

- V. Enactment of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 which provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas to improve access to justice to marginalised. The current year allocation has been increased from ` 40 Cr. to ` 150 Cr. So far 151 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by the States.
- VI. The Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice has requested all the Chief Justices of High Courts to launch a campaign to reduce pendency of cases in court from July-December, 2011 and also for filling up vacancies of judges in the High Courts and Subordinate Courts during the same period. Vacancies and delays are inevitably correlated, hence a campaign mode approach for filling vacancies need to be launched. At least 50% of the vacancies could be filled up in respect of subordinate courts by December 2011.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Regional centres of excellence for advanced legal studies and research**

72. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote legal education;

(b) whether Government has proposed to set up regional centres of excellence for advanced legal studies and research; and

(c) how many centres are proposed to be set up and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) As per the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961, the Bar Council of India is to promote legal education and to lay down standards of such education in consultation with the Universities in India imparting such education and the State Bar Councils. Under section 49 of the said Act, the Bar Council of India has powers to make rules for discharging its functions under the Act. For promotion of the standards of legal education, the Bar Council has framed rules *i.e.* Bar Council of India Rules, Part IV, Rules on Standards of Legal Education and Recognition of Degrees in Law for the purpose of enrolment as advocates and inspection of Universities for recognizing its degrees in law.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. This Department has a proposal for establishment of Centres for Advanced Legal Studies and Research. These autonomous Centres for Advanced Legal Studies will

be established in each region in country comprising of States and Union Territories *i.e.* Region-I (Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu), Region-II (Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh), Region- III (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal), Region-IV (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura), Region-V (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry).

#### **Speedy disposal of pending cases**

73. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would like to dispose of pending cases in three years from the current average of fifteen years.

(b) if so, the details worked out, so far, State-wise; and

(c) the number of pending cases, court-wise and State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Government has approved on 23.06.2011 the setting up of the National Mission for Delivery of Justice and Legal Reforms. The objective of the mission is to help reduce backlog in courts from an average of 15 years at present to 3 years. It would also help in improving the legal environment for business in the country. The National Mission would help in implementing the two major goals of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability at all levels through structural changes and setting performance standards and facilitating enhancement of capacities for achieving such performance standards.

Minister of Law and Justice has written to all the Chief Justices for reducing pendency in the courts and a pendency reduction drive has been launched from 1st July to 31st December, 2011 to clear the backlog availing funds under the Thirteenth Finance Commission for constituting morning and evening courts, lok adalats and mediation centres. Particular emphasis is on disposal of cases of people belonging to marginalized groups and also long pending cases.

(c) As per information available, 57179 cases were pending in the Supreme Court of India as on 30.6.2011. A Statement indicating the number of cases pending in the High Court and District and subordinate Courts including Andhra Pradesh is given in the Statement.