

### Pending cases in High Courts

1943. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several lakh cases are pending for disposal at Allahabad and Kolkata High Court as on 31st January, 2011;

(b) whether Government is aware that acute shortage of Judges in Kolkata, Mumbai, Patna and Ranchi High Courts is responsible for the huge backlog;

(c) whether it is a fact that in Allahabad High Court some cases are pending since 1981 and some for over 73 years, because there is shortage of 100 judges; and

(d) whether Government should have consulted the Chief Justice of India that for appointment of judges in High Court, persons below 57 years, having good practice, and absolute integrity be considered and a panel is drawn by the collegium of each High Court in the next 6 months?

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

(b) and (c) As on 28.2.2011, the sanctioned strength and vacancies in these High Courts are as under:

Name of the High Court	Approved Strength	Vacancy
Allahabad	160	95
Bombay	75	20
Calcutta	58	16
Jharkhand	20	8
Patna	43	13

There are a number of reasons for the backlog of cases in High Courts. Vacancies of Judges has been identified as one of the reasons for the backlog.

(d) The Central Government has been periodically urging all the Chief Justices of the High Courts to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of judges and recommend names of suitable persons.

### Ethical norms for lawyers

1944. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would notify new ethical norms for lawyers by year-end;