

(c) the average number of cases being heard per day in Singapore, United States of America and United Kingdom and the average time taken by Courts to deliver justice in these countries; and

(d) whether Government is working on any plan to shorten the time taken to deliver justice and if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) to (d) Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. The time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of the case (civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable rules of procedure. The Government at present does not maintain data on average time taken by courts to deliver judgements and average number of cases being heard per day by various courts in the country or outside.

Further, it may not be valid to compare the time taken for disposal of cases by courts in the country with the time taken by courts in other countries like Singapore, United States of America and United Kingdom. The courts in various countries operate in different environment on account of difference in availability of infrastructure facilities, use of technology, number of judicial officers per million of population (judge-population ratio), docket ratio (population case filing ratio), provisions of substantive laws and procedures in courts.

Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

Judicial system under strain

1483. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether judicial system is under strain due to pending cases;

(b) if so, whether Chief Justice of India has sought help of various agencies to address the pendency effectively, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether pendency issues require tremendous investment in developing appropriate infrastructure for the judiciary, police and prosecuting agencies; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering a proposal to provide required assistance to address the pendency and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) During the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts held in New Delhi on 05.04.2015, considering the pendency of cases in various courts in the country, the Chief Justice of India *inter-alia* called upon the State Governments and the High Courts to work in tandem for elimination of arrears of cases and improvements in the justice delivery system.

Provision of adequate infrastructural facilities to judiciary, police and prosecuting agencies in the States falls within the domain of the State Governments. Central Government augments the resources of the State Governments through various Schemes and Programmes to *inter-alia* improve justice delivery in the States.

The major initiatives of the Central Government in this regard relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 3,131 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation / construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last four years. Under the eCourts Project 13,672 courts have been computerised by 31st March, 2015. The Government has also identified the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation. As a result of the concerted efforts made by all stake-holders the increasing trend of pendency of cases in subordinate courts has been checked.

Review of Obsolete Laws

1484. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel appointed by Government has recommended repealing of 1741 obsolete Central laws that have outlived their utility;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the panel; and