

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) To give an impetus to judicial reforms and to reduce the large number of court arrears in the country, the Government has accepted the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission to provide Rs. 5000 crores to the States to improve the justice delivery system. These resources have been provided for setting up of morning/evening courts, Alternate Dispute Resolution centres and training of mediators and conciliators, holding of Lok Adalats and provision of legal aid, capacity building of judicial officers and public prosecutors, strengthening of State Judicial Academies, appointment of Court Managers to assist the Judges in improving court management and for restoration/conservation of heritage court buildings.

These funds will be made available to the States for the five year period 2010-15. It is expected that these additional resources for the justice sector would play an important role in reducing large volume of pendencies in courts in developing the Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism in the country and in building the requisite capacity in the judiciary to improve case management as well as court management.

These resources are in addition to the various plan schemes of the Central Government which are being implemented to augment the resources of the States to improve the justice delivery system in the country.

Pending cases in Supreme Court

2519. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court since 2006, as on date;
- (b) whether judges do not get sufficient time to deliver judgment due to immense volume of cases; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to clear the huge pendency?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The number of cases pending in the Supreme Court are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Year	Pendency at the end of the year
1	2006	39780
2	2007	46926
3	2008	49819
4	2009	55791
5	31.03.2010	54864

(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 prolong 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 has 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. RAJEEVE: 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.