

- (c) whether Government is considering to give special grant-in-aid to evening courts, and
- (d) if so, the amount of grant-in-aid per court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) The Government of India had received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for providing special Central assistance of Rs. 5.00 crore for Evening Courts. The proposal could not be accepted as administration of Justice is primarily the concern of the State Government and there is no such scheme under which central assistance can be provided for Evening Courts.

#### **Benches of High Courts**

1707. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:  
SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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

- (a) the details of special benches of High Courts proposed to be set up by Government in various States;
- (b) the cities/towns identified for setting up of these benches;
- (c) whether Government has received any proposal to set up a special bench at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether Government has fixed any criteria for setting up of these benches; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up special benches of High Courts by the Government anywhere in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of establishment of a Bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench. The report of the Commission was placed in the Parliament Library on 15.10.86 and was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 20.4.87 and 21.4.87 respectively, which may be referred to.

Setting up of benches of High Courts away from their principal seats is considered by the Central Government on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government which has the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

#### **Special courts for offences against women**

†1708. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:  
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether Government is going to make a provision for constitution of special courts for hearing into offences against women or for their hearing in Fast Track Courts;
- (b) if so the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the steps being taken to ensure justice for women?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Government has no proposal at present for constitution of Special Courts as Fast Track Courts for hearing crimes against women. However, the State Governments can constitute special courts in consultation with the respective High Courts.

#### **Road-map for judicial reforms**

1709. DR. K. MALAISAMY:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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

- (a) what is the stage of the road-map for judicial reforms;
- (b) the details as to the features of the proposed reforms; and
- (c) whether such reforms would reduce the pendency of cases and ensure quick and effective justice to the aggrieved litigants?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Government is preparing a roadmap for judicial reforms in the country which aims, *inter alia*, at reducing pendency in the courts, at providing quick and effective justice, introducing accountability of the judges and bringing in transparency in judicial processes for the litigants. The details of the roadmap are being worked out.

#### **Pendency of court cases**

†1710. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the pendency of cases runs into lacs and the main reason behind this pendency is the nature of present judicial procedures and the system, and the shortage of staff;
- (b) if so, whether Government is working on any concrete and effective plan to expedite justice and for disposal of pending cases; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Over three crore cases are pending in the courts. Vacancies in the subordinate judiciary and shortage of staff in the Subordinate Courts are among of the reasons for pendency.

(b) and (c) Expeditious disposal of cases is exclusively within the domain of the Judiciary. Government has, however, taken several steps to facilitate disposal of cases in the courts, including pending cases which include:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.