

Irregularities in voters' lists

†2235. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether news report regarding Bangladeshis registering as voters under Hindu names published in the media has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, whether certain foreign nationals had applied to become voters in the country and have been caught;

(c) if so, the number of such cases which have come to the light so far; and

(d) whether local electoral offices have been cautioned against it and if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The requisite information from Election Commission of India is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending cases in Guwahati High Court

2236. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suits remaining pending for more than three years in the Guwahati High Court, State-wise;

(b) the reasons of pendency; and

(c) whether Government is planning to establish separate High Courts in different States of North-Eastern Region (NER) particularly in Tripura in consideration of remoteness of the State and it having the second highest in population in the region?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) In pursuance of a decision of the Government to set-up separate High Courts for the States of North-Eastern Region, the matter of setting —up of a High Court for Tripura is under active consideration with regard to the readiness of the building and related infrastructural facilities provided by the State Government at Agartala.

Pending cases in Maharashtra High Court

2237. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) the number of pending cases in Maharashtra High Court till date;

(b) the number out of them which are (i) over 15 years old; (ii) less than 15 years but more than 10 years old (iii) less than 10 years but more than 5 years old and (iv) the date since when the oldest case is pending; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite disposal of the pending cases, for more than ten years?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Bombay High Court is the High Court for the States of Maharashtra and Goa and the UTs of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. As per the information furnished by the Registry of the Bombay High Court, 363526 cases were pending in the Bombay High Court and its benches as on 30.04.2008. Out of these, 26087 cases were over 15 years old, 57360 cases were over 10 years but less than 15 years and 90534 cases were over 5 years but less than 10 years old. The oldest pendency reported is since 1982.

(c) As per the information received from the Bombay High Court, the measures under taken to effectively deal with the pendency of cases include introduction of latest technology in the nature of IT tools, classification and bunching of cases, allocation of the afternoon session exclusively for the purposes of final hearing of the matters and constitution of special benches. While preparing the board the matters are taken up chronologically subject to any specific direction by the court and in this view of the matter the old cases automatically get precedence.

Vacancies and delay in appointment of Judges

2238. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Supreme Court and High Court Judges appointed this year till date and the number of vacancies still existing court-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present system for the selection of Judges for these courts through a collegiums of Judges headed by the Chief Justice of India is causing serious delays in such appointments; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed by Government to reduce delays in such appointments so that no vacancy of Judges in these courts exists for more than three months?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A Statement showing the number of Supreme Court and High Court Judges appointed from 1.1.2008 till 17.12.2008 and the number of vacancies existing, court-wise, is enclosed (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government has been reminding all consultees to follow time frame in giving their views.

Statement

The number of Judges appointed and court-wise existing vacancies

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Approved strength	Judges in position as on 17.12.2008	Vacancies	No. of Judges appointed from 1.1.2008 to 17.12.2008
1	2	3	4	5	6
A.	Supreme Court of India	26	24	02	05
B.	High Courts				
1.	Allahabad	160	73	87	13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	49	30	19	3