

Statement II

Under the existing instructions, the disabled ex-servicemen, where disability is attributable to military service, are accorded priority I for employment under the Central Government. Further, upto two dependents each of the families of defence service personnel killed in service or severely disabled are accorded priority II for employment under the Central Government. Efforts will be made to secure employment for all such disabled ex-servicemen and dependents of those killed in action who may be in need of employment.

The State Governments have also been requested to make special efforts to provide employment to such ex-servicemen and the widows or dependants of the deceased on compassionate grounds, relaxing the rules wherever necessary.

Efforts are also being made for providing increased self-employment opportunities for such personnel.

[Translation]

**Casualties of Government Officials
in Punjab**

**332. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER**

JAIN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government officials killed in encounters with terrorists in Punjab during the last three months; and

(b) the number of terrorists arrested during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) During the period November, 1987 to January, 1988, 692 terrorists were arrested in the State.

**Transfer of civilian employees of
Ordnance Corps.**

333. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether every army officer is transferred from one place to another after three years of service at one place;

(b) if so, whether this rule also applies to the civilian gazetted employees/officers; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to transfer those civilian gazetted officers of Ordnance Corps who have been working at one place for the last three years or more and the time by which orders in this regard would be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. This is the general policy, although the tenure could be extended in exceptional cases.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Civilian Gazetted employees/officers are governed by their own Rules and Regulations. The existing policy stipulates a tenure of 6 years for Gazetted Civilian officers/employees of Group 'A' and 'B' in the Army Ordnance Corps.

**Pending Cases in Supreme Court and
High Courts**

**334. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO :**

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

(a) the total number of cases pending in the Supreme Court and in each High Court as on 31 December, 1987;

(b) the steps taken by Government for disposal of these pending cases; and

(c) the time by which the cases upto the year 1987 are likely to be disposed of by these courts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per the information furnished by the Registries of the Supreme Court and High Courts, the pendency position has been indicated in Statement I below.

(b) The steps taken to expedite disposal of pending cases have been indicated in Statement II below.

(c) The pendency is due to several complex factors. Steps have been taken as indicated in Statement II, above mentioned, to expedite disposal of cases. As a result, the rate of disposal has increased. Fresh institution of cases has, however, increased at a higher rate over the years. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate the time by which the cases upto the year 1987 are likely to be disposed of.

Statement I

Pendency position

Supreme Court	—Cases pending as on 31.12.1987 : 175748
High Courts	Cases pending as on 30-6-1987
1. Allahabad	335567
2. Andhra Pradesh	86137
3. Bombay	133245
4. Calcutta	160618
5. Delhi	77191
6. Gauhati	17547
7. Gujarat	52623
8. Himachal Pradesh	9345
9. Jammu and Kashmir	35945
10. Karnataka	71313

11. Kerala	46798 (Main Cases)
12. Madhya Pradesh	39624
13. Madras	173886
14. Orissa	37854
15. Patna	58422
16. Punjab and Haryana	53568
17. Rajasthan	49772
18. Sikkim	36
Total	1439491

Statement II

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency in courts

1. Elimination of arrears in all courts has been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August-1st September, 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference have been commended to the High Courts and the State Governments.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeal from judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (vide Section 100-A).

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 was amended in 1978 to expedite trial of criminal cases.

4. The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March 1977 to 443 as on 1st February 1988.

5. The recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission on delay and arrears in High Courts and other Appellate Courts are being implemented by the High Courts.

6. The High Courts are taking the following steps to expedite disposals of cases :

(a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped together;

(b) Matters are fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates;

- (c) Printing of records is dispensed with, in many cases; and
- (d) Priority is given to cases requiring quick disposal.

7. The Government have entrusted the Law Commission, the study of the Judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The terms of reference are :

(a) the need for decentralisation of the system of administration of justice by :

- (i) establishing, extending and strengthening in rural areas the institution of Nyaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;
- (ii) setting up a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres;
- (iii) establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

(b) the matters for which Tribunals (excluding Services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part-XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working;

(c) the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating unnecessary litigation, delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the fora envisaged in items (a) (i) and (a) (ii);

(d) the method of appointments to subordinate courts, subordinate judiciary;

(e) the training of judicial Officers;

(f) the role of the legal profession in strengthening the system of administration of justice;

(g) the desirability of formulation of the norms, which the Government and the Public Sector Undertakings would follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of

the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such undertakings;

(h) the cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants;

(i) formation of an All India Judicial Service; and

(j) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

8. Steps taken in Supreme Court for early disposal of cases :

(i) Matters involving common question of law are grouped together and listed in groups so that they can all be disposed of together.

(ii) In most of the matters printing of the appeal record is dispensed with which saves a lot of time and expense of the litigants. In criminal appeals counsel for the appellant is required to file cyclostyled record to save time which would otherwise be taken in getting the record printed so that the matter could be heard early.

(iii) To save the Court's time, Hon'ble the Chief Justice is taking mentioning matters which take about one hour on each day, after the court hours.

(iv) Supreme Court Rules have been amended empowering Hon'ble Judge (in Chamber) and the Registrar to dispose of certain types of matters which were previously being listed before the Court. This has been done to save the Court's time.

(v) Specialised benches are constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice and particular types of matters are assigned to such specialised benches for quick disposal.

(vi) Computer technology is soon going to be introduced in the Supreme Court which is expected to help, reduce the backlog of cases considerably.

(vii) Recently Hon'ble the Chief Justice has directed that the counsel in each matter should file written arguments, if the arguments are to take more than five hours on each side. The oral arguments on each side are thus restricted to five hours unless the Court feels that more time is to be given to the counsel in which case a maximum of ten hours are given for oral arguments to the counsel of each side. The length of oral arguments by counsel of both the sides has thus been curtailed with a view to securing quick disposal of matters.

(viii) A Court Administrator-cum-Registrar General, who is a senior judicial officer, has been appointed very recently so that in conjunction with the present two Registrars there can be a re-organisation of the working of the Registry and improving its techniques and efficiency.

(ix) The judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 18 to 26 (including the Chief Justice) w.e.f. 10.5.1986 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

[English]

Terrorists Activities in Delhi

335. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed/injured during each of the last three years and the current year in Delhi as a result of terrorists activities; and

(b) the number of persons convicted for these killings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The requisite figures are indicated below :

Year	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured
1985	57	53
1986	—	6
1987	27	26
January, '88	—	—

(b) None so far.

Terrorists activities in Punjab

336. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE

PATIL :

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL :

SHRI M.V.CHANDRASEKHARA

MURTHY :

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA :

SHRI BANWARI LAL

PUROHIT :

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sudden spurt of terrorists violence in Punjab during the last few weeks;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed by terrorists during each of the last three months;

(c) the number of terrorists arrested during the same period; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to curb these activities in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). According to information furnished by the Government