

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2423
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 13TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

MEDIATION COUNCIL OF INDIA

2423. SHRI BRIJMOHAN AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) the progress made towards the operationalization of the Mediation Council of India (MCI), including the current status of key appointments;
- (b) the measures taken to ensure the continued recognition and quality assurance of mediation service providers and training institutes during the transitional phase;
- (c) whether the Government proposes any interim guidelines to facilitate 'Community Mediation' through District Legal Services Authorities to ensure rural access, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken to standardize Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) mechanisms and the expected timeline for the full functioning of the Council?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The Mediation Act, 2023, lays down the statutory framework for mediation to be adopted by parties to a dispute, especially institutional mediation, wherein various stakeholders have also been identified to establish a robust and efficacious mediation ecosystem in the country. As provided under section 1 (3) of the Mediation Act, 2023, some provisions of the Act have been notified *vide* gazette notification dated 09.10.2023. Pursuant thereto various rules as required to be framed under the Mediation Act, 2023, being the Mediation Council of India (Salary, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2024, Mediation Council of India (Traveling and other Allowances for Part-time Chairperson and Part-time Members) Rules, 2024 and Mediation Council of India (Forms and Manner of Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules, 2024, have been notified on 13.06.2024.

Section 32 of the Mediation Act, 2023, envisages Mediation Council of India as a seven member body including a Chairperson, one member having experience in law related to mediation or alternative dispute resolution, one member having experience in research or teaching in the field of mediation and alternative dispute resolution laws, three *ex-officio* members and one representative of a recognized body of commerce and industry. One representative each of a recognized body of commerce and industry and Secretary Department of Expenditure have been nominated to the Council. The Chairperson and other Members of the Mediation Council of India are yet to be appointed.

(b) to (d): Chapter IX of the Mediation Act, 2023, contains novel provisions relating to Mediation Service Providers and Mediation Institutes, wherein Section 40 enables Mediation Council of India to recognise mediation service providers and Section 42 enables Mediation Council of India to recognise mediation institutes. Similarly, as per section 44 of the Act, community mediators can devise suitable procedure for the purpose of resolving disputes through community mediation and there is no role envisaged for the Central Government in this regard. Also, as per Section 30 of the Act, online mediation is to be conducted in accordance with the manner specified by the Mediation Council of India by way of regulations. These provisions however have not been notified and the Mediation Council of India is yet to be established.
