

2001-02 for commissioning. There are a number of AIR projects, spread over in other parts of the country, which could not be commissioned for want of adequate manpower. While in some cases, commissioning has been resorted to through temporary readjustment, this has not been found feasible as a permanent measure. Efforts are made for expediting sanction of adequate staff.

Channel in United Kingdom

3340. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati is likely to launch channel in United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have earmarked any funds for the channel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has proposed to broadcast DD News Channel to the U.K. audience through a DTH (B sky B) platform. The proposal is yet to be approved by the competent authority.

Pending court cases in Punjab

3341. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases, pertaining to Punjab, are pending for disposal in the Punjab and Haryana High Courts and other civil/criminal cases in courts of the State;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which are pending for more than 10 years, 15 years and 20 years; and

(c) the steps taken for their early disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, 66553 cases are pending for more than 5 years but less than 10 years, 54396 cases are pending for more than 10 years but less than 20 years and 1942 cases are pending for more than 20 years. The total number

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of cases pending in Subordinate Judiciary in respect of the State of Punjab is 492442 as on 21-3-2005; out of which 5244 cases are 10 years, 773 cases are 15 years and 215 cases are 20 years old.

(c) The Punjab and Haryana High Court has informed that the following steps have been taken for speedy disposal:

- (i) A Grouping Cell has been established to sort out cases in which same or similar law points are involved, so that those cases could be placed together for disposal before a particular Bench.
- (ii) Judges who are familiar with the particular branch of law involved in the cases are being assigned such cases to the extent possible.
- (iii) Many cases are being disposed of at the motion/admission stage to avoid delay.

In addition, the Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution specialized benches, organizing 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, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.

Appointment of Notary Public

3342. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Notary Public appointed during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the number of posts of Notary Public lying vacant in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A Statement indicating the number of