(a) whether it is a fact that Government has stopped release of money to Fast Track Courts recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is planning to convert all subordinate courts into Fast Track Courts; and

(d) how the Ministry would react to the opinion of legal experts who say that the decision mentioned in part (c) is impossible to implement?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 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. up to 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 was further extended for a further period of one year i.e. upto 31.03.2011 and a grant of Rs. 73.16 crore has been released during the year 2010-11. It was decided that there will be no central funding for Fast Track Courts beyond 31-03-2011.

(c) No, Sir. However, Fast Track Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts.

(d) Does not arise.

Allocation for rural courts

81. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated to States for setting up of rural courts is insufficient though the outlay for Central assistance to States for setting up of rural courts has been increased from Rs. 39 crores to Rs.145 crores; and

(b) whether it is felt that the allocations should be increased substantially?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir. The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 has been brought into force w.e.f. 2nd October, 2009. As per the demand received from the States for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas, central grant has so far been released for 151 Gram Nyayalayas. According to the provisions of the Act, it is the responsibility of the States to establish Gram Nyayalayas. In order to augment the resources of the State Government Rs. 18 lakh for non-recurring and Rs. 3.20 lakh for recurring for 3 years per Gram Nyayalaya provided as central assistance. The budget provision for 2011-12 for the scheme is Rs. 150 crores.

(b) The current year allocation is sufficient to meet the requirement of the States.

Strength of judges in courts

†82. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength and vacant posts of Judges in the High Courts along with the number of vacancies of various posts in the subordinate courts;

(b) whether any suggestion has been received in this regard from the Law Commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's intention for implementation of the said suggestions;

(d) whether any financial constraints is involved in it; and

(e) the number of cases which are pending in various courts of the country at present and if these cases are disposed of with the present pace, the time likely to be taken for hearing of all the cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The sanctioned strength and the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts and subordinate courts are given in the Statement-I and II (*See* below).

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and State Government. Therefore, no information of various posts is maintained in Government of India.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.