

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for complete elimination of corruption in judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Allegations of corruption in the judiciary have come to the notice of the Government and have been reported in the media also from time to time. As per the “inhouse mechanism” for the higher judiciary, Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of the High Courts. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of their Courts. Administrative control over the members of the subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and State Government. In view of this, the Central Government do not maintain records of such complaints and has no mechanism to monitor the action taken on the same.

(d) There is a proposal to change the existing system for investigation into the complaints of misbehaviour or incapacity of Judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts as well as to enforce greater accountability. A Bill titled “The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill” has been moved by the Government. The Bill provides for a comprehensive mechanism for handling complaints made by citizens on grounds of alleged misbehaviour and incapacity against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and for taking action against those found guilty after investigation. The Bill also lays down judicial standards and makes it incumbent on the Judges to declare their assets/liabilities.

Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts

4255. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the decisions taken at the conference;

(c) what were the points Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts were emphasising; and

(d) how the Government is going to deal with those points?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, A Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts was held on 7th April, 2013 In New Delhi. The Conference has made a number of decisions. It has been resolved that the State Governments would, in consultation with the respective High Courts, take steps to establish Fast Track, Courts for handling cases involving the offences against women, children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of society and would provide funds for this purpose, in order to narrow down Judge-population ratio, the State Governments in consultation with Chief Justices will take requisite steps for creation of new posts of judicial officers at all levels with support staff and requisite infrastructure. It would take urgent steps to fill vacancies in the subordinate courts.

It has been left to the State Governments and the High Courts to decide on the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas, wherever feasible as well as consider establishment and continuation of morning/evening/ shift/holiday/special courts after taking into account geographical and other conditions. It has also been decided that the formation of All India Judicial Service needs further deliberation and consideration.

(c) and (d) The Chief Ministers and Chief Justices discussed a variety of issues relating to administration of justice in the country. These included steps required to reduce pendency of cases in courts, their speedy trial including through setting up of Fast Track Courts and morning/evening shift/holiday, special courts sensitisation of judiciary on gender issues, computerization of courts including the establishment of a National Judicial Data Grid All India Judicial Service, filling up of vacancies in Courts development of infrastructure of courts, strengthening of Legal Aid Services, Alternate Dispute Redress mechanism and Juvenile Justice System etc.

While action on several of the issues has either been undertaken or is underway, follow up action would be taken by the Central Government, State Governments, High Courts and National Legal Services Authority on the remaining issues concerning them.