

targets, an investment of ₹ 100,000 crore was required by the year 2015. Out of which, the share of Government was ₹10,000 crore.

During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, against the proposal for allocation of ₹ 4816 crore for the Ministry, a plan outlay of ₹ 4041 crore only was made for various schemes of the Ministry. The budget allocation for various schemes of the Ministry during the Eleventh Plan was ₹ 1672 crore, but the actual expenditure incurred was ₹1596.88 crore only. During the Twelfth Five Year Plan, against the proposal for allocation of ₹14604 crore for the Ministry, a plan outlay of ₹ 5990 crore only was made for various schemes of the Ministry. The budget allocation for various schemes of the Ministry during the first three years of Twelfth Plan was ₹ 1810 crore only. The actual expenditure incurred so far is ₹ 1721.12 crore only.

Speedy delivery of Justice

582. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than two crore cases are pending in subordinate courts due to poor judge-population ratio, prolonged and costly litigation caused by procedures and lawyers' interests, poor infrastructure, shortage of judicial personnel and weak alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, etc;

(b) whether there is any proposal to fix time-limit for deciding a case to reduce pendency and to speed up the delivery of justice; and

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of qualified lawyers, if so, whether there is any proposal to start correspondence LLB courses to enable more number of students studying law, if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) There were about 2.64 crore cases pending in subordinate courts as on 31.12.2014. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration by providing support for better court infrastructure including computerisation, encouraging increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and initiating policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation.

(b) The actual time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of case (civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake-holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable

rules of procedure. As such it is difficult to fix a specific time-frame for disposal of various categories of cases.

(c) As per information provided by the Bar Council of India, there is no shortage of qualified lawyers in the country and that LLB being a professional course cannot be run as a correspondence course.

Appointment of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

583. SHRI H.K. DUA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has stopped further appointment of Judges to fill up the vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts;

(b) whether Government has decided not to appoint National Judicial Appointments Commission for the time being, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts at present?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) and (b) After assent by the President, the Constitution (Ninety Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the accompanying National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 have been published in the Gazette of India on 31.12.2014. They shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette, appoint. The process of setting up the National Judicial Appointments Commission has been initiated. Till such time the Acts are brought into force, the existing system of appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts is being continued.

(c) The details showing the number of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 20.02.2015 are given in the Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Number of vacancies as on 20.02.2015
1	2	3
A. Supreme Court of India		03
B. High Court		
1.	Allahabad	76
2.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	20
3.	Bombay	09
4.	Kolkata	21