

(b) Nothing of this nature has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) Government has increased Judges' strength in Supreme Court from 26 to 31. Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts which includes upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Supreme Court.

High Court Benches at Rajkot and Surat

2520. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has examined the prolonged demands for establishment of Gujarat High Court benches at Rajkot and Surat which have been pending for more than three decades;

(b) if so, the details of facts that have emerged after such examination in the context of public interest at large; and

(c) if not, by when these demands are likely to be fulfilled and finalized?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Setting up of a Bench of a High Court away from its principal seat is considered by the Central Government on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government in terms of section 51(2) of the States' Reorganization Act, 1956, which has consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

The Government of Gujarat had requested in the year 2000 for setting up of a Bench of the High Court at Rajkot and Surat. The Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court had then opined that it would not be in the interest of the institution to have a circuit Bench of the Gujarat High Court either at Rajkot or at Surat. Thereafter, no proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat.

Pending Cases

†2521. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge number of cases is pending in various High Courts in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.