

[12 August, 2002]

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Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Goa have reported *inter-alia* that they have their customary courts to deal with such cases and they do not have much litigation regarding family matters. Other States and UTs have been requested to set up more Family Courts and about 24 additional Family Courts are likely to be set up during 2002-2003.

(c) Periodically the Central Government has been writing to the remaining States/UTs emphasizing the need to establish more Family Courts in their States/UTs.

**Modernisation of courts to expedite trial**

2014. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry will initiate steps to modernise the courts particularly the subordinate courts by providing videography facilities, computers etc., to expedite the trials, and

(b) if not, the steps taken by his Ministry for speedy disposal of cases, particularly criminal cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to provide for infrastructural facilities for the Subordinate Judiciary including its modernisation to expedite trials. However, the Government has undertaken a Pilot Project of Computerisation of City Courts in the four major metropolitan cities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai in the hope that the project will be emulated by the States. Funds are also allocated to the State Governments each year under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary including the use of Information Technology. State Governments are expected to computerise courts in their jurisdiction from their own resources.

(b) Both the Government and the Judiciary are concerned with the quick disposal of pending cases including criminal cases. Various steps have been taken by the Government for speedy disposal of cases including the setting up of Fast Track Courts, computerisation and networking of courts in metropolises, drive for filling up of vacant posts of Judges and Magistrates, increase in the judge strength from time to time,

appointment of Special Metropolitan/Judicial Magistrates to dispose of cases involving petty offences, setting up of fora for alternative modes of dispute resolution such as Lok Adalats, etc.

The problem of delays in criminal cases is also being examined, *inter alia*, by the Justice Malimath Committee set up to suggest reforms in the criminal justice system.

### **Justice to undertrials**

2015. SHRI SUNIL SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide speedy justice to the undertrials in the jails who recently adopted the path of violence in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to restrict the increasing flow of undertrials by bringing certain changes in the laws and legal procedures; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

Both the Government and the Judiciary are concerned with providing speedy justice to undertrials in Jails, including the undertrials languishing in jails in Bihar.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

The Supreme Court *vide* their judgement dated 1.6.1996 in the case of Common Cause Vs. Union of India and others passed certain directions regarding trial of criminal cases on priority basis, and directed all the High Courts to issue necessary directions in that behalf to all the criminal courts under their control and supervision. The directions are intended to release undertrials languishing in jails for long periods even beyond the prescribed period of the punishment, specially in petty offences.

The Supreme Court in its orders dated 13.10.99 and 6.12.99 in R.D. Upadhyaya's case expressed concern over the plight of undertrials who are in jails. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also stressed the need for taking effective steps for filing challans/reports particularly in cases which