

(c) whether it would look only into the infrastructural and manpower constraints or it would also review the archaic laws of nineteenth and early part of twentieth centuries which are mostly being followed by the courts of law?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) Disposal of pending cases in various courts is within the domain of the judiciary. However, with a view to assist judiciary in addressing the problem of pendency of cases, the Central Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in August, 2011. The Mission has twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission will pursue a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration which would, *inter alia*, involve better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. The National Mission has a time frame of five years (2011-16) to pursue them.

Status of Fast Track Courts

2388. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of Government stopping the Fast Track Courts from March, 2011, there are still some States which are continuing the same with their own financial resources;

(b) if so, the details of such States;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in April, 2012 the Supreme Court directed the States to make it clear whether they wanted to continue with the scheme on temporary basis or permanently; and

(d) if so, what the States are doing in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Government has discontinued the scheme of central assistance to States for Fast Track Courts (FTCs) since 1.4.2011. However, several States have continued Fast Track Courts from their own resources. As per information available, State-wise status of FTCs in the country is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) In the judgement given by the Supreme Court on 19.04.2012 in Transfer Case (Civil) No. 22 of 2001- Brij Mohan Lai and Others versus Union of India and Others, the Supreme Court has directed that States shall continue Fast Track Courts (FTC) Scheme only if this is made a permanent feature. They (States) are at a liberty, however, to decide whether to continue the Scheme or not. The response of fifteen (15) State Governments which have conveyed their decision in regard to continuation or otherwise of the FTCs is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

Status of Fast Track Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Number of Fast Trackcourts Functional	As on
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	108	June, 12
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3	June, 12
3	Assam	19	June, 12
4	Bihar	179	March, 11
5	Chhattisgarh	0	June, 12
6	Delhi	20	June, 12
7	Gujarat	61	Feb., 11
8	Goa	5	Jan., 12
9	Haryana	0	June, 12
10	Himachal Pradesh	9	June, 12
11	Jharkhand	0	May, 11
12	Karnataka	93	June, 12
13	Kerela	38	May, 12

1	2	3	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	84	Dec., 10
15	Maharashtra	100	June, 12
16	Manipur	2	June, 12
17	Meghalaya	3	May, 12
18	Mizoram	3	Dec., 11
19	Nagaland	2	May, 12
20	Odisha	35	March, 12
21	Punjab	15	Dec., 10
22	Rajasthan	83	March, 11
23	Tamil Nadu	49	June, 12
24	Tripura	2	June, 12
25	Uttarakhand	22	June, 12
26	Uttar Pradesh	153	March, 11
27	West Bengal	151	June, 12
TOTAL		1239	

Statement-II

*Status of Fast Track Courts Reported By The States/High Courts
After The Judgement In Brij Mohan Lal Case*

Sl.No	Name of the State	Decision of States regarding Fast Track Courts (FTCs)
1	2	3
1	Arunachal Pradesh	3 FTCs converted as regular courts
2	Assam	Will convert all the 20 FTCs as regular courts

1	2	3
3	Chhattisgarh	All FTCs discontinued
4	Delhi	Will continue 20 FTCs till 31/3/2013
5	Haryana	All FTCs discontinued
6	Himachal Pradesh	9 FTCs to continue till 31/3/2013
7	Karnataka	93 FTCs to continue upto 31/3/2013
8	Kerala	38 FTCs to continue
9	Maharashtra	100 FTCs to continue
10	Manipur	Will regularise 2 FTCs w.e.f. 1/3/2012
11	Mizoram	Scheme of FTCs continued beyond 31/3/2011
12	Nagaland	Under consideration of the State Cabinet
13	Tamil Nadu	49 FTCs to continue
14	Tripura	2 FTCs converted as regular courts
15	West Bengal	151 FTCs to continue upto 31/3/2013

Improvement of functioning of EVMs

2389. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Ministry for introducing more mechanisation in the counting of votes to match the pace of mechanisation currently available in the process of voting through the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs);

(b) whether the Election Commission of India has submitted any proposal to introduce totalisers in the counting of votes; and

(c) if so, the steps being considered for improving the level of secrecy in voting?