

(b) and (c) After wide consultations among various groups and Universities, a report of the major recommendations was prepared and the following course of action has been decided:

- To establish four national level institutions at the regional level as Centres of Excellence focused on research and up-gradation of faculty skills - these may be called Institutes of Advanced Legal Studies and Research.

There will be a National Law University established in every state as a school of excellence.

- Each of the 913 existing law schools to be evaluated by an Empowered Committee and classified as per standards and needs for the purpose of upgrading such colleges and creating and providing opportunities to the students.
- Public Private Participation model for law schools with specialised focus to be encouraged.
- Autonomous colleges that will meet demanding accreditation standards to be encouraged.

(d) Government have embarked upon a National Mission for Delivery of Justice and Legal Reforms "Towards Timely Delivery of Justice to All". A Blueprint for the Judicial Reforms has been drawn which is available on the web-site of the Department of Justice (www.lawmin.nic.in). The aim is to reduce the pendency of the cases in the court from an average of 15 years at present to an average of 3 years.

Alternative dispute resolution system

786. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has recently underlined the need for spreading a new settlement culture for the success of mediation as an alternative dispute resolution system;

(b) if so, whether in the absence of the settlement culture among litigants, the court cases are mounting; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to find out new strategies to dispose of court cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) The Ministry of Law and Justice have no information in this regard.

(b) and (c) Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 enjoins upon the courts a duty to try settlement of cases through alternative dispute resolution modes like arbitration, mediation/conciliation, lok adalats etc. Various High Courts have setup Mediation Centers for the purpose and a large number of Court Cases are being settled in these centers. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission to provide a grant of Rs.5000 crore to the State for improving the justice delivery system in the country. The first instalment of Rs.500 crores has already been released to the States. With the help of these grants, the States can, inter-alia, setup morning/evening/ shift/special magistrates' courts, also organize more Lok Adalats and strengthen alternate dispute resolution mechanisms such as mediation and conciliation with a view to reducing court pendencies. The Ministry of Law and Justice has released a Consultation Paper proposing certain amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The amendments proposed therein would reduce the time taken in the disposal of arbitration cases.

Revision of court fee structure

787. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission, which was entrusted to examine the issue of revision of court fee structure, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Commission; and

(c) what action Ministry has taken on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Introduction of comprehensive High Courts Act

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the pendency of cases in High Courts has increased during the last three years;