

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1654  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004  
HEALTH OF SUBORDINATE COURTS  
Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has expressed concern over the health of subordinate courts in the country as reported in the Statesman dated October 21, 2004;
- (b) if so, whether the cases in the subordinate courts and even in the High courts are mounting and no effective steps taken to check such trend;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the strategies to be adopted to improve the health of subordinate courts in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a): During the course of the conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices inaugurated by the Prime Minister on September 18, 2004, as reported in the Statesman dated October 21, 2004, the Hon`ble Prime Minister, Hon`ble Union Law Minister and Hon`ble Chief Justice of India had, inter alia, expressed their concern for improvement of the functioning in the Subordinate courts in the country.

(b) to (d): The reasons for pendency of cases in the courts include inadequacy of judge strength, non-filling up of vacancies of judges, Lawyers` strike, frequent adjournment of cases etc.

The Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts and Fast Track Courts etc.