

Conference of Law Ministers

*125. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Law Ministers was held in October, 1992;

(b) if so, the main points discussed and the decisions arrived at;

(c) whether the recommendations of the earlier Conference held in 1990 have not yet been implemented; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI
H.R.BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main agenda item for the meeting was " The Implementation of the recommendations of the Malimath Committee Report on the subject of Arrears of cases of Courts ". The meeting also addressed itself to issues like " Lok Adalats " and " Use of NICNET For Information Exchange ". A statement showing the main points/decisions arrived at the meeting is attached.

(c) and (d). A number of steps have been taken, to implement the recommendations of the earlier Conference held in 1990. The question of upgradation of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary as a Plan Scheme was taken up with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has agreed to the proposal in principle. The State Governments have been asked to submit their proposals in this regard for consideration.

The Ministries/departments of the Government of India have been advised to constitute high-level committees to screen cases to be filed by the Government and to

scrutinise claims against the Government with a view to avoiding unnecessary Government litigation.

The Ministries/Departments have also been advised to undertake, from time to time, orientation programmes for their officers in principles of constitutional law, administrative law, etc.

It is proposed to confer statutory status on Lok Adalats. A Bill for amending the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 is presently pending before this House.

STATEMENT

There was general agreement on the following points at the Meeting of Law Ministers held during 17-18 October, 1992:

- (i) Unless the problem of growing accumulation of arrears is dealt within time, extra constitutional centres for dispute-resolution by use of criminal force etc., may spring into existence and get strengthened. It is in the interests of healthy growth of democracy to strengthen the judicial wing of the State.
- (ii) There is a need to take immediate action to upgrade the infrastructural facilities for the judiciary as a Plan Scheme.
- (iii) Alternative forums for dispute resolution such as ' Lok Adalats ' should be established.
- (iv) Tribunals may be constituted to deal with litigation involving technical issues on the lines of JTAT, CEGAT, etc.
- (v) There should be training institutions for training of judicial officers.
- (vi) Government litigation should be reduced by undertaking timely steps to screen grievances against the Government.

- (vii) Courts should be strict in the matter of admission of public interest litigation which is often misused.
- (viii) The Supreme Court and the High Courts should exercise greater restraint in the exercise of their powers and in the discharge of their functions.
- (ix) Problems connected with frequent adjournments, strikes, etc., cannot be effectively handled, unless the judges and practicing lawyers are brought together to discuss the matter across the table.
- (x) The Malimath Committee recommendations constitute the right framework to proceed further in the matter.

The Law Ministers also constituted three open-ended Working Groups to consider different aspects of the recommendations of the Malimath Committee Report in detail.

Installation of Hand-Pumps

*126. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI:
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any budget allocation was made during 1991-92 and 1992-93 for installation of hand-pumps in the rural and drought affected areas of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the number of hand-pumps installed till the end of October, 1992 in both the States

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Separate allocation was made by the State Governments of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh to all the districts including drought affected districts in 1991-92 and

1992-93 for installation of hand pumps.

(b) 5735 hand pumps were installed in Gujarat and 40879 hand pumps in Uttar Pradesh during the period from 1st April, 1991 to 31st October, 1992.

Allocation for Production of Uranium

*127. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made to the Uranium Corporation of India Limited for production of uranium during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the allocation is sufficient to execute the various schemes/programmes based on uranium;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the remedial steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RANGARAJ KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) An outlay of Rs 350 crores has been provided to the Uranium Corporation of India Limited during the 8th Five Year Plan for its plan projects.

(b) to (d). The targets for installation of additional capacities for generation of Nuclear Power during the 8th Plan have been recast keeping in view the availability of resources. The programmes for production of Uranium by the Uranium Corporation of India Limited will be in keeping with the revised Nuclear Power Programme. Adequate outlays will be provided for the important projects on hand namely, development of the Narwapahar Mines, modernisation and mechanisation of the Jaduguda Mines and expansion of the mill at Jaduguda.