

>

Title: Need to set up an additional bench of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh.

**SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY (MATHURA):** The Allahabad High Court has a vast volume of litigation and a backlog of cases with a pendency of over 9 lakh cases in 2011. It is the largest High Court in the country with a sanctioned strength of 160 judges and has also the highest number of vacancies of judges among all major High Courts. Litigants from Western Uttar Pradesh have to travel over 600 kilometers to file appeals and face substantial costs that restrict their access to justice.

The Jaswant Singh Commission in 1985 recommended for the establishment of an Allahabad High Court bench in Agra. State Government have also recommended for the establishment of a permanent bench of Allahabad High Court in Western UP. The Law Commission in its 230<sup>th</sup> Report also supported establishment of additional High Court benches to ensure speedy delivery of justice. Establishment of Allahabad High Court Bench in West UP would be a fundamental step.

I urge the Government to take the necessary action in this regard and also evolve a legal and policy framework for the decentralization of our courts in view of longstanding demands and agitations in several parts of the country.