

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1381  
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2004  
HIGH COURT BENCHES  
Reddy Shri S.P.Y.

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

- (a) the number of Special Benches of High Courts proposed to be set up in each State during the 11th Plan period;
- (b) the criteria fixed for setting up of Special Benches of High Courts in the States;
- (c) the number of Special Benches proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh alongwith the places where they are going to be set up; and
- (d) the total amount earmarked under the scheme?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY)

a), (b), (c) & (d) : A statement in this regard is enclosed.

Statement in reply to parts (a), (b), (c) & (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1381 by Shri S.P.Y. Reddy regarding High Court Benches to be answered on 16th July, 2004

The Government of India does not implement any plan scheme for setting up of Special Benches of High Courts in various States and therefore no funds are earmarked for the same.

In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of establishment of a Bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench. The report of the Commission was placed in the Parliament Library on 15.10.86 and was laid on the Tables of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 20.4.87 and 21.4.87 respectively, which may be referred to.

The question of opening a High Court Bench is considered by the Central Government in the light of these principles and criteria as and when a proposal is received from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. No specific proposal, complete in all aspects, has been received in this regard from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court.