

Setting up of separate High Courts for Punjab and Haryana

2752. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the proportion of the Judges and the staff appointed from Punjab and Haryana separately in the Punjab and Haryana High Court;

(b) whether Government have received complaints from Haryana for being discriminated in the matter of appointments of Judges and the staff in the Punjab and Haryana High Court;

(c) whether Government propose to bifurcate the Punjab and Haryana High Court to set-up a separate High Court for to be located somewhere in the State; and

(d) if so, the action taken in matter till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The share of Punjab and Haryana in the Punjab and Haryana High Court in the matter of appointment of Judges is in the ratio of 2:1. The staff of the High Court is unallocated and there is no quota for recruitment from Punjab and Haryana.

(b) The Government of Haryana has approached, from time to time, the Central Government for changing the existing ratio of appointment of Judges in the High Court from 2:1 to 3:2. This proposal has been examined, several times, on the basis of number of cases being instituted in the High Court from Punjab and Haryana States. It has been decided that the existing ratio of 2:1 is justified and should continue in the matter of appointment of Judges in the High Court.

(c) and (d): At present, there is no proposal to bifurcate the Punjab and Haryana High Court or to set up a separate High Court for Haryana.

Law Ministers/Law Secretaries Conference to discuss mounting arrears in courts

2753. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a recent conference of the Law Ministers and the Law Secretaries to discuss the mounting arrears in all the courts; and

(b) if so, outcome of that conference and what remedial measures suggested in that conference for speedy disposal of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement showing the outcome of the meeting and the various measures suggested in the meeting for speedy disposal of cases is attached.

There was general agreement on the following points at the "Meeting of Law Ministers held during 17-18 October, 1992"

- (i) Unless the problem of growing accumulation of arrears is dealt with in time, extra-constitutional centres for dispute-resolution by use of criminal force, etc., may * spring into existence and get strengthened. It is in the interests of healthy growth of democracy to strengthen the judicial wing of the State.
- (ii) There is a need to take immediate action to upgrade the infrastructural facilities for the judiciary as a Plan Scheme.
- (iii) Alternative forums for dispute resolution such as 'Lok Adalats' should be established.
- (iv) Tribunals may be constituted to deal with litigation involving technical issues on