

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:644  
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001  
HOLIDAYS IN COURTS  
VIJAYA KUMARI GANTI

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

- (a) the number of holidays observed by the courts in Delhi in a year;
- (b) whether as a result of such a large number of holidays, the litigants are made to suffer and it adds to the large number of arrears in courts;
- (c) whether Government and judiciary are likely to consider to reduce the number of court holidays and lessen the woes of litigants; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SRRI ARUM JAITLEY)

(a)The Delhi High Court closes for 5 weeks for Summer vacation and 5 days for Winter vacation and during the period of these vacations, Vacation Benches hold their sittings for taking up urgent matters. The High Court of Delhi is observing the 210 working days in a year. The working days-for the Courts Subordinate to the High Court of Delhi are 255 days in a year The Civil Subordinate Courts remain closed for about 4 weeks in summer and 5 days in Winter. The Criminal Magisterial Courts, however, remain closed only for 10 days in Summer.

(b),(c)and (d)The Estimates Committee (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Justice) had desired a review of working days in the Supreme Court/ High courts. The examination revealed that all High Courts were normally having 210 working days in a year. Thereafter the question of working days was examined at different intervals. The matter was also referred to the Chief Justice of India on 25.6.86. The Chief Justice of India informed that the Supreme Court was already working for 220 days but the full Court had decided to add two more working days. The views of the Chief Justice of India were communicated to the High Courts. Most of the Chief Justices were of the view that 210 working days were alright and no change was called for as Judges put in extra work in their chambers or at their residence. This was also resolved in the Chief Justices' Conference held in 1987. The Department of Justice has recently requested if all High Courts and State Governments to re-examine the annual vacations and working days in High Courts. Working days in the District/subordinate Courts are regulated by the High Courts. In addition, various other steps have also been taken by the Government to speed up the disposal of mounting arrears of cases. These include filling up

vacancies of judges, simplification of rules and procedures on the basis of advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs.502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of cases involving undertrials on priority.