

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is reported to have stated that there is a sharp rise in the number of criminal cases and fall in civil disputes; if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that 71 percent of the cases pending in the lower courts are criminal cases;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are any plans before Government for setting up of Circuit Benches of Supreme Court and High Courts, so as to address this problem; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per the reports received from the High Courts, about 71% of the cases pending in the Subordinate Courts are criminal cases. Some of the main reasons for pendency in Subordinate Courts as identified by various Commissions and Committees including the Law Commission are given below:

- (i) Population and Litigation Explosion.
- (ii) Institution of fresh cases.
- (iii) Inadequacy of Judges' strength.
- (iv) Delays in filling up of vacancies in the Subordinate Courts.
- (v) Inadequacy of staff attached to the Subordinate Courts.
- (vi) Granting of unnecessary adjournments.
- (vii) Frequent closure of courts on account of lawyers' strikes etc.

(d) and (e) According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. 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.

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. No such proposal has been received by the Central Government.

#### **Supply of coal for Kayamkulam plant**

\*239. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kayamkulam plant of NTPC Ltd. has not been working to full capacity, due to short supply of coal;

(b) if so, the details of the capacity utilization during the years 2008 and 2009, and requirement and supply of coal to this plant during the same period; and

(c) the steps being taken to supply sufficient coal, to utilize the full capacity of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Kayamkulam plant (Rajeev Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant) (350 MW) of NTPC Limited operates with liquid fuel (Naphtha), not with coal. There has not been any shortage of fuel at Kayamkulam Station.

The capacity utilization *i.e.* Plant Load Factor (PLF) of this plant was 61.6% and 87.4% during the years 2008 and 2009 (Jan-June, 2009) respectively. The less capacity utilization is mainly due to low schedules given by the beneficiary state power utilities and not due to fuel shortage.

#### **Road-map for development of NER**

\*240.SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up a concrete road-map for the development of the North Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's action plan in respect of rural infrastructure, generation of employment and power generation?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region has prepared the North Eastern Region Vision 2020 document after extensive consultations with the State Governments of the North Eastern Region, Central Government Ministries, experts and civil society. The document was adopted by the North-Eastern Council in its 56th meeting held at Agartafa, on 12-13 May 2008. It was formally released by the Honourable Prime Minister on 2nd July 2008 in New Delhi. The Vision document provides a road-map, outlines the goals, identifies the challenges and suggests implementation strategies for various sectors for peace, prosperity and development of the North Eastern Region.

(b) I. The NER Vision 2020 suggests the following over arching strategies:

- (i) Empowerment of people for self governance and participatory development.
- (ii) Promote development through expansion and modernisation of agricultural and allied sector activity combined with expansion of non-farm economic activities to create jobs/employment opportunities.
- (iii) Development of sectors with comparative advantages based on resources available in the region particularly in hydroelectric sector and tourism.
- (iv) Capacity building of both Government and market institutions.
- (v) Creating a hospitable investment climate with state-of-art infrastructure for enhanced trade and commerce.