Bifurcation of Supreme Court and setting up of more of its benches

200. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiatives have been taken towards bifurcation of the Supreme Court into cassation courts and constitutional courts as per the recommendations of the 229th report of the Law Commission, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there have been any further consultations with the Supreme Court on the viability to set up regional benches of Supreme Court to increase the access of justice to people from different parts of the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

The Law Commission, in its 229th Report had suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi to deal with constitutional and other allied issues of national importance and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, the Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, the Eastern region at Kolkata and the Western region at Mumbai to deal with all appellate work arising out of the orders/judgments of the High Courts of the particular region.

The matter of having Supreme Court Bench(es) in other parts of the country was taken up with the Supreme Court on various occasion in the past, the last being in 2010. However, the Supreme Court found no justification for setting up of Bench(es) of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

New voting machines

201. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission proposes to install new voting machines in the country to enhance voters' secrecy;

(b) if so, the essential features of the new machines;

(c) whether voters will get print out of the votes cast by them; and

(d) by when these machines are proposed to be installed?