

1	2	3	4	5
13. Kerala		11	07	09
14. Madhya Pradesh		13	17	06
15. Madras		05	20	09
16. Orissa		11	10	02
17. Patna		12	21	07
18. Punjab & Haryana		13	25	—
19. Rajasthan		—	20	08
20. Sikkim		—	01	02
21. Uttaranchal		02	01	—
TOTAL		94	226	91

Fast track courts

663. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken a decision to set up fast track courts throughout the country for early disposal of the pending cases in the courts;

(b) if so, the number thereof and by when, these courts were to be set up;

(c) the funds allocated for implementation of the said scheme; and

(d) the amount spent, out of the allocated funds, till March, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1734 fast track courts were to be set up throughout the country by April, 2001.

(c) An amount of Rs. 502.90 crores has been allocated for implementation of the fast track court scheme.

(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