

(b) if so, whether the State Government has agreed to it, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that request has been made to State Government of Madhya Pradesh to sponsor the proposal for construction of ROB on Cost Sharing Basis in lieu of level crossing No. 271 (Khari Phatak) situated in Vidisha Yard.

(b) State Government has not sent any proposal for construction of ROB so far.

Revamping Justice Delivery System

*220. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the results of release of Rs. 1000 crore out of Rs. 5000 crore by the Thirteenth Finance Commission for improvement of Justice Delivery, including operation of morning and evening courts, establishment of alternate dispute resolution centres, Lok Adalats, providing free legal aid and training of judicial officers and setting up fast-track courts for trying heinous crimes;

(b) whether Government is contemplating fixing maximum duration by which civil and criminal cases in subordinate and district courts are to be finally settled; and

(c) whether delaying provisions, as present in our existing Acts, would be curtailed keeping in view the accepted international standards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Under the Thirteenth Finance Commission (13th FC) a provision of Rs. 5000 crores has been made for a period of five years (2010-15) for improving justice delivery. The first installment of Rs. 1000 crore was released to States on commencement of the award. Subsequent installments have been released to states which have submitted utilization certificates and fulfilled other pre-conditions. Rs. 1426.47 crore has been released to States as on 31st July, 2013. Since the commencement of the 13th FC till

31st July, 2013, the following number of cases are reported to have been disposed off:

- (i) Morning/Evening/Shift Court : 20,25,415
- (ii) Lok Adalats : 48,75,073
- (iii) Alternate Dispute Resolution Centres : 7,43,853

In addition 2,47,150 persons have reportedly benefited from legal awareness camps, and over 22,000 Judicial Officers and Public Prosecutors have participated in training programmes.

Under the Eleventh Finance Commission, a grant was sanctioned for the period 2000-2005 for creation of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for disposing of long pending cases. The scheme was extended up to 31st March, 2011. A total grant of Rs. 870 crore was provided to the States during this entire period. As per reports received, as on 31st March, 2011, 1190 Fast Track Courts were functional in the country, and out of 38.99 lakh cases transferred to FTCs since inception of the scheme, 32.93 lakhs cases were disposed off.

(b) and (c) The rules and procedures for court proceedings, including adjournment, are in the purview of the respective High Courts. However, in order to expedite the trial of court cases, a number of legislative changes in procedural laws have been made by the Parliament which include provisions limiting adjournments of court proceedings in criminal and civil matters as contained in Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Order XVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. In order to assist the judiciary, the Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms to achieve the twin goals of (i) increasing access to justice by reducing delays and arrears; and (ii) enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and improving capacities. Further, the Chief Justice of India has established the National Court Management System (NCMS). NCMS is responsible for preparing policy guidelines for developing a National Framework of Court Excellence (NFCE) to set measurable performance standards for courts to address issues of quality, responsiveness and timeliness in delivery of justice.