

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2541  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003  
SETTING UP OF NEW HIGH COURT BENCHES  
HARIBHAU MAHALE

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

- (a) the number of High Courts in the country;
- (b) the number of pending cases, High Court-wise;
- (c) whether the Government propose to increase the High Court Benches;
- (d) if so, the details of the location identified for the purpose in each State; and
- (e) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

- (a) At present there are 21 High Courts in the Country.
- (b) The number of pending cases High Court-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.
- (c) to (e) The setting up of a Bench of a High Court away from its principal seat is considered on the receipt of a complete proposal from the concerned State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has received complete proposals for setting up Benches of the Madras High Court and the Calcutta High Court respectively. Accordingly, it is proposed to establish a Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai and a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri, after infrastructural facilities like court buildings, accommodation for Judges etc. are provided by the respective State Governments to the satisfaction of the High Court. Since the proposals involve Parliamentary legislation, it is not feasible to indicate a time frame in this regard.