

**Blueprint to clear the pendency of Court cases**

\*190. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pendency of cases in High Courts and the Supreme Court has increased during the last three years, if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to address the problem of pendency of cases; and

(c) whether there is a programme or a blueprint to address this problem of huge pendency, both at the National and State levels?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. As per the information available, details of cases pending in Supreme Court and the High Courts at the end of 2013, 2014 and 2015 are given below:—

Court/Year	Number of cases pending		
	2013	2014	2015
Supreme Court	66,349	62,791	59,272
High Courts	44,62,705	41,53,957	38,70,373

Disposal of cases pending 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 systems, 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.

During the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts held in April, 2015, it was, *inter alia*, decided that each High Court shall establish an Arrears Committee, which would go into the factors responsible for the delays and prepare an action plan to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. In the Conference of Chief Justices held in April, 2016, the reports submitted by the Delay and Arrears Committees of various High Courts were looked into and it was resolved that (i) all High Courts shall assign top most priority for disposal of cases which are pending for more than five years; (ii) High Courts where arrears of cases pending for more than five years are concentrated shall facilitate their disposal in mission mode; (iii) High Courts shall progressively thereafter set a target of disposing of cases pending for more than four years; (iv) while prioritizing the disposal of cases pending

in the district courts for more than five years, additional incentives for the Judges of the district judiciary be considered where feasible; and (v) efforts be made for strengthening case-flow management rules.

#### **Palm cultivation in the country**

\*191. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of palm cultivation in the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated any plan to encourage farmers to take up palm cultivation in identified places across the country, which have suitable climatic conditions, in order to meet the ever increasing demand for edible oils, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to reduce its dependence on imported edible oil by encouraging farmers to take up palm cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Oil palm cultivation assumes significance for augmenting the indigenous availability of edible oils in the country. So far, an area of 3.00 lakh hectares has been covered under oil palm cultivation in the country. Andhra Pradesh is the major State covering more than 1.50 lakh hectares under oil palm cultivation followed by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Odisha. During the year 2015-16, the production of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) of oil palm and Crude Palm Oil (CPO) was 12.82 lakh tonnes and 2.17 lakh tonnes, respectively.

(b) National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) is being implemented from 2014-15 in order to increase the production of edible oils. Mini Mission-II of NMOOP is dedicated to oil palm area expansion and improving the productivity. The scheme is being implemented in 12 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Mizoram, Nagaland, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Under the Mission, financial assistance is being provided to the farmers for the planting materials, maintenance of new plantations for four years, inputs for inter-cropping in oil palm during gestation period, installation of drip-irrigation systems, diesel/electric pump-sets, bore-well/water harvesting structures/ponds, construction of vermi-compost units, purchasing of machinery and harvesting tools etc. The Mission is also supporting Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR), Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh for undertaking need based research and development activities on oil palm, establishment of seed garden and supply of planting materials.