

4. Odisha : Proposal for establishment of two Benches of the Odisha High Court in the Western and Southern regions of Odisha was referred to the Chief Justice, Odisha High Court. The Chief Justice, Odisha High Court has intimated that the matter will be examined by the High Court in due course in the light of all facts and circumstances.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not submitted any proposal for establishment of a Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Amendment in Representation of People Act

3050. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the States have prescribed minimum proficiency in the respective regional language for eligibility to contest elections to local bodies;
- (b) if so, the reasons for Government not recommending similar standards for being eligible to contest for elections to the State Assemblies; and
- (c) whether there is a demand from some States, parties or individuals for amending the Representation of People Act in this regard and the steps taken on such demands?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fast Track Courts

3051. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Fast Track Courts set up in Delhi and rest of the country after the Nirbhaya case in December, 2012, State and Union Territory-wise; and
- (b) the action taken by Government to ensure that sufficient number of Fast Track Courts are set up in the country to try offences against women?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) A Statement in respect of number of Fast Track Courts set up/designated in the States/UTs for crime against women is given in Statement (*See* below).