

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively. These Articles do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. There is no proposal for amending the Constitution for providing reservations in appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts. The Government has, however been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and women.

Public Interest Litigations (PILs)

2015. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Public Interest Litigations (PILs) filed in the Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country;

(b) whether several people, organizations and institutions file meaningless petitions in the name of PILs; and

(c) whether Government takes/proposes to take action against such people or to put a check on these meaningless litigations, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Judicial Data Grid

2016. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan or project to track the performance of each Judge under National Judicial Data Grid;

(b) whether the e-Court projects have been completed;

(c) whether total digitalization of data has been completed; and

(d) whether Government has any proposal to allocate Unique IDs (UID) to Judges and judicial officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Phase-I of the eCourts Project which provisioned for ICT enablement of district and subordinate courts of the country ended in March, 2015. The ongoing Phase of the project began in August, 2015 for the duration of 4 years.

(c) So far as the digitisation of court records is concerned, Government has accepted the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission which includes scanning and digitisation of court records of all district and subordinate courts at an approximate cost of ₹ 752.50 crore. While recommending this initiative, the 14th Finance Commission has urged State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

(d) Yes, Sir. Under the eCourts Mission Mode Project, unique identification codes have been allotted to Judicial Officers of the country by eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India. This is assisting the High Courts in maintaining an accurate record of all judicial officers.

Electoral Reforms

2017. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from any quarters for bringing out reforms in the Elections, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether any Committee has been constituted to look into the details and collect the stock of the things for evaluation, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the demands made in the proposal; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) The issue of electoral reforms in its entirety, was referred to the Law Commission of India in 2013. The Law Commission, after detailed examination of the issue, has submitted its 244th and 255th Reports containing recommendations on various aspects of the electoral reforms. The said recommendations are under examination of the Government at present.