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भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 002

BCI:D:3426/2024

Date: 08.07.2024

To,

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal,
Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice,
Ministry of Law and Justice,
Government of India,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001
Email ID: mljoffice@gov.in

Sub.: Urgent Request for Health/Medical and Life Insurance Scheme for Advocates and Their Dependents and Implementation of the Advocates Protection and Compensation Bill/Act.

Respected Sir,

With profound respect and an acute sense of urgency, I pen this letter in my capacity as the Chairman of the Bar Council of India, seeking your esteemed attention on matters of paramount importance concerning the welfare and security of the legal fraternity in our nation.

Advocates are the bedrock of our democratic system. They are the guardians of justice, entrusted with the sacred duty of upholding the Constitution and ensuring the protection of fundamental and legal rights for every citizen. Their steadfast dedication to the rule of law ensures that justice remains accessible to all, thus safeguarding civil liberties and championing the cause of the marginalized and oppressed.

Despite their indispensable contributions, Advocates in India often find themselves working under precarious conditions, devoid of assured protection against life's vicissitudes. Health emergencies, in particular, pose significant challenges, impacting not only the Advocates themselves but also their dependents. The recent pandemic starkly highlighted these vulnerabilities, with many esteemed colleagues grappling with inadequate health coverage. This situation has laid bare the urgent need for a comprehensive health, medical, and life insurance scheme for advocates and their families.

The Need for Health, Medical, and Life Insurance

The Bar Council of India has been raising this issue since long and the Ministry of law also took some positive steps in this regard. Data were asked for from the Bar Council of India which the Council is vigorously collecting. The financial aspect is to be taken care of by the Government.

In light of the above, it is imperative that we, as a society, recognize and honor the invaluable services rendered by Advocates. Their role in the justice delivery system is not only crucial but also foundational to the preservation of democracy. Advocates work tirelessly to ensure that every citizen's rights are protected and that justice is served impartially. This noble pursuit, however, is often fraught with personal sacrifices and risks.

I earnestly request your esteemed office to consider and devise a comprehensive scheme for providing health, medical, and life insurance to advocates and their dependents. Such a scheme would not only offer financial security but also enable them to perform their duties without the ever-present anxiety of health-related contingencies. By safeguarding their health and lives, we ensure that Advocates can continue to serve society with renewed vigor and dedication.

The Need for Advocates Protection and Compensation Bill/Act

Before the last elections, Hon'ble Minister Meghwal ji has already assured me to get it done. I urge the swift implementation of the Advocates Protection and Compensation Bill/Act. Advocates frequently face threats, intimidation, and even physical harm while performing their professional duties. These challenges are not merely occupational hazards; they are affronts to the very essence of justice. The proposed legislation aims to provide the necessary protection, ensuring that advocates can discharge their responsibilities fearlessly and with dignity.

The absence of adequate protections for Advocates is a paradox that undermines the very fabric of our justice system. While Advocates are referred to as officers of the court, they are often deprived of essential protections and benefits. **Implementing a health, medical, and life insurance scheme and the Advocates Protection and Compensation Bill/Act would be a monumental step in acknowledging the sacrifices and dedication of the legal fraternity.** These measures will not only uplift the morale of advocates but will also strengthen the justice delivery system in our country.

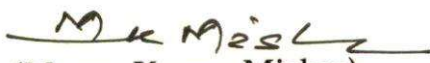
The Role of Advocates in Strengthening Democracy

The legal community has always stood as a sentinel of democracy, ensuring that justice is delivered to every citizen. Advocates are instrumental in interpreting and applying the law, thus ensuring that justice is not only done but also seen to be done. They are the champions of the underprivileged, the voice of the voiceless, and the defenders of civil liberties. Their role in strengthening the pillars of democracy cannot be overstated.

It is high time that their well-being is addressed with the urgency and seriousness it deserves. Under the visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister and your esteemed guidance, I am confident that the Ministry of Law and Justice will take the necessary steps to support the Advocates of our nation. Your intervention in this matter would not only be a recognition of the crucial role played by Advocates but also a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to justice and democracy.

I trust that you will appreciate the significance of this request and will take swift and considerate action to address the issues outlined herein. The Bar Council of India remains at your disposal for any further dialogue or assistance in this regard.

Obligated,


(Manan Kumar Mishra)
Chairman
Bar Council of India

Copy to,

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