nationwide consultations being organized by the Legislative Department and the Election Commission of India through a Core-Committee constituted by the Government on the 1st October, 2010, under the Chairmanship of Additional Solicitor General. The details have been put on the website of Ministry of Law and Justice ***www.lawmin.nic.in***.

Appointment of Court Managers

1933. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to appoint the Court Managers in order to help judges in completing cases' related primary formalities with a view to ensure early settlement of cases;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) how and to what extent appointment of Court Managers would benefit the common man and reduce the heavy backlog of pending cases in various courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) On the recommendation of the Thirteenth Finance Commission, an amount of Rs. 300 crore has been allocated for employment of professionally qualified Court managers with a view to enhancing the efficiency of court management, and resultant improvement in case disposal. The professionally qualified Court Managers, with a MBA Degree/Diploma, will support the judges to perform their administrative duties thereby enabling the judges to devote more time to their judicial functions. The post of a Court Manager would be created in each judicial district to assist the Principal District and Session judges. Two posts of Court Manager may be created for each High Court, and one for each Bench of the High Court.

Court Manager's functions and responsibilities are as under:

(1) **Policies and Standards** - Based on applicable directives of superior courts, establish the performance standards applicable to the court and carryout an evaluation of the compliance of the court with such standards; identify deficiencies and deviations', identify steps required to achieve compliance, maintain such an evaluation on a current basis through annual updates.

(2) **Planning** - Prepare and update annually a 5-year Court Development Plan (CDP) and monitor the implementation of the CDP and report to superior authorities on progress in consultation with all the stakeholders.

(3) **Information and Statistics** - Ensure that statistics on all aspects of the functioning of the Court are complied and reported accurately and promptly in accordance with systems established by the High Court.

(4) **Court Management and case Management** - Ensure that the process and procedures of the court including for filing, scheduling, conduct of adjudication, access to information and documents and grievance redressal are fully compliant with the policies and standards established by the High Court for court and case management and that they safeguard quality, ensure efficiency and timelines, and minimize costs to litigants and to the State; and enhance access to justice.

(5) **Responsiveness Management: Access to Justice; Legal Aid and User Friendliness** - Ensure that the court meets standards established by the High Court on access to justice, legal aid and user friendliness.

(6) **Core Systems Management** - Ensure that the core system of the court such as documentation management; utilities management; infrastructure and facilities management; financial system management (audits, accounts, payments) are established and function effectively.

(7) **IT System Management** - Ensure that the IT systems of the court comply with standards established by the High Court and are fully functional.

Fast Track Courts

1934. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to increase the setting up of Fast Track Courts;

(b) the details of the Fast Track Courts that have been set up during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the cases pending before the Fast Track Courts, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended a scheme for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country for disposal of long pending Sessions and other cases. A provision of Rs. 502.90 crores was made as "special problem and upgradation grant" for judicial administration for a period of 5 years upto 31.03.2005 out of which a grant of Rs. 426.13 crore was released to the States. The Government accorded its approval for the continuation of 1562 Fast Track Courts that were operational as on 31.3.2005 for a further period of 5 years *i.e.* upto 31st March, 2010 with a provision of Rs. 509 crores out of which a grant of Rs. 370.82 crore was released to the States upto 31-3-2010. This scheme has been extended for a further period of one year *i.e.* upto 31.03.2011 and a grant of Rs. 68.15 crore has been released so far during the year 2010-11.

(b) Fast Track Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. Based on the reports received, the State-wise number of Fast Track