

The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been addressing the High Courts periodically for filling up of vacancies of judges in the High Courts. Efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

Speedy disposal of cases

1298. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA.MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be please to state:

(a) whether there has been any discernible improvement in the speedy disposal of Civil cases since enforcement of new guidelines governing disposal of CPC cases;

(b) the major recommendations of Justice V.S. Malimath Committee constituted to suggest reforms to the Cr. P.C.; and

(c) the amendments Government propose to make to take care of increasing number of criminal cases stalled due to witnesses turning hostile in the courts, leading to acquittal in most of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) The Amendments to the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 have been brought into force with effect from 1 st July, 2002 only. It is too early for any discernible improvement on the disposal of civil cases.

(b) Justice V.S. Malimath Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System has not yet submitted its report.

(c) The Law Commission of India has recommended some amendment to section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. The Report of the Law Commission would be processed after it is laid on the Table of the House, in consultation with the State Governments, as Criminal procedure and Criminal law are on the Concurrent list of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Electoral Reforms

1299. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be please to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision on Electoral Reforms

based on the recommendations made by Dinesh Goswami and Indrajit Gupta Committees; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) and (b) The Committee on Electoral Reforms (Dinesh Goswami Committee) had submitted its report in May, 1990. The then Government on the basis of its recommendations, had introduced following four bills in Rajya Sabha in May, 1990:—

1. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1990 (since concerted into an Act of Parliament, Act No. 11 of 1991)
2. The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill, 1990
3. The Constitution (Seventy-First Amendment) Bill, 1990
4. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990

The Bills at serial No. 2,3 and 4 were withdrawn in 1994 for introducing a more comprehensive bill on Electoral Reforms. The recommendations of the Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee) were discussed with the leaders of the political parties in the meeting held on 13.9.2001 and the Election and other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19.03.2002.

Special courts under the Land Ceiling Act

1300. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the action proposed to set up Special Courts to speed up cases under the Land Ceiling Act for distribution of excess land among the landless poor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): The Government of India has already repealed the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 through the Urban Land (C&R) Repeal Act, 1999 with effect from 11.1.1999. The Repeal Act is in force in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and all the Union Territories (NCT of Delhi, Pondicherry & Chandigarh). The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 is still in force in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra and West Bengal.