of the Samiti are normally to advise the Central Government on matter relating to :-

- (i) preparation of Hindi version of Central Acts and statutory rules ;
- (ii) the evolution of common legal terminology ;
- (iii) the production of standard law books in Hindi for imparting legal education in Hindi in law colleges and Universities ;
- (iv) publication of law journals and reports in Hindi ;
- (v) matters ancillary and incidental to any of the above items ; and
- (vi) suggest ways and means for the propagation and development of Hindi in the field of law for official use.

(16) GRANTS IN AID TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

There is a scheme for the promotion of Official Languages of the Union and States for propagation and development of Hindi and other Indian languages in the field of law. Under the scheme ,Voluntary Organisations and institutions are provided with financial aid. Since 1985, the Official Languages Wing has been implementing this scheme to give financial assistance to those voluntary organisations which are engaged in the activities for development and propagation of literature in the field of law and other regional languages which could be in the form of proposed commentaries, treatises, books on legal subjects, law journals, law compendium and other publications as are conducive to enrichment, propagation and development of Hindi and other regional languages of the State. A Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice Sudhir Kumar Katriar (Retd.) sanctioned the financial assistance amounting to Rs. 10.00 lakhs only to Fourteen voluntary organisations for the year 2015-16.

(17) SPECIAL STEPS ADOPTED FOR THE PROGRESSIVE USE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The URL of the Official Languages Wing is <http://lawmin.nic.in/olwing>. The important Acts of Parliament translated into various regional languages have been hosted under the respective languages on the home page of the O.L. Wing. In order to provide soft copies of the Recruitment Rules/Notifications etc; the O.L. Wing has started using Unicode font also.

The Constitution of India, I.P.C., Cr. P.C. and the Manual of Election Law have already been hosted on the net. This website has been further enriched by putting a list of Acts and a list of Rules and Regulations. Up dated Central Acts from 1980 to 2014 have also been uploaded on the website in PDF format for the benefit of legal fraternity and general public as well as the law students.

During the period under report, Bill Section, Translation-I Section, Translation-II Section, Legislative-I Section, Legislative-II Section, Printing Section, Correction Section, Administration Section, Cash Section and Library of O.L. Wing have been fully computerised. The camera ready copies of some important Bills were prepared during the period under report. A list of names, addresses and contact numbers of all the Group 'A' officers of the O.L. Wing in English and Hindi have also been hosted on the Net.

The Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for promotion of Official Languages in the field of law has also been hosted both in English and Hindi on the Net.

40. VIDHI SAHITYA PRAKASHAN

In the year 1958, the Committee of Parliament on Official Languages recommended to make arrangements to bring out authorised translation of important judgments of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts and to entrust this task to a Central Office under the supervision of Law Department. Thereafter, on the recommendations of the Hindi Advisory Committee, a Journal Wing was set up in the Legislative Department in the year 1968 with the object of promoting the use of

Hindi in the field of law. This Wing was subsequently redesignated as “VIDHI SAHITYA PRAKASHAN”.

(2) Initially, a monthly publication of all the reportable judgments of the Supreme Court of India, as marked ‘REPORTABLE’ was started in April, 1968 and it was designated as “Uchchatama Nyayalaya Nirnaya Patrika”. Another monthly publication containing judgments of the High Courts was started in January, 1969 and it was designated as “Uchcha Nayayalaya Nirnaya Patrika”. In the year 1987 “Uchcha Nyayalaya Nirnaya Patrika” was bifurcated into two Nirnaya Patrikas i.e. “Uchcha Nyayalaya Civil Nirnaya Patrika” and “Uchcha Nyayalaya Dandik Nirnaya Patrika”. Later on, due to ever-increasing volume of Supreme Court’s reportable judgments as well as dearth of requisite editorial staff in the Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan, the “Uchchatama Nyayalaya Nirnaya Patrika” has been publishing in Hindi only selected reportable judgments of the Supreme Court since 1990. The “Uchcha Nyayalaya Civil Nirnaya Patrika” and “Uchcha Nyayalaya Dandik Nirnaya Patrika” respectively publishing in Hindi only important selected Judgements in civil and criminal matters of all High Courts of the country.

