

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any Member who has a grievance about the manner in which supplementaries are rotated is welcome to come to my Chamber and I will show him full records, party-wise, right round the House. Thank you very much. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Sir, all Members are equal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down now. Don't waste time.

*183. *The questioner(s) Shri Prakash Javadekar was absent.*

Cases pending in consumer courts

*183. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases pending in State and National level consumer courts;
- (b) the number of vacancies of judges in these courts; and
- (c) the steps Government intends to take to reduce the backlog of cases and deliver fast justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The number of cases pending in National Commission and State Commissions is 10,761 and 95,263 respectively as on 06.03.2013.

(b) There is only one vacancy of Judicial Member in NCDRC, for which necessary steps have been taken for appointment. Similarly, occurring of vacancies and its filling up are a continuous process at all levels.

As on 06.03.2013, a list of vacancies of President/Members in State Commissions is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The various steps taken by the Government to reduce the backlog of cases and deliver fast justice are as under:

- (1) The State Governments have been requested from time to time to take action well in advance for filling up of vacancies of President and Members and to maintain a panel of candidates for filling up of future vacancies also to avoid delay in appointments.

- (2) Circuit Benches from National Commission have been frequently visiting States.
- (3) Some State Commissions have constituted Additional Benches mainly to dispose off backlog of pending cases.
- (4) The National Commission and some of the State Commissions as well as District Fora are adopting the process of holding Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of the cases.
- (5) Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs for strengthening of infrastructure of Consumer Fora including computerization and networking.

Statement

Information regarding vacancy position in the State Commission

(As on 06.03.2013)

Sl. No.	States	State Commission		As on
		President	Member	
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	0	31.12.2012
2	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	31.3.2006
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	30.11.2012
4	Assam	0	1	31.12.2012
5	Bihar	0	1	30.09.2012
6	Chandigarh	0	0	31.12.2012
7	Chhattisgarh	0	2	31.12.2012
8	Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	31.03.2011
9	Delhi	0	1	31.01.2013
10	Goa	0	0	31.01.2013

1	2	3	4	5
11	Gujrat	0	0	31.01.2013
12	Haryana	0	1	31.01.2013
13	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	31.01.2013
14	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	31.12.2011
15	Jharkhand	0	0	31.12.2012
16	Karnataka	0	2	31.01.2013
17	Kerala	0	1	30.05.2012
18	Lakshadweep	1	1	31.12.2012
19	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	31.01.2013
20	Maharashtra	0	2	30.06.2012
21	Manipur	0	0	31.12.2008
22	Meghalaya	1	0	31.10.2012
23	Mizoram	0	0	08.03.2010
24	Nagaland	0	0	31.12.2011
25	Odisha	0	1	31.12.2012
26	Puducherry	0	0	31.12.2012
27	Punjab	0	1	31.01.2013
28	Rajasthan	0	0	31.12.2012
29	Sikkim	0	0	31.12.2012
30	Tamil Nadu	0	1	31.12.2012
31	Tripura	0	0	31.01.2013
32	Uttar Pradesh	0	6	31.12.2012
33	Uttarakhand	0	0	31.12.2012
34	West Bengal	0	0	31.12.2012
TOTAL		3	22	

MR. CHAIRMAN: The questioner is not present. Any Supplementaries? Yes, Prof. Soz.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, apart from political connotations of Article 370 of the Constitution of India, this Article was devised as a mechanism to extend the Central laws to the Jammu and Kashmir State, of course, with the willingness of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, through their Government.

Is the hon. Minister satisfied with the viability of the system of Consumer Courts in the State of Jammu and Kashmir? I do not find any viable system of Consumer Courts in shape in Jammu and Kashmir State. Will he look into that proposition? Is he satisfied that it is viable at this time? If he is not satisfied and feels that the system is not viable in that State — and I testify that fact — will he respond to that situation positively?

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Sir, most of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986 is at the disposal of the State Government, of the State fora and the district fora. We do not interfere in that.

