

Further, a Two-member Committee was also constituted by the Prime Minister's Office on 1st September, 2014 for review of repeal of obsolete laws. The said Committee has submitted its report, which has been examined by the Legislative Department.

Total Acts identified for repeal are 1827 and out of these 1175 Acts have been repealed so far through the Repealing and Amending Act, 2015 (17 of 2015), the Repealing and Amending (Second) Act, 2015 (19 of 2015), the Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Act, 2016 (22 of 2016) and Repealing and Amending Act, 2016 (23 of 2016). A list of 422 remaining obsolete Acts have been circulated among all the Ministries/ Departments in the Government of India for their comments for repeal of the Acts pertaining to their Ministry/ Department.

(b) No, Sir.

Free legal assistance and early disposal of pending cases

†2355. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons, in terms of percentage, who are able to avail the benefit of free legal assistance in judiciary meant for the deprived sections of society;

(b) whether Government is considering to take any step towards making the advocates accountable to their clients; and

(c) whether people are made to spend more money to get justice due to judicial expenses and excessive time taken in courts and whether the affected parties seem dissatisfied due to not getting justice in time?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) The Legal Services Institutions are providing free and competent legal service to the people covered under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. In the last three years, 55,81,731 persons have got benefited by getting free legal aid.

(b) The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 provide for monitoring of the performance of Panel Lawyers by a Monitoring Committee headed by the Senior Most Judicial Officer in the District. The Monitoring Committee is required to send periodic reports to the Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority. If the panel lawyer engaged is not performing satisfactorily or has acted contrary to the object and spirit of the Act and these regulations, the Legal

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Services Institutions shall take appropriate steps including withdrawal of the case from such lawyer and his removal from the panel.

(c) The eligible persons are given free legal aid. Hence, they are not required to spend money to get justice. The time taken for disposal of cases through court processes and the costs incurred by the litigants are important indicators for determining the efficiency of the judicial system. In order to reduce delays and costs in court processes, several steps have been taken in the recent past which, *inter-alia*, included amendments to the procedural laws such as limiting the number of adjournments, reducing the time to file written statements, fixing time limit for pronouncing judgments and imposing cost for causing delays. Other initiatives such as increasing the sanctioned strength of judges and judicial officers and improvements in judicial infrastructure have also been undertaken. The problems of delays and arrears are also being addressed through re-engineering of court procedures, identification of areas prone to excessive litigation, and promotion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Shortage of judges

†2356. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is lack of seriousness about increasing the number of judges as a result of which cases are pending in Courts due to shortage of judges;

(b) the details of suggestions given by the Law Commission regarding judges and whether these suggestions have been complied with; and

(c) the details of steps being taken/ proposed to be taken by Government towards increasing the number of judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Supreme Court in its Order dated 1st February, 2012 in the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmed Versus State of Uttar Pradesh* 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. Pursuant to this Law Commission submitted its 245th Report titled "Arrears and Backlog: Creating Additional Judicial (wo)manpower". In this report, the Law Commission has observed that filing of cases per capita varies substantially across geographic units

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