(3) Apart from the publication of the above three patrikas, the Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan is also responsible for the following functions, namely :–

- (a) Publication of text books in Hindi in the field of law for use in the academic and others as reference books;
- (b) translation and publication of legal classics in Hindi ;
- (c) awarding of various prizes for the best publications in Hindi in the field of law;
- (d) sale of Hindi publications of the Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan and diglot editions etc. of the Official Language Wing of the Legislative Department ; and
- (e) holding of conferences, seminars and book exhibitions at different parts of the country, particularly in Hindi speaking States for popularisation and improvement of legal literature in Hindi.

(4) In addition to above, standard law books in Hindi written by eminent authors are also being published by the Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan for the use of law students, law teachers, lawyers and judicial officers. In order to give incentive to authors writing law books originally in Hindi and to publishers in the private sector, the prizes and certificates are awarded annually for best publication in Hindi in the field of law.

(5) Seminars in the premises of law colleges, High Courts, District Courts etc., in the Hindi as well as non-Hindi speaking States are held from time to time for propagation and development of Hindi in the field of law. Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan also holds exhibitions of its own publications, including diglot (Hindi-English) editions of the Central Acts of the Official Languages Wing in High Courts and District Courts etc. of different Hindi and non-Hindi speaking States and looks after the sale of these publications.

(6) A quarterly journal entitled ‘Vidhi Sahitya Samachar’ is also being published which contains detailed information regarding various activities in the field of law and publications of the Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan. A ‘Publication List’ containing priced publication available with Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan is also made available to the people and customers from time to time.

The details of progress made during the year 2016 are given below:-

(7) **Publication of Nirnaya Patrika :** During the period under report, at the editing/translation stage, the ‘Uchchatama Nyayalaya Nirnaya Patrika’ has been updated upto October-December, 2016, ‘Uchcha Nyayalaya Civil Nirnaya Patrika’ has been updated upto January-March, 2016 and ‘Uchcha Nyayalaya Dandik Nirnaya Patrika’ has been updated upto April-June, 2016.

During the year 2016 the number of the subscribers of the Patrikas is as under :-

Uchchatama Nyayalaya Nirnaya Patrika	95
Uchcha Nyayalaya Civil Nirnaya Patrika	90
Uchcha Nyayalaya Dandik Nirnaya Patrika	88

(8) **Award of Prizes :** Under the Scheme for writing, translating and publication of law books in Hindi and awarding prizes to such books written or published in Hindi for use as text books or reference books, the award to the tune of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakh only), [the 1st prize for Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only), 2nd prize for Rs. 30,000/- (Rupees thirty thousand only) and 3rd prize for Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand only)] are awarded annually for the best publication in Hindi in the five principal branches of law. 14 best law books written in Hindi has been awarded for prize in the year 2016 amounting to Rs.3,40,000/- under the scheme.

(9) **Publication of Books :** So far 34 standard law books in Hindi have been published by Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan.

(10) **Seminars, Exhibitions and Sale of Books, etc. :** In the sequence of holding seminars and books exhibitions, in the year 2016, exhibitions of books have been organised in World Book Fair, New Delhi, District Courts of Ahmedabad, Baskanta (Palanpur), Dehradun, Haridwar (Uttarakhand). In these exhibitions, the advocates showed keen interest and highly appreciated the publications of Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan. During the period from 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016, the total sale figure of Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan is Rs.41,32,940/- (Rupees Forty one Lakh thirty two thousand and nine hundred forty only).

41. DEPUTATION/DELEGATION ABROAD : LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

The following Officers in the Legislative Department visited abroad as per details given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Officer	Designation	Country	Duration	Purpose
1.	Dr. G. Narayana Raju	Secretary	New York, USA	27th June, 2016 to 1st July, 2016	To participate in the 49th Session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).
2.	Ms. Veena Kothavale	Additional Legislative Counsel	Vienna, Austria	12th September, 2016 to 23rd September, 2016	To participate in the 65th Session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).
3.	Smt. Sunita Anand,	Deputy Legislative Counsel.	Colombo, Sri Lanka	4th and 5th October, 2016.	To participate in the Second Regional Legislative Drafting Workshop on Internal Humanitarian Law (IHL).
4.	Shri Y.S. Rao	Deputy Legislative Counsel.	Colombo, Sri Lanka	4th and 5th October, 2016.	To participate in the Second Regional Legislative Drafting Workshop on Internal Humanitarian Law (IHL).

