

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