

on the State Governments to make the necessary investment on judiciary from the additional fiscal space provided to them.

Pending cases in Courts

413. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of pendency of cases in Supreme Court as on October, 2016;
- (b) the pendency of cases in various High Courts and Subordinate Courts in various States as on October, 2016; and
- (c) the action taken by Government to reduce the pendency of cases in various Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) As per information available, 61,436 cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 31.10.2016. As per information received from the High Courts, 38.70 lakh cases were pending in the High Courts and 2.70 crore cases were pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2015. Disposal of cases 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.

Vacant posts of Judges

†414. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether only 17 Judges are available for every 10 lakh citizens in the country and almost one fourth posts in High Courts are lying vacant while more than three crore cases are pending in various Courts;
- (b) if so, the total number of posts of Judges lying vacant in the country, including Maharashtra, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that, in particular, the rural citizens of the country get quick justice and the cases pending in the Courts are disposed of at the earliest?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.