42. RESERVATION FOR THE SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES, OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES, EX-SERVICEMEN AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS IN SERVICE POSTS

An Officer of the level of Deputy Secretary is functioning as Liaison Officer for the three Administrative Wings of the Legislative Department, viz., Legislative Department (Main), Official Languages Wing and Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan to oversee the implementation of Orders/Instructions of the Government on reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, ex-servicemen and Physically Handicapped persons in service/posts in respective units.

(2) A Statement showing the total number of employees in the Department (Main), Official Languages Wing and Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan and number of employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Ex-servicemen and Physically handicapped persons and the female employees amongst them as on 01.01.2017 is enclosed **Annexure-X and Annexure-XI**.

43. DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTING ORGANIZATION

The Secretary is the Chief Accounting Authority in the Ministry of Law and Justice. He discharges his functions with the assistance of Additional Secretary (Financial Adviser) and Chief Controller of Accounts.

(2) As per Rule 64 of GFRs 2005, the Secretary of a Ministry/Department who is the Chief Accounting Authority of the Ministry/Department shall:—

- (i) Be responsible and accountable for financial management of his Ministry or Department.
- (ii) Ensure that the public funds appropriated to the Ministry are used for the purpose for which they were meant.
- (iii) Be responsible for the effective, efficient, economical and transparent use of the resources of the Ministry in achieving the stated project objectives of that Ministry, whilst complying with performance standards.
- (iv) Appear before the Committee on Public Accounts and any other Parliamentary Committee for examination.
- (v) Review and monitor regularly the performance of the programs and projects assigned to his Ministry to determine whether stated objectives are achieved.
- (vi) Be responsible for preparation of expenditure and other statements relating to his Ministry as required by regulations, guidelines or directives issued by Ministry of Finance.

(vii) Shall ensure that his Ministry maintains full and proper records of financial transactions and adopts systems and procedures that will at all time afford internal controls.

(viii) Shall ensure that his Ministry follows the Government procurement procedure for execution of works, as well as for procurement of services and supplies and implements it in a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective manner.

(ix) Shall take effective and appropriate steps to ensure his Ministry:-

- (a) Collects all moneys due to the Government and
- (b) Avoids unauthorized, irregular and wasteful expenditure.

(3) As per Para 1.2.2 of Civil Accounts Manual, the Chief Controller of Accounts for and on behalf of the Chief Accounting Authority is responsible for :-

- (a) Arranging all payments through the Pay and Accounts Offices/Principal Accounts Office except where the Drawing and Disbursing Officers are authorized to make certain types of payments.
- (b) Compilation and consolidation of accounts of the Ministry/ Department and their submission in the form prescribed, to the Controller General of Accounts; preparation of Annual Appropriation Accounts for the Demands for Grants of his Ministry/Department, getting them duly audited and submitting them to the CGA, duly signed by the Chief Accounting Authority.
- (c) Arranging internal inspection of payment and accounts records maintained by the various subordinate formations and Pay and Accounts Offices of the Department and inspection of records pertaining to transaction of Government Ministries/Departments, maintained in Public Sector Banks.

(4) The Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Law and Justice, Supreme Court of India performs his duties with the assistance of two Pr. Accounts Officers and four Pay and Accounts Officers amongst other staff.

