

(b) the various judicial and executive measures adopted by the Ministry in the final speedy implementation of Supreme Court's judgement particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Autonomy to Law Commission

711. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to free the Law Commission of India from its control to make it more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Commission would become independent?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) A proposal to give statutory status to Law Commission is under consideration of the Government.

E-courts

712. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the e-court project;

(b) the allocation in this regard, so far;

(c) the number of courts in the country that have already been computerized;

(d) the reasons for the slow pace of computerization of the judicial process; and

(e) the details of the plans, if any, to speed up the process?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing a project for computerization of District and Subordinate Courts in the country and for upgradation of ICT infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. Under the project, 12000 courts in 2100 court complexes are expected to be computerised by 31.3.2012 and 2249 courts in 969 court complexes are expected to be computerized by 31.3.2014. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 935.00 crore. National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the implementing agency of the project. So far, an amount of Rs. 338 crore has been given to NIC for implementation of the project.

Under the project, site readiness for computerization has been completed in 10998 courts in 1794 court complexes. Computer hardware like desktop, printers, scanners, servers etc. have been delivered at 6806 courts and installed at 4012 courts. Items for enabling connectivity between all computer infrastructures at the courts (LAN items) have been delivered at 5304 courts and installed at 4022 courts. Moreover, internet connectivity has been provided to 10744 judges and 1758 court complexes. Application software has been installed at 4367 courts. Laptops have been provided to 14314 judicial officers and Laser printers have been provided to

12599 judicial officers. ICT training has been imparted to 9563 judges and 36605 court staff across the country. 722 technical staff have been deployed at Supreme Court, High Courts and judicial districts.

(d) The main reasons for slow pace of computerization of courts are delay in site preparation, complexity and scope of the project and the existence of many stakeholders in the implementation process.

(e) To speed up the process of computerization of courts, it has been decided to follow differentiated output based strategy which includes process re-engineering and change management. An Empowerment Committee has also been formed in the Department of Justice for providing strategic direction and guidance to the project. It has also been decided to set up a Programme Monitoring Unit in the Department of Justice to assist in Program Monitoring activities. The engagement with High Courts and States has also been intensified to achieve time-bound results.

National Litigation Policy

713. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases awaiting completion of trial over the past three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the primary reasons for the arrears in legal cases;

(c) whether on an average it takes 15 years for a trial to reach completion;

(d) whether Government is planning to launch a National Litigation Policy aimed at expediting the pendency of court cases and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the National Litigation Policy could be expected to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A statement is enclosed herewith (*See below*).

(b) Some of the main reasons for pendency in the Courts as identified by various Commissions and Committees including the Law Commission are given below:—

(i) Population and Litigation Explosion.

(ii) Increase in institution of fresh cases.

(iii) Inadequacy of Judges' strength.

(iv) Delays in filling up of vacancies in the Courts.

(v) Inadequate staff attached to the courts.

(vi) Granting of unnecessary adjournments

(vii) Frequent closure of courts on account of lawyers' strikes etc.

(c) Completion of trial depends on the nature of the case, facts and circumstances of the case and is dependent on a number of other factors.