

1	2	3	4
18	Maharashtra	2	36.606
19	Manipur	0	0
20	Meghalaya	0	0
21	Mizoram	0	0
22	Nagaland	0	0
23	Odisha	0	0
24	Puducherry	0	0
25	Punjab	0	0
26	Rajasthan	0	0
27	Sikkim	0	0
28	Tamil Nadu	5	70.704
29	Tripura	0	0
30	Uttar Pradesh	0	0
31	Uttarakhand	0	0
32	West Bengal	0	0
TOTAL		19	346.99

#### Vacations in courts

2263. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are summer and winter vacations in courts every year in the country;

(b) whether this practice was started by the Britishers;

(c) whether before independence most of the judges who were Britishers used to visit England when the vacations start; and

(d) whether in view of acute shortage of judges in all the courts and given a huge backlog of cases, Government will discontinue this practice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The practice of vacation in courts is continuing since pre-independence. The duration of vacations in the Supreme Court and High Courts is governed by the Rules/Regulations framed by the concerned courts. Considering the staggering arrears of cases pending in Courts, the Law Commission of India in its 230<sup>th</sup> Report submitted on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 had, *inter-alia*, recommended that vacations in the higher judiciary must be curtailed by at least 10 to 15 days and the court working hours should be extended by at least half an hour. The Report has been forwarded to the Chief Justices of High Courts to consider the recommendations contained therein for adoption.

**SC/ST and women judges in higher judiciary**

2264. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether vacancy exist in the Supreme Court and High Courts in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of judges from SC and ST communities working in the Supreme Court and High Courts; and

(d) the number of women judges working in these courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Statement showing the vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 26.08.2013, is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively. These Articles do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, no caste or class-wise data of Judges is maintained. The Government has, however, requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and from amongst women.