(5) The Ministry of Law and Justice, Supreme Court has 51 DDOs including 32 CDDOs and 19 NCDDOs. The non-cheque drawing DDOs submit bills to the Pay and Accounts Office under pre-check system of payment. The PAO-wise detail of the CDDOs and NCDDOs is as under:

S.No.	PAO	D.D.O.	
		CDDOs	NCDDOs
1	PAO (EO)	4	3
2	PAO (LA)	28	11
3	PAO (SCI)	0	1
4	PAO (LD)	0	4

(6) As per Para 1.2.3 of Civil Accounts Manual, Principal Accounts Office in New Delhi functions under a Principal Accounts Officer who is responsible for :-

- a) Consolidation of the accounts of the Ministry/Department in the manner prescribed by CGA;
- b) Preparation of Annual Appropriation Accounts of the Demands for Grants controlled by that Ministry/Department, submission of Statement of Central Transactions and material for the Finance Account of the Union Government(Civil) to the Controller General of Accounts;
- c) Payment of loans and grants to State Government through Reserve Bank of India, and wherever this office has a drawing account payment there from to Union Territory Government/Administrations;
- d) Preparation of manuals keeping in view the objective of management accounting system if any, and for rendition of technical advice to Pay and Accounts Offices, maintaining necessary liaison with CGA's Office and to effect overall coordination and control in accounting matters;
- e) Maintaining Appropriation Audit Registers for the Ministry/ Department as a whole to watch the progress of expenditure under the various Grants operated on by the Ministry/Department;

Principal Accounts Office/Officer also performs all administrative and coordinating function of the accounting organization and renders necessary financial, technical, accounting advice to department as well as to local Pay & Accounts offices.

(7) As per provisions contained in Civil Accounts Manual, Pay & Accounts offices make payments pertaining to respective Ministries/ Departments and in certain cases payments will be made by the departmental Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) authorized to draw funds, by means of cheques drawn on the offices/branches of accredited bank that may be authorized for handling the receipts and payments of the Ministry/Department. These payments will be accounted for in separate scrolls to be rendered to the Pay and Accounts Offices of Ministry/Department concerned. Each Pay and Accounts Office or Drawing and Disbursing Officer authorized to make payments by cheques, will draw only on the particular branch/branches of the accredited bank with which the Pay and Accounts Office or the Drawing and Disbursing Officer as the case may be, is placed in account. All receipts of the Ministry/Department are also be finally accounted for in the books of the Pay and Accounts Office. The Pay and Accounts office is the basic Unit of Departmentalized Accounting Organization. Its main function include:-

- Pre-check and payment of all bills, including those of loans and grants-in-aid, submitted by Non-Cheque Drawing DDOs.
- Accurate and timely payments in conformity with prescribed rules and regulations.

- Timely realization of receipts.
- Issue of quarterly letter of credit to Cheque Drawing DDOs and post check of their Vouchers/bills.
- Compilation of monthly accounts of receipts and expenditures made by them incorporating there with the accounts of the cheque Drawing DDOs.
- Maintenance of GPF accounts other than merged DDO and authorization of retirement benefits.
- Maintenance of all DDR Heads.
- Efficient service delivery to the Ministry/Department by the banking system by way of e-payment.
- Adherence to the prescribed Accounting Standards, rules and principles.
- Timely, accurate, comprehensive, relevant and useful financial reporting.

(8) The specific approval of the CGA, Ministry of Finance would have to be obtained in connection with any proposal for creation (or re-organization) of a new Pay & Accounts Office or for adding to the list of cheque drawing DDOs included in the Scheme of Departmentalization of Accounts of a Ministry/Department.

(9) The overall responsibilities of Departmental Accounting Organization in respect of Ministry of Law and Justice, Supreme Court of India are:-

- Consolidation of monthly accounts of Ministry and its submission to the CGA.
- Annual Appropriation Accounts.
- Statement of Central Transactions.
- Preparation of “Accounts at a Glance”.
- Union Finance accounts which are submitted to the CGA, Ministry of Finance and Principal Director of Audit.
- Payments of grants-in-aid to State Government / Grantee Institutions / Autonomous Bodies etc.
- Rendering technical advice to all PAOs and Ministry; if necessary in consultation with other organization like DOPT, Ministry of Finance and CGA etc.
- Preparation of Receipt Budget.
- Preparation of Pension Budget.
- Procuring and supplying of cheque books for and on behalf of PAOs/Cheque drawing DDOs and Personal Deposit Account Holder.

