

1	2	3	4
8	Gujarat	800	708
9	Jammu and Kashmir	172	131
10	Jharkhand	532	350
11	Karnataka	773	568
12	Kerala	402	252
13	Madhya Pradesh	1,018	780
14	Madras	779	463
15	Orissa	399	378
16	Patna	1,060	156
17	Punjab and Haryana	589	664
18	Rajasthan	789	691
19	Shimla	108	100
20	Sikkim	10	8
21	Uttarakhand	232	167
TOTAL		14,249	11,165

*Courts computerised through State Government funded project

Judicial reforms

390. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that judicial reforms is the need of the hour in the country;

(b) whether it is proposed to make a start in this direction;

(c) whether keeping in with the global practices, it is proposed to raise the retirement age of the judges of the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other far-reaching reforms that are proposed to be made to dispense justice to the needy?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a), (b) and (e) With a view to address the huge backlog and pendency of cases in courts, the Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms to achieve the 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 has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration which, *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 judiciary has joined in this endeavour of the Government by setting up of National Court Management System to address issues not only of case and court management but also setting standards for measuring performance of the courts and a national system of judicial statistics in the country.

The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 has been enacted for the purpose of providing access to justice to the citizens at their door steps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities. So far 168 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by seven States.

A sum of Rs. 5,000 crore has been awarded to the State Governments by the 13th Finance Commission for improving delivery of justice through a number of initiatives which, *inter-alia*, include setting up of special courts, promoting Alternative Dispute Redressal mechanism, investment in human resource management and empowering marginalised sections of society for access to justice.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to raise the retirement age of judges in the Supreme Court.

Disposal of pending cases

†391. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.