

(d) As per information received from the Ministry of Finance, so far the State Governments have reported an utilization of Rs. 133.89 crores.

Shortage of staff in fast track courts

664. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fast track courts do not have adequate staff; and

(b) if so, how can they be expected to function efficiently and really work as fast track courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended provision for one Additional Sessions Judge, one Peshkar, one Stenographer and one Peon for each Fast Track Court. If the staff is inadequate, it is for the concerned High Court and the State Government to take appropriate decision to appoint additional staff as directed by the Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India & Ors.

Supreme Court Bench in Karnataka

665. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from Karnataka to establish a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court in Karnataka to avoid litigants in travelling all the way to Delhi for their cases; and

(b) if so, the average number of the cases filed before the Supreme Court from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, in consultation with the President, from time to time, appoint. In the wake of representations received from various sources, including the Government of Karnataka the proposal for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi was referred to

the Chief Justice of India for consideration. The Government has been informed that the Full Court at a meeting of the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court on 30th April, 2001 have unanimously opposed the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

(b) Information in this regard is being collected.

Reservation for Women Judges

666. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to reserve one-third number of posts of Judges in favour of women in Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. There is no proposal at present for reserving one-third posts of Judges for women in either Supreme Court of India or the High Courts. There are, however, one Woman Judge in the Supreme Court and 19 Women Judges in the High Courts.

The Central Government, has, however, been writing to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women for appointment as High Court Judges.

Delay in appointment of Judges

667. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Justice of India has voiced his