- Maintaining necessary liaison with Controller General of Accounts office and to effect overall co-ordination and control in accounting matters and accredited Bank.
- Verify and reconcile all receipts and payments made on behalf of Ministry of Law and Justice through the accredited Bank.
- Maintaining accounts with Reserve Bank of India relating to Ministry of Law and Justice, Supreme Court of India and reconciling the cash balances.
- Ensuring prompt payments.
- Speedy settlement of Pension/Provident fund and other retirement benefits.
- Internal Audit of the Ministry, subordinate and attached offices under Ministry of Law and Justice and its Grantee institutions, etc.
- Making available accounting information to all concerned authorities.
- Budget co-ordination works of Ministry of Law and Justice, Supreme Court of India.
- Monitoring of New Pension Scheme and pension revision cases of Pre-2006 and Pre - 1990 retirees.
- Computerization of Accounts and e-payment.
- Administrative and co-ordination function of the accounting organization.
- Universal Roll out of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for Central Sector Scheme.
- Universal Roll out of Non-Tax Receipt Portal(NTRP) as per M/o Finance guidelines.

(10) Accounting information and data are also provided to the Ministry to facilitate effective budgetary and financial control. Monthly and progressive expenditure figures under various subheads of the grant of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Supreme Court of India are furnished to Budget Section. Progress of expenditure against budget provisions are also submitted monthly to Secretary, Addl. Secretary & Financial Adviser as well as Heads of Divisions of the Ministry controlling the grant for purposes of better monitoring of expenditure.

(11) The Accounting organization also maintains accounts of long-term advances such as House Building Advance and Motor Car Advance and GPF accounts of employees of the Ministry.

(12) The verification and authorization of pensionary entitlement of officers and staff members is done by the Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts on the basis of service particulars and pension papers furnished by Heads of Offices. All retirement benefits and payments like gratuity, cash equivalent to leave salary as well as payments under Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme; General Provident Fund etc. are released by CCA's office on receipt of relevant information / bills from DDOs.

(13) INTERNAL AUDIT WING - The Internal Audit Wing carries out audit of accounts of various offices of the Ministry to ensure that rules, regulations and procedures prescribed by the government are adhered to by these offices in their day to day functioning.

Internal Auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operations. It basically aims at helping the organization to accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. It is also an effective tool for providing objective assurance and advice that adds values, influence change that enhances governance, assist risk management and control processes and improve accountability for results. It also provides valuable information to rectify the procedural mistakes and deficiencies and, thus, acts as an aid to the management. The periodicity of audit of a unit is regulated by its nature and volume of work and quantum of funds.

There are 51 Auditee units / DDOs under various departments of Ministry of Law & Justice and Supreme Court of India excluding autonomous bodies and other grantee institutions and specific schemes under the Ministry. In the Financial Year 2015-16, only five (05) units of Ministry of Law & Justice have been audited. The audit of more units/DDOs could not be conducted because there is no sanctioned post/permanent manpower for the Internal Audit Wing, Principal Accounts Office of this ministry. The audit work is being managed by officers and staffs posted in different Pay & Accounts Offices and Principal Accounts Office.

(14) Banking Arrangements :- Indian Bank, State Bank of Patiala, UCO Bank and Dena Bank are accredited banks for PAOs and its field offices of the Ministry of Law, Justice and SCI. Cheques issued by the PAOs/CDDOs are presented to the nominated branch of the accredited bank for payment. The receipts are also remitted to the accredited banks by the respective CDDOs/PAOs. Any change in accredited bank required specific approval of Controller General of Accounts, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

(15) New Initiatives

(i) **e-Payment System** - The e-payment system in all Pay & Accounts Offices of Ministry of Law & Justice, Supreme Court of India has been successfully implemented w.e.f. 01.04.2012 under phase-II.

Since, the IT Act, 2000 recognizes the digitally signed documents or electronic records digitally authenticated by means of an electronic method or procedure in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the Act, the Controller General of Accounts has developed a facility in COMPACT for electronic payment (e-payment) through digitally signed electronic advices. This will replace the existing system of payment through cheque while leveraging the COMPACT application running in all Pay & Accounts Offices in all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government.

