

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The term of scheme of the Fast Track Courts recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission ended on 31st March, 2005. The Supreme Court, which is monitoring the functioning of Fast Track Courts through the case of Brij Mohan Lai Vs UOI & Ors. observed that the scheme of Fast Track Courts should not be disbanded all of a sudden and in its order dated 31st March, 2005, directed the Union of India to continue the Fast Track Courts. The Government accorded its approval for the continuation of 1562 assistance to the States included an additional amount of Rs.8.6 lakh to be provided to the States in the first two years towards the cost of construction for additional space in the court room and Rs.4.8 lakh per court per year towards recurring expenditure.

(b) to (d) A grant of Rs. 3570.70 lakh was released to the Government of Gujarat during the period of extension of the scheme from the year 2005-06 to 2008-09. The grant has been released as per the norms of the existing scheme and there is no proposal to reimburse any amount that may have been incurred by the State Government in addition to the central assistance.

Setting up of High Court benches

†1558. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the Ministry is considering to set up benches of High Court, keeping in view public sentiments, demands, convenience and by when the Ministry proposes to set up these benches;

(b) whether any proposal for setting up benches of Allahabad High Court has been received by Government from the State; and

(c) if so, the location where High Court bench is likely to be set up according to the proposal and whether the Ministry proposes to modify the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The Government has received complete proposals from the Governments of West Bengal and Karnataka

for establishment of a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri and Permanent Benches of the Karnataka High Court at Dharwad and Gulbarga respectively.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has not received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a Bench of the Allahabad High Court anywhere in the State. 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 Reorganisation Act, 1956, which has the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

Grants for evening courts

1559. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the State Government of Gujarat has launched the concept of 'Evening Courts' and at present, 98 such courts are functional in the State;

(b) whether the State Government has submitted a proposal for special grant for this purpose;

(c) if so, whether the Central Government is considering the proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Sir. 87 Evening Courts were reported to be functional in Gujarat as on 05.05.2010.

(b) to (d) No proposal has been received from the State Government in the recent past. An earlier proposal from the State Government for central assistance was not agreed to as there was no such scheme under which central assistance could be provided to the States for Evening Courts.

In acceptance of the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission, grants have been provided for the State Governments, including for the State of Gujarat, for operation of Morning/Evening/Shift Courts. The amount allocated for Gujarat for this purpose is 161.17 crore for the five year period 2010-15.