

5. 15 wetlands have been identified in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal for the management and conservation.
6. 16 Mangroves sites have been identified in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal for the protection of Mangroves. The Ministry has established National Mangrove Genetic Resources Centre in Orissa.
7. A National Biodiversity Authority has been set up and as per Biodiversity Act, 2002, seven Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been formed to document and preserve the biodiversity in the Eastern Ghats. The Model People's Biodiversity register (PBR) has also been issued to the State Biodiversity Boards to facilitate the preparation of PBRs (documenting biodiversity and associated knowledge) by these Biodiversity Management Committees.
8. Project Elephant was launched in February, 1992 to assist States having free ranging populations of wild elephants to ensure long term survival of identified viable populations of elephants in their natural habitats in the States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

#### **Pending cases in Uttar Pradesh**

\*177. DR. AKHILESH DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than five million cases are pending in the subordinate courts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such huge pendency;

(c) whether poor infrastructure is one of the main reason therefor;

(d) if so, what efforts Government has made so far to improve the infrastructure of subordinate courts in the State; and

(e) what other measures Government proposes to initiate to speed up disposal of cases in subordinate courts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There were 5484472 cases pending in the subordinate courts of Uttar Pradesh as on 31.03.2010. 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) Increase in institution of fresh cases.
- (ii) Inadequacy of Judges' strength.
- (iii) Delays in filling up of vacancies in the Courts.
- (iv) Inadequate staff attached to the courts.
- (v) Granting of unnecessary adjournments.
- (vi) Inadequate physical infrastructure of the courts.

(d) Development of infrastructure of Subordinate Courts is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. To augment the resources of the States Government, the Government is implementing a scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary which covers construction of court buildings and residential accommodation of judicial officers / judges. The scheme aims at improving the physical infrastructure requirements of the courts as also the housing needs of judicial officers in the country with a view to facilitate better justice delivery. Since the inception of the scheme in 1992-93, an amount of Rs. 154.22 crore has been released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, out of which an amount of Rs. 52.59 crore has been released so far during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period 2007-2012.

In order to modernise the judicial infrastructure, Government is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme (E-Courts Project) for computerization of the District and Subordinate Courts in the country at an estimated cost of Rs. 935 crore.

(e) Other measures taken by the Government to speed up disposal of cases in the Subordinate Courts in States including the State of Uttar Pradesh are given below:

- (i) Government has accepted the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission to provide a grant of Rs.5000 crore to the States for improving the justice delivery system in the country. An amount of Rs. 645.78 crore has been recommended for the State of UP out of which Rs. 64.57 crore has been released as first instalment. With the help of these grants, the State can, *inter-alia*, set up morning/evening/ shift/ special magistrates' courts, organise more Lok Adalats and strengthen mediation with a view to reduce court pendencies.
- (ii) Under the Fast Track Courts scheme, grant of Rs. 72.77crore has been released to Government of Uttar Pradesh from 2005-06 to 2010-11.

- (iii) Civil Procedure Code has been amended which, *inter-alia*, provides for limiting the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail and authorizing the courts to fix time limit for oral arguments.
- (iv) With a view to ensuring speedy disposal of criminal cases, appropriate changes have been made in the Code of Criminal Procedure. The concept of plea bargaining has also been introduced.
- (v) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, conciliation and arbitration have been encouraged.
- (vi) The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 has been notified and brought into force *w.e.f.* 02nd October, 2009. Under this, the Government provides financial assistance to the States for setting up and operation of Gram Nyayalayas. Rs. 20.92 crore have been provided to the States so far under this scheme. A provision of Rs. 40.00 crore has been made for 2010-11 under this scheme.
- (vii) The Government has decided, in principle, to set up a “National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms” with the objective of reducing backlog of cases in courts from an average of 15 years at present to 3 years by taking a series of strategic initiatives.

#### **High Court's in North Eastern States**

\*178. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the recommendations of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice to establish High Courts in every State in North Eastern Region so that tribal law can be made as Judges made law for enacting comprehensive civil code for tribal States; and

(b) if not, whether it would be another reason for alienating the people of these States as denial to have all the three pillars of the 'State'?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Government is considering the matter of setting up of separate High Courts in every State in the North-Eastern region. It requires amendment of relevant Acts namely, The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971, the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1968 and the State of Mizoram Act, 1968 besides provision of adequate infrastructural facilities by the concerned State Governments.