

(c) There is a proposal to change the existing system for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts. The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, I want your protection. This answer is not correct. To the question 'whether there is a practice of Government writing to the Judiciary on appointment of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts', the reply given is that the Government does not do so; however, the Government periodically reminds the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling up the vacancies. Sir, this is wrong. The Minister himself said recently that in the Gopal Subramaniam issue ...*(Interruptions)*... Even earlier, the Chief Justice of the ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, Question Hour is over.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, this is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, on this issue the House is ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is not accurate, you know the procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*...  
Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Reducing pendency of cases

\*448. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that higher courts and Government Departments do not work on Saturdays and courts enjoy twenty holidays in a year, besides Christmas and winter holidays;

(b) whether it is also a fact that lower courts sit on Saturdays; and

(c) whether Government is examining suggestions of the Chief Justice of India that courts should work 365 days a year to clear the huge pendency of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):  
(a) and (b) Central Government administrative offices do not work on Saturdays and observe not more than 17 holidays including Christmas, in a calendar year, besides 2 restricted holidays. There are no winter/summer holidays.

Working days/hours in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts in the country are

regulated by Rules framed by the respective Court. The working days as well as working hours of the District/Subordinate Courts are regulated by the respective High Court. The Supreme Court and High Courts do not work on Saturdays. As per information available, the High Courts function from Monday to Friday, but their Registry/offices also function on Saturdays, except on second or last Saturday of each month. High Courts generally enjoy twenty holidays in a year besides Christmas and winter holidays. Lower courts generally function on Saturdays except the second or last Saturday of each month.

(c) No formal communication has been received from Chief Justice of India in this regard. However, from the media reports, it appears that the Chief Justice of India has suggested to keep the Supreme Court, High Courts and trial Courts open 365 days in a year by preparing a calendar for arranging the benches in the Supreme Court and High Courts to ensure that judiciary functions throughout the year.

#### **Mechanism for monitoring online sale of products**

\*449. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken any action, in consultation with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, on the fact that due to advancement in Information Technology, many marketing companies are attracting consumers for selling their products online and many cases have come to light about misleading and cheating of customers, but no proper mechanism is available to ensure protection of the rights of consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The subject of e-commerce is relatively new which has become extremely crucial due to global digital integration, wide spread use of internet and convenience of online business transactions. E-commerce is in evolution stage not only in India but also in rest of the World. International organizations such as United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) are framing / reviewing guidelines on e-commerce.

The problems faced by consumers in e-commerce need to be tackled globally since in many cases buyers, sellers, manufacturers, website owners, payment gateways are located in different countries. India is in close touch with these International organizations like UNCTAD, etc. to ensure global cooperation in the matter and following International practices, guidelines in the field.