

ined by the Government alongwith many others to reduce delays in the legal system. In view of the lack of support from the State Governments/ High Courts, the proposal for double shifts in courts has not been pursued further.

(e) All efforts of the Government are geared to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to the poor, rural and the common man and to protect them from the legal harassment. To achieve this goal, various reforms have been made in the judicial system of the country for speeding up the process of justice by setting of Fast Track Courts, Family Courts, setting of various Benches of High Courts, Special Courts, Computerisation of Courts, simplification of judicial procedure, expediting the process of filling up of vacancies of Judges in High Courts, providing training to the Judicial Officers in the country in Court management and improvement in quality administration of justice, monitoring of cases pending in courts, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialised benches, organising Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Labour Courts etc. The India Administration of Justice Project has been undertaken in collaboration with Asian Development Bank for bringing certain reforms in the judicial sector. Another project, namely, "Access to Justice by poor and the disadvantaged" has also been launched in seven States viz. Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and West Bengal, in collaboration with the UNDP, to conduct diagnostic studies and suggest course of action to reduce barriers in the speedy delivery of justice.

Fast Track Courts

4895. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that term of about 1700 Fast Track Courts have been extended by one month;

(b) the number of cases disposed of by these courts and those pending till date;

(c) when such a large number of cases are pending the reason for giving such a short extension; and

(d) the types of cases which could be transferred from regular courts to Fast Track Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Supreme Court in its order dated 31st March, 2005 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India & Others directed the Union of India to continue the scheme of Fast Track Courts for a period of one month, pending hearing and final disposal of Writ Petition (C) No. 140 of 2005 & other cases.

(b) As per information available with the Department of Justice, as on 30th April, 2005, the Fast Track Courts have disposed of 7.87 lakh cases and about 7.10 lakh cases are pending.

(c) Before the expiry of the extended term of one month for Fast Track Courts, at the initiative of the Department of Justice, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 27th April, 2005 approved the extension of existing 1562 Fast Track Courts for a further period of 5 years i.e. upto 31st March, 2010.

(d) Fast Track Courts were created primarily for disposal of Sessions cases pending for more than two years. However, non-sessions cases have also been transferred to them for disposal.

Bauxite mines

4896. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some bauxite mines in Kashipur, Southern Orissa have been signed away by Government to mining companies as on today;

(b) if so, details thereof including the number of mining companies associated with bauxite mining operations in the State for the last three years, year-wise and district-wise;

(c) whether the Justice Mishra Commission, after the year 2000, stressed for the need for a bauxite project for upliftment of the region;

(d) if so, action taken thereon;

(e) whether the tribals of Kashipur have represented against mining activities of private mining in that area; and