

(b) if so, whether any changes are contemplated in the new Bill; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the State of Uttar Pradesh has implemented the direction of Supreme Court on their own, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The matter is further being examined in consultation with the Ld. Attorney General for India.

(c) The revision in the representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh was effected by issue of Notification dated 13th January, 2014 by the Election Commission of India under the provisions of the Readjustment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Third) Ordinance, 2013 before its expiry on 15th January, 2014.

#### **Entry of foreign legal firms**

1553. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government proposes to allow foreign legal firms to operate in the country, if so, the details of the scheme, if any, in this regard?

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

The matter is under consideration of the Government in consultation with the Bar Council of India, a statutory body under the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961).

#### **Arrears Committees for disposal of cases in High Courts**

1554. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to set up Arrears Committees in each of the High Courts in the country, if so, the present status thereof;

(b) the number of cases which are older than five years and are pending in each High Court as on date, court-wise; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government towards reduction of pendency and ensure that the cases older than five years are disposed of at the earliest?

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

(a) to (c) The Chief Justices' Conference held on 3rd and 4th April, 2015 has resolved that each High Court shall establish Arrears Committee to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. Other terms of reference include evolving a uniform

nomenclature for all categories of cases and counting only main cases towards pendency and arrears. In the light of the resolution passed in the above Conference, Government has, *inter-alia*, requested Chief Justices of High Courts to intimate their action plans for liquidating the backlog of cases. As per information available, Arrears Committees have been set up in the High Courts of Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Calcutta and Bombay. High Court wise details of cases pending in High Courts for more than five years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of judiciary. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial system, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including Computerisation increase in strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of cases pending in High Courts for more than five years*

| Sl. No | High Court        | Cases pending for more than five years in High Courts as on 31.12.2014 |
|--------|-------------------|--|
| 1      | 2                 | 3  |
| 1.     | Allahabad         | 6,03,528   |
| 2.     | Andhra Pradesh    | 86,985   |
| 3.     | Bombay            | 1,63,172   |
| 4.     | Calcutta          | 1,53,500   |
| 5.     | Delhi             | 15,926   |
| 6.     | Gujarat           | 33,375   |
| 7.     | Gauhati           | 3,490  |
| 8.     | Himachal Pradesh  | 5,868  |
| 9.     | Jammu and Kashmir | 26,787   |
| 10.    | Karnataka         | 18,411   |
| 11.    | Kerala            | 45,858   |
| 12.    | Madras            | 1,36,787   |
| 13.    | Madhya Pradesh    | 81,798   |

| 1     | 2                  | 3         |
|-------|--------------------|-----------|
| 14.   | Orissa             | 83,962    |
| 15.   | Patna              | 38,310    |
| 16.   | Punjab and Haryana | 1,08,795  |
| 17.   | Rajasthan          | 90,110    |
| 18.   | Sikkim             | 2         |
| 19.   | Uttarakhand        | 3,095     |
| 20.   | Chhattisgarh       | 16,765    |
| 21.   | Jharkhand          | 24,842    |
| 22.   | Tripura            | 363       |
| 23.   | Manipur            | 530       |
| 24.   | Meghalaya          | 28        |
| TOTAL |                    | 17,42,287 |

#### **Repeal of obsolete laws**

1555. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any review has been made by Government for finding out obsolete laws in the Statute book; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken for repeal of those Acts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):  
 (a) Yes Sir. Review of all laws with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country, is a continuous process. The 20th Law Commission was constituted by the Government for a period of three years from 1st September, 2012 to 31st August, 2015 and one of its terms of reference includes "review/ repeal" of obsolete laws. The Law Commission of India has submitted its 248th, 249th, 250th and the 251st Reports on "Obsolete Laws: Warranting Immediate Repeal", in which it recommended for repeal of 72, 113, 74 and 30 obsolete Acts respectively, including some State laws. Further, a Two-member Committee chaired by Shri R. Ramanujan was also constituted by the Prime Minister's Office on 1st September, 2014 for review of repeal of obsolete laws. The said Committee has, *inter-alia*, identified a total number of 1741 Acts for repeal.