The e-payment system developed is a fully secured web based system of electronic payment services which introduces transparency in government payment system. Payment of dues from the government under this system is made by credit of money directly in to the bank account of payee through a digitally signed e-advice generated from COMPACT through the ‘Government e-payment Gateway (GePG)’ on a secured communication channel. Necessary functional and security certification has been obtained from STQC Directorate for its role out. The system is being implemented in all Central Government Civil Ministries/ Departments in a phased manner. coming year.

(ii) Government e-payment Gateway (GePG)

Government e-payment Gateway (GePG) is a portal which enables the successful delivery of payment services from Pay & Accounts Offices for online payment transactions. The portal is developed by the Office of CGA and has got STQC certification from Department of Information & Technology. The GePG serves as middleware between COMPACT application at PAOs and the Core Banking Solutions (CBS) of the banks/RBI and facilitates automating the manual registration process, e-payment advice, and e-scrolls communications.

Highlights of e-payment and GePG System

High Security Standards and System Logs of Transactions.

- The PAO’s applications has the following security requirements in place for effective e-payments.
 - 128 Bit PKI encryption.
 - Integrity of Information: Hash Algorithm (SHA1): security standard are designed to ensure confidence of data, authenticity of data and integrity of data being conveyed on the internet by PAOs to the bank.
 - Non-repudiation- Key generation/ Digital Signature based on 128 Bit PKI Infrastructure (as recommended by RBI)
- Digitally signed e-payment Authorization along with Itemized tracking of each e-payment authorization and automated reconciliation.

(ii) Registration of digital signatures: The Pay & Accounts Officer obtains digital signature from the NIC Certifying Authority. The digital signatures obtained from the NIC Certifying Authority are stored in a USB Token called i-Key. The PAO registers the digital signatures with GePG portal through the Principal Accounts Office of the concerned Ministry/ Department. The concerned banks download the PAOs digital signatures from the GePG portal. Digital signatures of the authorized signatory of the concerned banks are also uploaded on GePG portal for authentication of e-payment scrolls provided to PAOs by the banks.

Salient Features of Appropriation Accounts 2015-16

MAJOR HEAD	Budget Estimates	Final Estimates	Expenditure	Excess(+) Saving(-)
<u>Grant No. 64</u>				
2052-Secretariat General Services	108.66	109.33	96.19	-13.14
2014-Administration of Justice	411.56	352.80	346.40	-6.40
2015-Election	2142.40	1888.69	1858.66	-30.03
2020-Collection of Taxes on Income & Expenditure	146.08	72.28	65.30	-6.98
2070-Other Administrative Services	19.85	19.85	17.48	-2.37
2552-North Eastern Areas	80.66	15.00	-	-15.00
3601-Grants-in-Aid to State Governments.	448.69	504.99	503.09	-1.90
3602-Grants-in-Aid for UT Governments	63.00	63.00	63.00	-
4070-Capital Outlay on Other Administrative Services	102.75	15.02	6.82	-8.20
Amount surrendered during the year				-482.71
Total <u>Appropriation No.65-Supreme Court of India</u>	3523.65	3040.96	2956.94	-566.73
MH-2014 Administration of Justice (Charged)	155.00	171.02	171.02	-

(Source: Appropriation Accounts 2015-16)

