

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Election Commission has from time to time made recommendations for electoral reforms to the Government.

(c) and (d) With a view to carrying out comprehensive electoral reforms, a Core-Committee has been constituted on the 1st October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Additional Solicitor General. The talking points of the Committee included (i) De-criminalisation of Politics; (ii) Funding of Elections; (iii) Conduct and Better Management of Elections; (iv) Regulation of Political Parties; (v) Audit and Finances of Political Parties; (vi) Review of Anti-Defection Law. The Committee under the aegis of Legislative Department and in co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted seven regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Bengaluru and Guwahati, wherein the stakeholders have been consulted, who *inter-alia* included leaders and workers of the political parties, legislators, legal luminaries, representatives of NGOs, eminent persons, civil servants (serving and retired), students etc. and views have been gathered. The details of these consultations have been put on the website of the Ministry of Law and Justice *i.e.* www.lawmin.nic.in. On the basis of the inputs received in these consultations, discussion with all political parties is contemplated.

(e) As the matter involves deep study and careful consideration in consultations with the political parties before a decision could be arrived at, no fixed time-frame could be given at this stage.

Mahila Courts

4883. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mahila courts established in the country for disposal of various types of cases relating to women exploitation, especially in Assam;

(b) whether any proposal to increase the number of such courts is pending with Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the number of such courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) Under section 11 of the Cr.P.C. the State Governments may, after consultation

with the respective High Court establish one or more special courts to try any particular case or particular class of cases. The information on number of Mahila Courts established in the country is not maintained centrally.

Disposal of cases

4884. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the current sanctioned/filled/vacant posts of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts in the country, till date;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill the existing vacancies and create more posts;

(c) the per head load in terms of average number of cases per judge in the Supreme Court and High Courts and whether it is justified;

(d) whether there is any study undertaken to find out State-wise need of judges for High Courts and lower courts; and

(e) if so, what is the scene in Rajasthan and Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Sanctioned strength, working strength and the vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 15.05.2012, is given in Statement (*See below*).

Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a High Court rests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, and for appointment of a Judge in the Supreme Court, rests with the Chief Justice of India. In this arrangement, posts have remained vacant for want of adequate number of proposals to fill them. The Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling the existing vacancies as well as the vacancies anticipated in next six months in the High Courts.

(c) to (e) The Judge strength of High Courts is reviewed periodically through a system of Triennial Review, which takes into account both the institution of cases and past pendency. The required strength of Permanent Judges is determined by taking into account the average institution of main cases in the last five years as well as the average rate of disposal of main cases per Judge per year in each High Court. The required strength of Additional Judges is decided by taking into account