on reciprocal basis. Regarding opening up of the international arbitration legal services to foreign law firms, the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, has been enacted and accordingly, the foreign lawyers can come to India to give legal advice to their clients in India regarding foreign law or their own system of law and on diverse international legal issues in arbitration proceedings in respect of disputes arising out of a contract relating to International Arbitration.

(c) and (d) As regards to implication on domestic legal service sector and to compensate the domestic legal service sector comments and recommendations of various stakeholders will be taken into consideration when the Rules on the issue of entry of foreign lawyers and law firms to practice as an advocate in India in a calibrated manner and on Reciprocal basis are finalized.

Judge-Population ratio

†1387. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has made or proposes to make any assessment of the judge-population ratio in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): The judge-population ratio in the country based on the sanctioned strength of Judges/ Judicial Officers stands at around 17 judges per million of population.

The Supreme Court in the case of Imtiaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh and others, *inter-alia,* asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts to clear the backlog of cases. The Law Commission recommended "Rate of Disposal Method" for calculating adequate judge strength for District and Subordinate courts. The Supreme Court has directed the State Governments and High Courts to file their response in the matter in the above case.

The Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts was convened on 5th April, 2015 to discuss the broad agenda of judicial reforms. With the enhanced devolution of funds to the States on the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, it now falls on the State Governments to increase investment in the justice sector. It was accordingly resolved that Chief Justices and Chief Ministers shall institute a mechanism for regular communication among themselves to resolve issues particularly those relating to infrastructure and manpower needs and facilities for the judiciary.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.