

(a) whether rural people are facing a lot of difficulties due to increase in the price of kerosene and it is not available in the rural areas of Bihar ; and

(b) whether keeping in view the difficulties faced by the people and increasing tendency of profiteering, Government propose to subsidise the increased price of kerosene so that consumers get kerosene at reasonable rates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Some reports have been received of shortages of kerosene in some parts of Bihar. Increased allocations have been made to Bihar on the request of the State Government. Retail distribution between rural and urban areas is made by the State Government.

(b) The selling price of kerosene oil is kept at a lower level than what it would be on the basis of costs. There is no proposal to reduce it further.

[English]

Telephone Services in Rajasthan

5428. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that telephone services in Rajasthan in general and desert areas of Rajasthan in particular, are deteriorating day by day ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps so far taken or proposed to be taken to improve the telephone services in the said region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Performance of telephone services in Rajasthan in general and desert areas of Rajasthan in particular, are generally satisfactory, except at Jodhpur where complaints rate is slightly on higher rate.

(c) Electronic exchanges in Jodhpur and Barmer areas are proposed to be installed during 7th Plan period.

Engaging Lawyers for conducting Government cases

5429. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the juniors of the Central Government standing counsels/panel counsels are permitted by Government to appear and conduct Government cases in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts ;

(b) whether any junior has so far appeared if so, the number of cases lost or won by such juniors ; and

(c) the number of lawyers, other than panel and standing counsels, engaged during the last three years and the amount of fees paid to them, giving year-wise figures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ) : (a) No, Sir. When the case is entrusted to Central Government Standing Counsel/Panel Counsel, the Juniors of the Standing Counsel/Panel Counsel are not permitted to appear on behalf of the Central Government Standing Counsel/Panel Counsel.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Land Dispute cases pending in Calcutta High Court

5430. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Civil Rules and Civil Orders relating to Land

Disputes are pending in Calcutta High Court since 1978 and back ; and

(b) if so, the action being contemplated for their early disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ) : (a) and

(b). Information as furnished earlier by the Registry of the Calcutta High Court is given in attached Statement No. I. Steps taken to reduce pendency in High Courts in general which also include Calcutta High Court are given in attached Statement No. II.

Statement-I

Number of Writ petitions relating to Land reforms including land ceiling pending (main cases only) in Calcutta High court as on 30.6-1984

Total number of writ petitions pending	Number of writ petitions pending for								
	Less than one year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—6 years	6—7 years	7—10 years	Over 10 years
39	23	5	6	3	2	—	—	—	—

Statement-II

Steps taken to Reduce Pendency in High Courts

The following steps have been taken to reduce pendency in High Courts :—

- (1) The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from Judgement of Single Judge of the High Court in second appeal (vide Section 100A).
- (2) The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973 and amended in 1978 and 1980.
- (3) The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from time to time.
- (4) Apart from the above certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases :

- (a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts.

- (b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable date.

- (c) Dispensing with printing of records.

- (d) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts.

- (5) The Government have also addressed the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts in which there is a heavy pendency of civil cases over 5 years' old to consider appointment of retired judges under Article 224A of the Constitution.

- (6) The Government have also appointed Law Commission (10th Law Commission) to keep under review the system of judicial administration in the country. Among the terms of reference of the Law Commission are :

- (a) To keep under review the system of judicial administration.

tion to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure :

- (i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair ;
 - (ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice ; and
 - (iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.
- (b) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
- (c) To recommend to the Government measures for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

(7) The recommendations contained in the 79th report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Government and High Courts, these have been sent to them alongwith the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.

- (8) The Government have constituted an informal Committee of 3 Chief Justices to examine the problem of arrears in High Courts and suggest remedial measures.

Maharashtra request to change criteria for No Industry District

5431. SHRI D.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra have requested the Central Government to change the criteria for determining and declaring No Industry District;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered the request of the Government of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the reaction thereto; and

(e) what are the present criteria to determine and declare a No Industry District ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). Government of Maharashtra had represented that District of Gadchiroli which was carved out of Chandrapur District on 15.8.82, may be included in the list of No Industry Districts.

(c) and (d). Gadchiroli District has been included in the list of No Industry Districts with effect from 1.4.85.

(e) The districts created upto 31.3.83 comprising areas which had no large or medium Scale industries as of 1979-80, are eligible for inclusion in the list of No Industry Districts.