

ed through the mail bags as the telegraph lines are always out of order; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir, the handling of trunk traffic has been further speeded up by providing a direct trunk circuit between Nimapara and Bhujaneswar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Pendency of cases in Gujarat High Court

638. SHRI IBRAHIM KALIANIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases are pending in the High Court of Gujarat;

(b) if so, what is their number as on the 31st December, 1981 indicating the break-up of pending cases for 1 year, 3 years, 5 years 10 years, 15 years and more than 15 years; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government for early disposal of these pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL):

(a) and (b) The number of cases pending as on 31-12-1981 indicating the break-up is given in the Statement I.

(c) Steps taken to reduce the pendency of cases in High Courts in general are indicated in the Statement II.

Statement-I

Total number of pending cases before Gujarat High Court as on 31-12-81 24565

Details of cases pending for

Less than 1 year	9052
1 to 3 years	10510
3 to 5 years	3946
5 to 10 years	1029
10 to 15 years	16
15 to 20 years	3
Total	24565

Statement-II

Steps taken to reduce the number of Pendency in High Court

(1) The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from Judgment of single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal Vide Section 100A.

(2) The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973 and amended in 1978 and 1980.

(3) The State Governments and the Chief Justices of High Courts have been requested to adhere to specified time schedule for sending their proposals for filling up vacancies in Judges posts.

(4) Apart from the above, certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases:

(a) Fixing matters for hearing by giving short dates;

(b) Dispensing with printing of records;

(c) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts;

(d) Grouping of matters arising from land acquisition cases, etc.

(5) Administrative Tribunal like Customs and Excise Tribunal is set up to ease pressure on High Courts.

(6) Sanctioned strength of High Courts has been increased over the years from 306 in 1970 to 410 in January, 1982, Ad hoc Judges have

been appointed in certain High Courts. It has been decided to increase the strength of the Gujarat High Court by creating two more posts of additional Judges from the date these posts are filled up.

(7) The Government have also appointed Law Commission (10th Law Commission) to keep under review the system of Judicial administration in the country. Some of the terms of reference to the Law Commission are:—

(a) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure:—

(i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principal that decisions should be just and fair;

(ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; and

(iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the Administration of Justice.

(b) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities;

(c) To recommend to the Government measure for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

Shortage of Judges in Gujarat High Court

639 SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of Judges in the High Court of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons, therefor and what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL):

(a) and (b) The required strength of the Gujarat High Court is 16 permanent and 4 Additional Judges which has been calculated taking into consideration the usual norms for fixing judge strength of High Courts. The present strength of the Gujarat High Court is 16 Permanent and 2 Additional Judges. On a proposal received from the State Government for creation of 2 posts of Additional Judges, it has been decided that these posts will be created when proposals for manning these posts are received from the State Government. The State Government have been informed accordingly.

Telephone Directory for Ahmedabad

640. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone directories in Gujarati and English for Ahmedabad city have not yet been printed and distributed resulting in lot of inconvenience to the subscribers due to numerous changes in telephone numbers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(c) by when the directories are likely to be printed and distributed;

(d) whether Gujarat chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahmedabad, have addressed a letter, dated the 25th December, 1981 to the Manager, Ahmedabad Telephones in this connection; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?