

[Translation]

Judges of High Courts

1199. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the age of judges of High Courts from 60 years to 65 years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government for speedy disposal of pending cases in various courts and the time bound programme for appointment of judges?

MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) At present, there is no proposal to increase the retirement age of judges of High Courts from 62 years to 65 years.

(b) A meeting of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts was convened on 4th December, 1993, under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to consider the problem of arrears of cases in Courts and to find out ways and means to deal with it as expeditiously as possible. The resolutions adopted in the Conference have been forwarded to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/High Courts/Central Ministries for necessary action. The Administration of Justice has been made a plan item with a view to remove infrastructural bottlenecks coming in the way of expeditious disposal of cases.

The Supreme Court vide their Judgement dated 6.10.1993 in W.P. (Civil) No. 1303 of 1987 - Supreme Court

Advocates-on-Record Association and Another versus Union of India has prescribed certain guidelines for making appointments and transfers of Judges in High Courts including expeditious filling up of vacancies.

[English]

Newsprint Control Order, 1962

1200. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Indian Newspaper Society has urged the Government to rescind the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 and allow the functioning of newspaper industry in a liberalised environment;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHNI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The implications of the request are under consideration of the Government.

Housing Facilities to Ex-Servicemen

1201. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Delhi Development Authority to provide housing facilities to Ex-Servicemen, particularly to the handicapped;