

Automation in judiciary

725. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any recent initiatives have been undertaken aimed at automation of the judiciary, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these initiatives have been accepted by High Courts and they have implemented automation of case management, file management and docket managements, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the list of High Courts that have completed the automation process;

(d) the status of automation of subordinate judiciary;

(e) whether there still exists a number of High Courts that are yet to adopt automation procedure; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in adopting automation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (f) Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for computerisation of 14249 district and subordinate courts in the country by March, 2015. As on 31st October, 2014, 13323 courts have been computerized and are providing designated services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary. The national e-Courts portal (<http://www.ecourts.gov.in>) provides online services to litigants such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgements.

The Supreme Court and High Courts have already been computerised. Their ICT infrastructure has been upgraded under the e-Courts Project.

Study to assess the performance of courts

726. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any study has been conducted to audit and assess the performance of courts which have been automated, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) Whether there is a plan to set up a task force consisting of senior judges of High Courts and technology experts in preparing a comprehensive action plan for implementation of IT in District courts and courts subordinate thereto, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The details regarding training of Judicial and other personnel in the use of computer based system, if any, initiated by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) An evaluation of implementation of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project of the Government has been undertaken by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The scope of the evaluation was to assess ICT infrastructure created through the e-Courts project and not the performance of courts which have been computerised.

(b) The e-Courts Mission Mode Project was conceptualized based on the 'National Policy and action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in Indian Judiciary (NPAPIICT)' prepared by the e-Committee of Supreme Court of India in 2005. Further, a 'Policy and Action Plan Document for Phase-II of the e-Courts project' has been prepared by the e-Committee of Supreme Court.

(c) Under the Change Management exercise of the e-Courts Mission Mode project, over 14,000 Judicial Officers have been trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System and over 4000 court staff have been trained in Case Information System (CIS) software.

Strengthening subordinate judiciary

727. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of judges vacant in the subordinate judiciary, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to increase the strength of subordinate judiciary;

(c) whether Government has given any directives to the State Governments and High Courts to fill up the vacancies at the earliest; and

(d) whether Government proposes to implement All India Judicial Services to ensure quality of subordinate judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (d) Details of vacancy position of judges in District and Subordinate Courts are given in the Statement (*See below*).

The subject matter relating of creation and filling up of posts in Subordinate Judiciary comes within the domain of State Governments and High Courts. In the Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts held in April, 2013, it was *inter alia* resolved that in order to improve the judge-population ratio, State Governments in consultation with the Chief Justices of respective High Courts will take necessary steps