I have gone to Jammu and Kashmir, and I have discussed it with them. As of now, Sir, it is for the State to take a decision on this. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has its own Act, and that Act is functioning in that State.

SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA: Sir, I want to know whether the Government of India is considering the proposal of the State Government of Odisha to enhance allocation of BPL rice, from 27.76 lakh families to 42.32 lakh families in view of the fact that the 2011 Census has shown an increase in the number of families to 97,00,000, from 86,00,000 in 2001 Census.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Sir, this is not connected with the main question. Still, I will answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is not connected, do not answer. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: सभापति महोदय, कन्ज्यूमर्स कोर्ट्स को खोलने का जो फैसला था, मैं समझता हूँ कि यह एक बहुत बड़ा रेवोल्यूशनरी स्टेप था। इस बारे में एडवर्टाइज़मेंट भी काफी हो रहा है, लोग कन्ज्यूमर्स कोर्ट्स से आसानी से अपना जस्टिस भी ले रहे हैं, लेकिन वहां पर जो लोअर लेवल पर सिस्टम है, उसको अगर देखा जाए, तो जब भी कन्ज्यूमर्स कोर्ट में कोई एप्लीकेशन जाती है तो उसका प्रोसेस सर्वर सिविल कोर्ट का जाता है। फिर

अगर कोर्ट का ऑर्डर हो गया तो उसकी एग्जिक्युशन भी सिविल कोर्ट करता है। इसलिए जो जस्टिस समय पर मिलना है, उसमें बहुत मुश्किल हो जाती है। लोअर लेवल पर प्रोपर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर भी नहीं है और इस कारण पेंडेंसी बढ़ रही है।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछें।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: सर, मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि लोअर कोर्ट्स में जो डिस्ट्रिक्ट कन्ज्यूमर्स रेगुलेशन फोरम्स हैं, उनके लिए पूरा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर, लाइट प्रोसेस सर्वर, एग्जिक्युशन ऑफ द ऑर्डर, इनको उसी लेवल पर प्रोवाइड करने का सरकार विचार करती है या नहीं करती है?

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Sir, at the district fora, all cases up to Rs. 20 lakhs are being handled; at the State fora, it is from Rs. 20 lakhs to one crores of rupees. In cases of dispute, the decision has to be taken within 90 days, and the facts have to be looked into, which may take 150 days. This is the usual procedure. Looking at the number of cases which the National Commission, the State Commissions and the District fora have handled and disposed of, the position is like this. Sir, in the case of the National Commission, it is about 86.5 per cent of the number of cases that they have disposed of. In the case of State Commissions, it is 84.13 per cent; in the case of the District fora, it is 92.33 per cent. Over all, it is 90.97 per cent.

Sir, compared to the cases disposed of in many of the civil courts, the Consumer Courts have done a commendable job.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: सर।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: सर, मेरे क्वेश्चन का जवाब ही नहीं आया।

सभापति जी, मेरा question यह था कि जो infrastructure Consumer Courts को मिलना चाहिए, वह उनके पास नहीं है। न उनके पास process server है, न ही वे अपने orders को execute कर सकते हैं। क्या वे ये facilities उनको provide करेंगे?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Do you wish to amplify this?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, we are giving adequate financial assistance to both State fora and district fora. I have got the details of funds which we have given to various States. It comes to about Rs. 187.2 ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, please. Let the hon. Minister finish. Then, you can put question.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: सर, एक मिनट मेरी बात सुनिए ...(व्यवधान)...

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, we are giving financial assistance to the State Governments to set up infrastructure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whose responsibility is it to set up the infrastructure? Is it Centre or States?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, it is the State Government's responsibility. We give them the financial assistance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Sir, just one second please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you can't discuss this any further. Avinashji, please.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Sir, the basic question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, it has been clarified. Please sit down. Now, Q. No. 184.

Regional news through Doordarshan channel/Akashvani

*184. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to broadcast regional news through Doordarshan channel/Akashvani;

(b) if so, the details thereof, language-wise and State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.