

indiscriminate use of petrol vehicles.

(ii) Central Ministries/Departments/State Governments and public sector undertakings had been advised to effect savings in the consumption of petrol in their staff cars.

(iii) Steps have been taken for assessing the feasibility of using the mixture of petrol and alcohol as fuel for motor vehicles

(b) Fiscal measures have been found to be the most effective instrument in controlling consumption of petrol. As a result of continuous increase in price of this product since the oil crisis in 1973-74, the total consumption of petrol in 1979-80 was only 1.48 million tonnes as against the total consumption of 1.52 million tonnes in 1973-74..

Elections to Lok Sabha and Assembly Constituencies in West Bengal and U.P.

*34. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:
SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bye-elections to Assembly and Lok Sabha Constituencies in West Bengal and U.P. have been postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the State Governments were consulted in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Under section 149 and section 150 of the Representation of the people Act, 1951 when the seat of a member elected to the House of the People/Legislative Assembly of a State, becomes vacant or is declared vacant or his election to the House of the People/Legislative Assembly is declared void,

the Election Commission shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) thereof by a notification in the Gazette of India, call upon the Parliamentary constituency/the Assembly constituency concerned to elect a person for the purpose of filling the vacancy so caused before such date as may be specified in the notification. The Election Commission has not so far issued the notifications for holding bye-elections in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts

*35. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR
YADAV:

SHRI NGANGOM
MOHENDRA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of cases are pending in the Supreme Court and High Courts for years;

(b) if so, the number of such cases pending in Supreme Court/High Courts for (i) 3 years or more (ii) 5 years or more (iii) 10 years or more;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to evolve a plan to dispose of the cases pending for more than three years within a specific period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Relevant information, as furnished by the Supreme Court and High Courts, is given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) As of now the Government are not considering any proposal to differentiate between arrear cases which are less than three years

old and those which are more than three years old. The Government are deeply concerned at the arrears which have accumulated in the Supreme Court and High Courts. The Government have made various suggestions to Supreme Court and the recommendations received on the suggestions, along with the 79th Report of the Law Commission are under examination by an Inter-Department Committee of Officers. The report of the

Committee is expected to be received shortly. Meanwhile, various measures are being taken or are under consideration for dealing with the problem. Some of the important steps are appointment of *ad hoc* Judges exclusively for dealing with arrear cases, abolition of letters patent appeal from single Judge judgement, establishment of administrative tribunals and appointment of a Committee to go into judicial reforms.

Statement

Number of cases pending in the Supreme Court and High Courts for more than 3 years, 5 years and 10 years as on 31-12-1979.

Name of the Court	Number of cases pending as on 31-12-1979 for		
	3 years or more	5 years or more	10 years or more
Supreme Court (Regular Hearing Matters)	7223	4675	102
HIGH COURTS			
Allahabad	37705	17585	1231
Andhra Pradesh	752	8	1
Bombay	21868	9712	953
Calcutta*	33310	18942	8109
Delhi	12301	7704	846
Gauhati	2649	1123	60
Gujarat	2320	251	12
Himachal Pradesh	1338	638	18
Jammu & Kashmir	832	241	17
Karnataka*	12180	2626	1
Kerala	2306	44	Nil
Madhya Pradesh*	11337	5993	549
Madras	4219	505	4
Orissa	1235	551	6
Patna*	10116	5648	1104
Punjab & Haryana*	15731	9518	1662
Rajasthan*	9251	4934	398
Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	179450	86073	4971

*Figures in respect of Calcutta, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh. Patna and Rajasthan High Courts are of Main cases only.