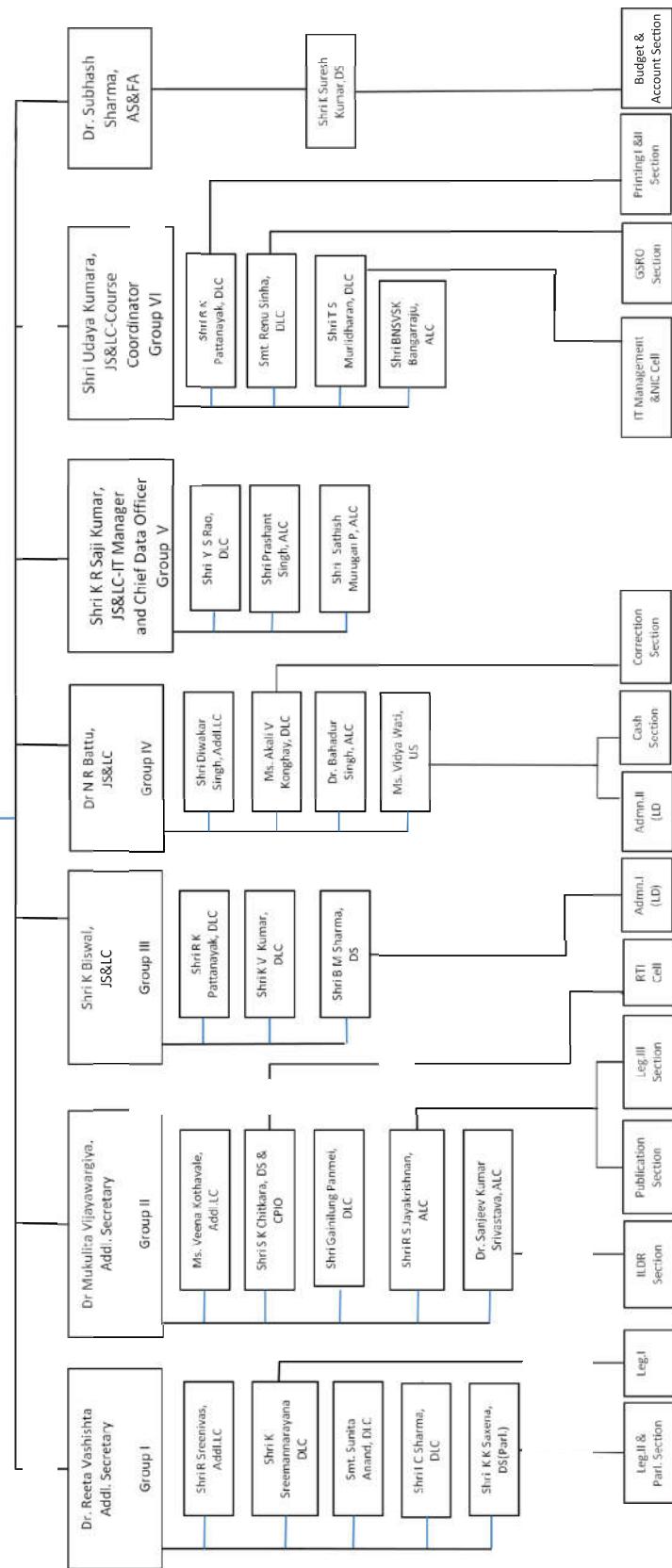
ANNEXURE – IX

[See Chapter-II, Para 2]

**ORGANISATION CHART OF THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (MAIN)
(As on 01.01.2017)**

SECRETARY

[Dr. G Narayana Raju]



ANNEXURE – X

[See Chapter-II, Para 42 (2)]

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND THE NUMBER OF SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES, OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES, EX-SERVICEMEN AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AMONGST THEM AS ON 1st JANUARY, 2017 .

Group	No. of Employees	SC	%	ST	%	OBC	%	Ex-Service men	%	Physically Handicapped	%
A	70	8	11.4	4	5.7	10	14.2	-	-	2	2.8
B	110	20	18.1	2	1.8	12	10.9	-	-	3	2.7
C	114	36	31.5	9	7.8	15	13.1	-	-	-	-
Total	294	64	21.7	15	4.6	37	12.5	-	-	5	1.7

ANNEXURE – XI

[See Chapter-II, Para 42 (2)]

**REPRESENTATION OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN THE LEGISLATIVE
DEPARTMENT
AS ON 01-01-2017)**

GROUP	Total No. of Employees	No. of Female Employees	Percentage (%)
Group 'A'	70	15	21.4
Group 'B'	110	34	30.9
Group 'C'	114	12	10.5
Total:-	294	61	20.7