

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1703

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2002

SUPREME COURT DIRECTIONS TO INCREASE NUMBER OF JUDGES

CHINTAMAN NAVSHA WANAGA;KAILASH MEGHWAL;PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

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

- (a) whether Supreme Court have given directive to increase number of judges and magistrates in lower courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has also directed that State Governments will bear the administrative expenditure incurred on such appointments; and
- (d) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) :

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The Supreme Court, in its judgment of 21st March, 2002, in All India Judges` Association and Ors Vs. Union of India and Ors, has directed that an increase in the judge strength form the existing ratio of 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law.
- (c) State Governments are required to bear the administrative expenditure on the implementation of the Judgment in the States, while the Central Government is to bear such expenditure as regards the Union Territories.
- (d) Central Government have sought time from the Supreme Court for complying with the Judgment in view of the large financial implications of the Judgment.