

Bureau (NCRB), out of 4.12 lakh different types of prison inmates in jails, 2.78 lakh are undertrials. In order to reduce the number of undertrials in prisons, the Chief Justices of the High Courts have been requested to advise the district judiciary to review all cases where under-trials are eligible for bail under Section 436 and 436A of CrPC, and take suo moto action for their release. They have also been advised to set up a mechanism in the High Court for periodic monitoring of the release of undertrials prisoners. The Chief Ministers and the Law Ministers have also been requested to use software applications to generate data of under-trial prisoners and review their cases periodically.

#### **Vacancies in judiciary**

3101.SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present there are 22.5 per cent of judges' positions vacant in subordinate Judiciary, the situation being worse in High Courts where vacancies are more than 34 per cent;

(b) if so, the current strength of Subordinate Judiciary and High Courts as against their sanctioned strengths; and

(c) the action Government has taken or is taking in expediting the process of filling up the vacancies, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
(a) to (c) Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the control over District and Subordinate Courts in the States vests with the concerned High Court. As per information available in Court News, a quarterly newsletter of Supreme Court of India, the sanctioned and working strengths of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts were 19,518 and 15,115 respectively as on 31.12.2013; and 4403 posts of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts were vacant on 31.12.2013.

The Sanctioned and Working Strengths of Judges of various High Courts were 984 and 631 respectively; and 353 posts of Judges of High Courts were vacant as on 15.12.2014.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure, initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges of a High Court rests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. The Government is periodically reminding the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling up the existing vacancies as well as the vacancies anticipated

in the next six months in the High Courts. The filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. For filling of vacancies in District and Subordinate Courts, the matter is regularly pursued with the High Courts.

#### **Amendment in the Indian Succession Act, 1925**

3102.SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from the native Christians of Mysore and Coorg to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925;

(b) whether the Ministry would consider amending the Act to include native Christians of Mysore and Coorg in its ambit; and

(c) if so, the date by which and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No Sir. From the records available, it may be stated that we have not received any request from native Christians of Mysore and Coorg to amend the Indian Succession Act, 1925 (39 of 1925).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Advisory committees on FDI**

3103.SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have constituted a few advisory committees comprising experts from various fields on foreign direct investment, resource mobilization, information technology initiatives, etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are yet to finalise the modalities for investment, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has constituted a High Level Committee for mobilisation of resources for major railway projects and restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board. Ministry of Railways has also constituted another High Level Committee for identifying factors, issues and avenues for improving financial health of Indian Railways.