

(c) The Supreme Court of India has finalised the 'Policy and Action Plan Document for Phase II of the eCourts Project' envisaging further enhancement of ICT enablement of judiciary with Digitization of case records of district and subordinate courts as one of the initiatives. The duration of the eCourt Phase II project mentioned in the Policy document is three years.

Fast Track Courts

2275. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to open a number of Fast Track Courts to speed up justice in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such courts that are proposed to be opened, State-wise;
- (c) the number of pending court cases in the country in the Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts; and
- (d) whether it is also proposed to open all-women courts to deal with cases relating to women prisoners in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Setting up of courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 7th April, 2013, it has been resolved that the State Governments shall, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, take necessary steps to establish suitable number of FTCs relating to offences against women, children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of the society, and provide adequate funds for the purpose of creating and continuing them. Government has requested the State Governments and the Chief Justices of the High Courts to implement this decision.

(c) The data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. As per the information available in Court News (Vol. IX, Issue No.1), a quarterly newsletter of Supreme Court, 52,119 civil cases and 12,211 criminal cases were pending as on 31.03.2014 in the Supreme Court. 34.32 lakh civil cases and 10.23 lakh criminal cases were pending as on 31.12.2013 in various High Courts. In District and

Subordinate Courts, 82.78 lakh civil cases and 185.60 lakh criminal cases were pending as on 31.12.2013.

(d) No, Sir.

Reservation policy for appointments as Government Pleaders

2276. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing reservation policy for SC/ST and OBC candidates for appointment as Government Pleaders in all courts in the country, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, if so, the details thereof and the present position thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and by when this policy would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) and (b) Government Pleaders are empanelled from amongst the practicing advocates based on their professional competence and standing at the bar. Appointments are made on the basis of work requirement. There is no provision of reservation for SC/ST and OBC in such appointments.

Assembly Constituencies reserved for SC/ST

2277. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some Assembly Constituencies which are reserved for SC/ST, there are either no SC/ST families or may have one or two families only;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to reconsider the reservation status of such Constituencies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) to (c) The Election Commission has informed that seats for Scheduled Castes(SCs) and Scheduled Tribes(STs) are reserved in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies as per the provisions of articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution of India. Under the said provisions read with section 9(1) (c) and 9(1) (d) of the Delimitation Act, 2002, the seats in Legislative Assemblies of all States/Union Territories and the seats in the House of