

Supreme Court benches

932. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up Supreme Court benches at three different places in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Government has not received any proposal from the Chief Justice of India for establishment of a bench of the Supreme Court in any part of the country. The Government can consider the matter after such a proposal/recommendation is received from the Chief Justice of India as per the provisions of Article 130 of the Constitution.

Reimbursement to Gujarat for Fast Track Courts

933. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the scheme of Fast Track Courts was started as 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that though the scheme has been extended uptill 2010, the amount of central assistance has been reduced substantially; and
- (c) whether the Gujarat Government has borne the extra burden of more than Rs. 856.80 lakh per annum and Rs. 4284.00 lakh for the period of extension of the scheme upto 2010 and if so, whether Government is considering to reimburse the amount to the State?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The scheme of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) was started in the year 2000 for a period of five years on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. The central assistance to the States was provided at the rate of Rs.5.00 lakh per court for non recurring expenditure which included Rs.3.4 lakh for construction and Rs.1.6 lakh for computer and library. For recurring expenditure, an amount of Rs.4.8 lakh per court per year was provided.

(b) The term of scheme of the Fast Track Courts recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission ended on 31st March, 2005. The Supreme Court, which is monitoring the functioning of Fast Track Courts through the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs UOI & Ors observed that the scheme of Fast Track Courts should not be disbanded all of a sudden and in its order dated 31st March, 2005, directed the Union of India to continue the Fast Track Courts. The Government accorded its approval for the continuation of 1562 Fast Track Courts that were operational as on 31.3.2005 for a further period of 5 years *i.e.* up to 31st March, 2010. For the extended period, the norm for assistance to the States provided for an additional amount of Rs.8.6 lakh to be provided to the States in the first two