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HW Installation	8886	12000	74%
S/W Deployment	9118	12000	76%

(b) The funds allocated under the eCourts project is as under:

Financial Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Rs. in Crore	26.40	115.00	120.00	297.00

(c) Of the 12,000 Courts, 9118 courts have been computerized already.

(d) The project is currently on track. However there is a possibility of slowdown in computerization of Taluka Courts as the vendors are not coming forward for variety of reasons.

(e) The Project is monitored closely by the Government through regular video conferencing with the Central Project Coordinators (CPCs) of the High Courts and monthly review meetings taken up by the Department.

Pending cases in North Eastern States

2846. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than two crore cases are pending in subordinate courts of North Eastern States;

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

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per latest available Information, 3,49,280 cases were pending in the

subordinate courts of North Eastern States as on 30.09.2010. While poor infrastructure is one of the causes of pendency in courts, there are other reasons also. Some of them are:

- granting of excessive adjournments
- lack of priority to disposal of old cases
- inadequacy of staff attached to the courts
- long arguments by counsels
- disproportionate concentration of work among some members of Bar
- indiscriminate closure of courts
- inadequate judge strength
- delay in filling-up of vacancies of judges

(d) A Mission Mode approach for infrastructure development of subordinate judiciary is among the major initiatives under the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms which has been approved by the Government. Inadequacy of infrastructure in subordinate courts has been one of the bottlenecks in the speedy delivery of justice. Keeping this in mind, allocation for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infrastructure development has been increased to Rs. 542.90 crore. in 2011-12. Further, the Central-State share under the scheme has been increased from 50:50 to 75:25 for States other than NE States; the Central-State share for NE States is 90:10.

(e) Other measures to speed-up disposal of cases in the Subordinate Courts are as under:

(i) Government is implementing e-Courts Project for the District and Subordinate Courts in the country and up-gradation of ICT infrastructure in superior courts at an estimated cost of Rs. 935 crore. The target is to computerize 12,000 Courts by 31st March, 2012 and 14,249 Courts by 31st March, 2014.

(ii) A pendency reduction drive has been launched from July-December, 2011 by the Department of Justice. Chief Justices have been requested to initiate a campaign mode approach towards clearing petty cases and long pending cases. During the campaign cases relating to women, senior citizens and other marginalized groups will be given priority for disposal. With the availability of funds under TFC grant for morning/evening/ shift courts and Lok Adalats, many of these cases can

be disposed off. Courts are also to use plea bargaining for criminal cases and ADR for civil cases for quicker disposal.

(iii) The High Courts have been requested to take up the filling up of the vacancies in a campaign mode as it is a critical determinant for reduction in arrears. They have also been requested to initiate a campaign to fill-up at least 50% of the vacancies in the Subordinate Courts by the end of December, 2011. Chief Ministers of States have been requested for rendering necessary support to the High Courts especially in the filling up of the vacancies in the Subordinate Courts.

(iv) The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission (TFC) to provide a grant of Rs.5000 crore to the States for improving the justice delivery system in the country over a five year period 2010-15. A grant of Rs.1325.90 crore has already been released to the States. The States can, utilise them inter-alia, for setting up morning/ evening/ shift/ special magistrates' courts, appoint court managers, establishing ADR centres and provide training to mediators/ conciliators, organising more Lok Adalats to reduce pendencies. The grants can also be utilized for training of judicial officers, strengthening of State judicial Academies, training of public prosecutors and maintenance of heritage court buildings.

(v) Enactment of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas to improve access to justice to the common man at the grass-root level. So far, 153 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by the States, out of which 54 are functional. A provision of Rs. 150 crore has been made during 2011-12 for providing financial assistance to the States as per the norms of approved scheme.

Vacancies in J&K High Court

2847. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Judges in Jammu and Kashmir High Court;
- (b) the number of vacancies therein;
- (c) by when these vacancies would be filled up;
- (d) the number of Judges from Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh region in the High Court; and
- (e) whether any Judge from minority community is posted from Jammu region and if not, the reasons therefor?