Action on CJI's view regarding shortage of judges

2360. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Justice of India has recently expressed his view about the shortage of judges in various Courts, especially in the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, whether Government has a proposal to increase the number of judges in various Courts so that the pending cases may be settled in time and promptly, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) Yes, Sir. In his address during a Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts held at New Delhi on 24th April, 2016, the Chief Justice of India, *inter alia,* emphasized on the urgent need to increase the number of Judges and Judicial Officers in the country.

(b) During the Joint Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers held on 7.4.2013, it was, *inter alia,* resolved to increase the sanction strength of judges of the High Courts by 25%. The sanctioned strength of the Judges of the High Courts of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Bombay, Patna, Manipur, Meghalaya, Madras, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and Kerala has been increased with the approval of Chief Justice of India. After enhancement of strength of Judges of the said High Courts, the total strength of Judges has increased from 906 as on 01.04.2014 to 1065 (as on 1.5.2016) registering an increase of 17.55%.

The appointment of Judicial Officers/Judges in the District/Subordinate Courts is in the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned. The sanctioned strength of Judges/Judicial Officers in the subordinate courts has increased from 16,949 at the end of 2010 to 20,502 in December, 2015, representing an increase of about 21%.

Electrification of railway routes in NE region

2361. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no electrification of railway routes in NE region; and