

including computerisation, encouraging increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and initiating policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation.

The National eCourts portal has been made operational. The portal provides online services to litigants such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily order and final judgment for all the courts computerised under eCourts project.

Introduction of Indian Judicial Service

2657. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a very small per cent of law graduates in the country are joining the legal profession;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to introduce Indian Judicial Service on the lines of Indian Administrative Service to attract more law graduates to the judicial field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) The Bar Council of India has informed that there are about 17 lakh lawyers in the country and around 11 hundred University/College are imparting Legal Education in country. Every year 30 thousand advocates are joining the profession of advocacy, therefore, it is not correct to say that very small percentage of law graduates in the country are joining the law profession.

(c) and (d) A proposal for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013. It was decided in the Conference that issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. 15 State Governments and 18 High Courts furnished their views, Divergence of opinion among the State Governments and High Courts on constitution of All India Judicial Service still persists.

National litigation policy

2658. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a National Litigation Policy in order to reduce the backlog of cases in courts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the proposed policy will include measures to avoid unnecessary litigation as well as inter-Ministerial litigation in Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has identified obsolete laws, amendment Acts and Appropriation Acts for repeal, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Sir, with a view to bring down pendency and reduce Government litigation, the National Litigation Policy 2015 is under consideration of the Government. All such efforts are aimed at minimizing litigation and thus bring down number of pending cases.

(c) Details are given in Statement.

Statement

National Litigation Policy

Review of all laws with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by the different nodal Ministries/Departments of the Central Government administering their respective laws and generally by the Law Commission of India. The Commission on Review of Administrative Laws (P.C. Jain Commission) gave its Report in 1998 identifying large body of laws for the purposes of repeal. It has recommended the repeal of 700 Appropriation Acts passed by Parliament from time to time since 1950 as they are, in terms, temporary in nature. The Commission has recommended their repeal on the ground that these laws have become either irrelevant or dysfunctional. The proposal is under examination of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The Law Commission has submitted its 248th, 249th, 250th and 251st Reports on "Obsolete Laws: Warranting Immediate Repeal", in which it recommended for repeal of 72, 113, 74 and 30 obsolete Acts respectively, including some State laws. The Ministry of Law and Justice has examined the said Reports and letters have been issued to the concerned Ministries/Departments and the State Governments seeking their comments and also asking them to take necessary action. The replies are still awaited. The final decision will be taken only after receiving the comments from these Ministries/Departments and State Governments in this regard.

Further, a Two-member Committee was constituted by the Prime Minister's Office on 1st September, 2014 for review of repeal of obsolete laws. The said Committee has submitted its Report, which has been examined by the Ministry of Law and Justice. Letters have been sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments for their

views/comments on repeal of 637 Acts. Letters are also to be issued to the States for repeal of obsolete Acts, which pertain to their States. The final decision will be taken only after receiving the comments from these Ministries/Departments and State Governments in this regard.

The Repealing and the Amending Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 11/08/2014 for repeal of 36 Acts, out of which, four Acts were suggested by the other Ministries/Departments. The said Bill has been referred to Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, which has submitted its Report on 18th December, 2014. The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee have been examined and decided to move the necessary amendments to that Bill in the ensuing Session of Parliament. The Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3rd December, 2014 and considered and passed by it on 8th December, 2014. The said Bill proposes to repeal 90 redundant amending Acts, in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments. The said Bill was referred to Select Committee of Rajya Sabha, for its examination and Report, which has submitted its Report to the House on 24th February, 2015. The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee have been examined and decided to move notice for consideration and passing of the Bill in the concerned House.

Female Judges

2659. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data on the number of female judges in the Indian judiciary, both in higher judiciary and subordinate courts;

(b) if so, the number of female judges in the subordinate courts, State-wise; and

(c) whether in view of the increase in gender related crimes, Government has any proposal to increase the number of female judges in judiciary; if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively. These Articles do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, no caste or class-wise data of Judges is maintained. However, the Government has requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and from amongst women.