

sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts is 590 Permanent/Additional Judges. It has been decided to create 28 new posts of Permanent/Additional Judges with effect from the dates these posts are actually filled up.

As regards increase of courts and appointment of additional judges in the subordinate judiciary, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to create additional courts or appoint additional judges in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

Cooperative business under Companies Act

169. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring cooperative business under the Companies Act; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Government has recently constituted a Committee to examine framing a legislation which would enable incorporation of cooperatives as companies and conversion of existing cooperatives into companies, ensuring that the proposed legislation accommodates the unique elements of cooperative business within a regulatory framework similar to that of private limited companies. The decision whether to bring Cooperative business under the Companies Act would be taken after the report of the Committee is received.

Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies

170. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the delimitation of existing Parliamentary and State Assembly Constituencies in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to authorise Election Commission of India to take a final decision in this regard;

(c) whether Government also propose to consult State Government/political parties in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is in agreement with the decision taken in the all party meeting on reform of electoral laws held on 22.5.1998 that the existing position in respect of Delimitation of Parliamentary and State Assembly Constituencies, may continue till fresh delimitation becomes due as per existing constitutional provisions.

Recognition of Nidhi Companies

171. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what action is being taken by Government to give permission to Nidhi companies under section 620A of the act;

(b) what is the total number of applications pending with Government for such recognition; and

(c) by when these applications would be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Non-banking Financial Companies can apply for declaration as Nidhi under section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956. As on 31.10.99, 122 applications are pending at various stages. On receipt of Reserve Bank of India's report and Auditor's certificate regarding compliance of directions issued by Reserve Bank of India and Department Company Affairs from time to time, these applications are further processed and desposed off. Department of Company Affairs has revised the guidelines for Nidhi recently on 1.11.99 to improve their working. Applications complying with the revised guidelines alone will be permitted to function as Nidhi.