

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, set up morning/evening/shift/special magistrates' courts, also organize more Lok Adalats and strengthen alternate dispute resolution mechanism with a view to reducing court pendencies.

Fast Track Courts were set-up earlier to dispose of long pending sessions cases and the cases involving under-trial prisoners.

Government has also enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, which provides for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas at Panchayat level. As on 31.7.10, the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Maharashtra, taken together, have notified 144 Gram Nyayalayas out of which 47 have been made operational till date. These Nyayalayas will provide affordable and accessible justice to the common man particularly those in the rural areas.

Pending cases in Supreme Court

2336. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

- (a) whether there was a backlog of 55,791 cases in the Supreme Court at the end of 2009;
- (b) whether this backlog has increased by 62 per cent in the last four years;
- (c) the reasons for the mounting backlog of cases; and
- (d) what is being done to reduce the caseload of the Supreme Court and ensure that it is not overburdened with trivial cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of cases pending in the Supreme Court has increased by 61.8% from 34,481 at the end of the year 2005 to 55,791 at the end of the year 2009.

(c) and (d) A steady increase in the number of cases filed in the Supreme Court is one of the main reasons for increasing pendency of cases in the Supreme Court. While the matter of deciding

the admissibility of cases filed before it is exclusively within the domain of the Supreme Court, Government has increased the judges' strength in the Supreme Court and has also upgraded its Information and Communication Technology infrastructure to facilitate disposal of cases.

Setting up of education benches in higher judiciary

2337. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating 'Educational Benches' in the High Courts and Supreme Court in the aftermath of failure of Tribunal system occupied by retired Judges and bureaucrats; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to further increase the strength of High Court and Supreme Court, enabling various special benches to expedite dispute resolution?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Uniform summer vacation entitlement for judges

2338. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether uniform rules have been formulated for concessional summer vacations entitlement for all the High Courts and district courts as per the guidelines issued to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same policy is being adopted by the district court of Rajkot for their judges and staff; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.