

years at a cost of ₹ 4144 crore was made to the 14th Finance Commission, for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than five years.

(b) and (c) The Commission, in its report, has endorsed the proposal and urged State Governments to use additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

Disposal of law suits involving senior citizens

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

(a) the total number of the law suits relating to senior citizens pending in various lower and higher courts in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the steps taken by Government to expedite such cases;

(c) whether there is any provision which gives priority to the disposal of law suits involving senior citizens in the lower and higher courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken by Government to bring such a provision in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) to (d) Record of law suits involving Senior Citizens is not maintained. In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 7th April, 2013, it has been resolved that the State Governments shall, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, take necessary steps to establish suitable number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) relating to offences against women, children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of the society, and provide adequate funds for the purpose of creating and continuing them. Government has requested the State Governments and the Chief Justices of the High Courts to implement this decision.

The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter-alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than five years at a cost of ₹ 4144 crore. The 14th Finance Commission has urged State Governments to use additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.