

(a) whether Government has received the recommendations on capital and financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati from any group of committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, I&B on 30th March, 2005 to examine and submit a report on the issue relating to the Capital and Financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati. The Committee submitted its report on 18.5.2006. In the meantime, a Group of Ministers (GOM) was constituted on 7th March, 2006 to study and make recommendations on various issues pertaining to the functioning of Prasar Bharati including the issue of capital and financial restructuring. The report of the Committee was considered by the GOM. GOM while laying down the broad outlines, recommended that the Ministry should formulate a proposal in consultation with Prasar Bharati incorporating the broad principles laid down by GOM and take up the matter with Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. GOM further recommended that the final proposal after consulting Department of Expenditure may be brought before it for further consideration and recommendations. After a number of discussions with the Department of Expenditure, no consensus could emerge and thus the matter could not be finalized during the tenure of the previous GOM.

The GOM was re-constituted on 10.02.2010 and in its first meeting held on 16.04.2010, GOM discussed the matter of Capital and Financial restructuring among other issues. The recommendations of GOM are awaited.

Corruption in judiciary

3298. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

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

(a) whether a large number of cases of corruption in higher judiciary have come to the fore and have attracted notice of the press as well as Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate law to tackle corruption in judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Allegations of corruption in the judiciary have come to the notice of the Government and have been reported in the press also from time to time.

Accountability in the higher judiciary is, at present, being enforced and maintained through

an 'in-house' system of the judiciary. As per this procedure, the Chief Justice of the High Court has the competence to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of his Court. The Chief Justice of India acts in a similar manner in regard to complaints relating to conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of the High Courts.

To ensure greater accountability and transparency in the higher judiciary, the Government is considering to bring forward a fresh legislation to lay down judicial standards, to enable declaration of assets and liabilities by the Judges and to establish a mechanism for taking action on complaints against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Gram Nyayalayas

3299. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's ambitious plan to open 5000 Gram Nyayalayas to clear 3 crore pending cases in lower courts, has not found favour with majority of States;

(b) if so, the details of States which are in favour and those against opening of these Nyayalayas;

(c) whether some States want Central Government to bear entire expenditure of setting up as well as running of these courts; and

(d) if so, what incentive/financial assistance Central Government has so far, given to the States also indicating the number of courts set up till-date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Most of the States to which the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 extends, have supported the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas and the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Maharashtra have already notified and operationalised Gram Nyayalayas. After the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 came into force on 2nd October, 2009, and upto 31st March, 2010, the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Maharashtra, taken together, have notified 144 Gram Nyayalayas out of which 47 had been made operational.

Some States have, however, requested for higher central financial assistance while indicating their willingness to establish Gram Nyayalayas. Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are such States.

Some States, however, have for different reasons, not felt the need to set up Gram Nyayalayas like the States of Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu and NCT of Delhi.

(d) A Statement indicating the number of courts set up till-date, State-wise and the financial assistance provided till date has been given in Statement.