

(b) whether Ministry proposes to issue any advice on warning to the media in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI) : (a) No study/report in this regard has been brought to the notice of this Ministry. All programmes telecast by private satellite/cable television channels are regulated under the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. It provides that the programmes should be in accordance with the Programme Code and the Advertising Code, which has been laid down in the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

#### **Fast Track Courts for sexual offences**

†709. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN :

SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to constitute Fast Track Courts in the entire country for early hearing of cases of sexual offences;

(b) whether Government has received any suggestions, etc. from various State Governments or social organizations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any guidelines have been prepared for prompt disposal of such cases by making prompt investigation and sending these to Fast Track Courts;

(e) the details of steps taken till date in this regard; and

(f) by when the Fast Track Courts would be constituted by Government in the entire country for hearing such cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANIKUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Government has written to the Chief Ministers of all States and Chief Justices of all High Courts to set up Fast Track Courts for concluding trial in rape cases. The States have been requested to utilize the additional positions of Judges being created

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the Subordinate Judiciary in pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court in Brij Mohan Lal case, to be funded on a matching basis by the Central and the State Governments for this purpose.

(d) to (f) Disposal and transfer of cases to Fast Track Court is within the domain of the judiciary. In its Judgment in the case of Brij Mohan Lal and others versus Union of India and others given on 19.04.2012, the Supreme Court has directed the States that they shall decide to either bring the Fast Track Courts Scheme started in the year 2000 under the Award of the 11th Finance Commission to an end or to continue the same on a permanent basis. The Court has also directed that 10% additional posts be created in the subordinate judiciary and these would be funded by the Central and State Governments on a matching basis. The Government has decided to provide funds on a matching basis upto 31.03.2015 from the 13th Finance Commission Award for salaries of the 10% additional positions of Judges to be created in the subordinate Judiciary.

#### **Increasing the retirement age of High Court Judges**

710. SHRID. BANDYOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to increase the retirement age of High Court Judges to 65 years to make it at par with that of the Supreme Court Judges; and

(b) if so, whether it would adversely affect the possibility of competent Chief Justices of well known and prestigious High Courts leaving their present assignments to join the Supreme Court which would involve displacement from their present locations without the incentive of additional years of service?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :  
(a) The Constitution (One Hundred and Fourteenth Amendment) Bill, 2010 which provides for increasing the retirement age of Judges of High Courts from 62 to 65 years was taken up for discussion in the Lok Sabha on 28.12.2011. However, the discussion has remained inconclusive. The Bill would bring the retirement age of High Court Judges at par with that of the Supreme Court Judges.

(b) No Sir. The Supreme Court is the highest Court of the land and the Judgeship of this Court is considered very prestigious. The increase in the retirement age of High Court Judges should not in any way affect the selection of the competent Chief Justices as Judges of the Supreme Court.