Year	Number of pending cases (Civil + Criminal)
2011	26986307
2012	26951461
2013	26839256

(c) The objective of the eCourts project is to provide designated services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary by universal computerization of district and subordinate courts in the country. 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 judgments. Further, all the district and subordinate courts computerised under eCourts project have been linked to National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), which is a common repository of case records across the country. On NJDG, data entry of decided cases is being undertaken and data pertaining to pending cases is being updated on a daily basis. As on 31st October, 2014, data in respect of more than 3.92 crore cases and more than 60 lakh orders/judgments pertaining to district and subordinate Courts under the jurisdiction of 21 out of 24 High Courts have been uploaded on NJDG.

Although reduction of pendency is not the prime objective of eCourts project, the initiatives being taken under the project will eventually lead to improvement in justice delivery.

Recommendation of CBI to ITAT

3089. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has recommended to Chairman, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) to be more vigilant and review the rules and practices related to preparation and delivery of orders under section 263 of the Income Tax Act, 1961;

(b) if so, details thereof and action taken, so far, on the recommendation;

(c) whether members of ITAT, Kolkata are engaged in pre-written judgements in connivance with unscrupulous counsels, resulting into loss of revenue to the exchequer; and

(d) if so, how many such cases have been brought to the notice of Government and action taken against members of ITAT, Kolkata for abnormal practices?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that it has not made any recommendation to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal in this regard. Section 263 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, relates to the revision of assessment order by the Commissioners of Income Tax, in the circumstances stated therein. This Section does not relate to the passing of orders by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such case has been brought to the notice of the Government.

Judgements of ITAT, Kolkata

3090.SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), Kolkata are delivering pre-decided judgements under Section 263 of the Income Tax Act, 1961;

(b) whether Chairman, ITAT has no rules and practices relating to preparation and delivery of orders;

(c) if so, the details of procedure adopted by members of ITAT, Kolkata in delivering judgment/orders under Section 263 of IT Act, 1961;

(d) whether a large number of cases of quid pro quo by some members have been noticed in the past; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken against such erring members?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) No, Sir. Section 263 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, relates to the revision of assessment order by the Commissioners of Income Tax, in the circumstances stated therein. This Section does not relate to the passing of orders by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT).

(b) The Income Tax (Appellate Tribunal) Rules, 1963, framed under Section 255 (5) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, prescribe the procedure for processing of appeals by the ITAT.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) There is one case relating to a Member of the ITAT who was allegedly caught red-handed by the CBI while accepting bribe and he is under suspension. The