A major initiative taken up under the Mission is infrastructure development of subordinate judiciary, which has been one of the bottlenecks in speedy delivery of justice.

3. Financial assistance in the form of grant to the tune of Rs, 5000 Crore is being provided to States over the period 2010-15 as recommended by 13th Finance Commission for improving justice delivery system by setting up morning/evening/shift/special magistrate courts to dispose petty cases, establishment of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) centres, provide training to mediators/conciliators, organise Lok Adalats to reduce pendency, strengthening legal aid, training of judicial officers and prosecutors etc.

4. The Chief Justice of all the High Courts have been requested to launch a campaign from July-December, 2011 to reduce pendency of cases in court and also for filling up vacancies of judges in the High Courts and Subordinate Courts during the same period.

5. As regards cost of the litigation, the court fee fixed by the States/High Courts and Supreme Court through their respective rules are already minimal. In addition, Government have already established a network of Legal Services Authority for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity.

6. The Government is implementing an e-Courts project for computerisation of district and subordinate courts in the country and upgradation of the ICT infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts covering over 14000 crores in the country, for improving various services to citizens through ICT enablement as also court processes.

Coal crises due to strike in CIL

†* 99. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power plants across the country are facing coal crises due to the strike in Coal India Ltd (CIL);

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to overcome it;

(c) the extent to which it has been successful; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the reasons for strike in CIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There was only a one day strike in Coal India Limited (CIL) on 10th October, 2011. The strike did affect the supply of coal from CIL sources to power plants across the country. The dispatch of coal to power sector on the day of the strike has been 2.31 Lakh tonnes against the average coal despatch of 8.08 Lakh tonnes on other days of the month. Steps have been taken for improving the coal dispatch to power utilities on priority. Till 22nd November, 2011, the average daily dispatch to power sector has improved to 8.87 Lakh Tonnes from a level of 7.89 Lakh Tonnes in October 2011.

The Coal supplies to power utilities are monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Sub group constituted in the Ministry of Coal and comprising representatives of Ministry of Coal, coal companies, Ministry of Power and Ministry of Railways, which issues suitable instructions for meeting any contingent situations relating to coal supplies to power utilities. Supplies to power stations are also monitored by the Committee on Infrastructure Constraints under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Co-ordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat.

(d) The Central Trade Unions viz. Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) Bharat Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) & Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) had demanded Rs. 25,000/- as Performance Linked Reward (PLR)/Bonus/Ex-gratia. They also demanded to pay an amount of Rs. 1000/- as ex-gratia in lieu of appreciation of contractor workers for the year 2009-10 as agreed last year. The Unions did not agree to the Management's offer of Rs. 17000/- as PLR and all Central Trade Unions went on one day strike on 10th October, 2011.

State funding of elections

*100. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to go for State funding of elections as a major electoral reform in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if answer to (a) be in the negative, the reasons therefor?