

instead of ward-wise declaration of vote count in various elections in the country to protect the right to privacy attached to voting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Election Commission has asked Government to amend the rule to do away with declaration of result of every polling booth;

(d) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect the right to privacy attached to voting?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (e) The Election Commission has submitted a proposal for introduction of a machine called Totaliser for counting the votes. The Election Commission is of the view that by use of Totaliser, a further level of secrecy in voting and the mixing of votes at the time of counting will be achieved, which will prevent the disclosure of the pattern of voting at a particular polling station. The Government has not taken a considered view on introduction of Totaliser in the counting of votes as proposed by the Election Commission. Secrecy of votes being the essence of Indian democracy will certainly be ascertained before introduction of any technological advancement in the voting or counting.

Creation of All India Judicial Service

3324. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on creation of new All India Judicial Service in line with IAS and IPS, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has sought views of State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether any objections have been raised by States in regard to creation of such new service, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the benefits of the unified All India Judicial Service and hurdles being faced in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (d) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) in order to strengthen federal governance, attract the best talent in the judiciary, promote national integration, and establish standards of governance.

The proposal was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers of the States and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberations and consideration. Therefore, the views of the State Governments and High Courts have been sought again on the proposal.

Filling up of vacancies of High Court Judges

3325. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes, to adopt the pre 1993 proposition with regard to appointment of judges and to fill up the vacancies on fast track; and
- (b) if so, whether there is any time-frame to fill up around 200 vacancies in High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to change the existing system for appointment and transfer of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts by establishing the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) with a view to broad base the process of appointment. The matter is presently under active consideration in consultation with various stakeholders. The Minister of Law and Justice has written to Chief Justices of High Courts to take steps to expedite the filling up of vacancies in High Courts.

Pending court cases

†3326. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the pending cases in all courts of the country are rising continuously;
- (b) if so, whether Government is planning to control it; and
- (c) if so, how and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The data on pendency of cases is maintained by Supreme Court and High Courts. As per available information, number of cases pending in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts during last three years are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.