

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:616

ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010

UPGRADATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE OF JUDICIARY

Banerjee Shri Ambica;Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda;Sardinha Shri Francisco;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade infrastructure of High Courts and subordinate courts across the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of pending cases in all the three levels Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate courts during the last three years till date, State-wise;
- (d) whether there is a shortage of judges in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to fill up the vacant posts; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government for speedy justice for litigants?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (Dr. M.VEERAPPAMOILY)

(a) and (b): Primary responsibility for the provision of infrastructure facilities for the subordinate judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, to augment the resources of the State Governments in this regard, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94 under which central assistance is provided to the States / UTs for the construction of court buildings and residential accommodation of Judges.

The outlay for this Scheme for the Eleventh Plan Period (2007-12) is Rs. 701.08 crore against which an amount of ? 411,97 crore has been released to the State Governments during last three financial years.

Besides, the Government is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme (E-Courts Project) for computerization of the District and Subordinate Courts in the country and for upgradation of the ICT infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, at a cost of Rs. 935 crore. In addition, the Government also provides financial assistance to the States for setting up and operation of Gram Nyayalayas. Rs. 20.92 crore have been provided to the States so far under this scheme.

(c): The details regarding number of pending cases in Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate courts during the last three years are Annexed as Annexure - 1.

(d) and (e): Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of the Supreme Court lies with the Chief Justice of India and for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. The Government is periodically reminding the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling up the existing vacancies as well as the vacancies anticipated in next six months in the High Courts.

A statement showing the approved strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (as on 01.11.2010 is annexed as Annexure - II.

In the district and subordinate courts, the responsibility for appointment of Judges lies with the State Government/ High Courts.

(f): The Government has taken, inter-alia, following steps to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in the courts:-

(i) Increasing the strength of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts.

(ii) The term of 1562 Fast Track Courts, which were functional in the States as on 31.03.2005, was extended for another five years i.e. upto 31.03.2010 and now it has been further extended for one more year i.e. upto 31.03.2011.

(iii) The Civil Procedure Code has been amended which, inter-afia, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three.

(iv) Appropriate changes have been made in the Code of Criminal Procedure through Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005. The concept of plea bargaining has been introduced through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005.

(v) Enactment of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 which provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas to improve access to justice to common man.

(vi) Courts have also taken various measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialised benches, setting up of special courts and organising Lok Adalats at regular intervals.

(vii) The Government has also accepted the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission to provide a grant of RS. 5000 crore to the States for improving the justice delivery system in the country. The first instalment of Rs. 500 crores has already been released to the States. With the help of these grants, the States can, inter-alia, set up morning / evening / shift / special magistrates' courts, organise more Lok Adalats and strengthen mediation with a view to reduce court pendencies.