

**Age-limit for appointment of Judges of Supreme Court
and High Courts**

415. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government mulls increasing the age of superannuation for the Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) whether Government plans to decrease the age-limit to 42 years from the present age-limit of 45 years for appointing Judges in High Courts; and

(c) whether Government plans to increase salaries and perquisites of Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court, the details thereof?

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

(c) Yes, according to the 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations.

Appointment of Judges of High Courts

416. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great delay in the appointment of Judges in the High Courts of the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has assigned the task to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice to investigate into the matter;

(c) whether any report has been submitted by the Committee in the matter, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to appoint Judges for early disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. During the current year, as on 16.11.2016, 120 fresh appointment of Judges have been made to the High Courts and 124 Additional Judges of High Courts have been made Permanent.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has *suo moto* identified the subject of filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts for examination and report. No report has been submitted by the Committee.

(d) Filling of vacancies of Judges in the High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process of the Judiciary and Executive. Disposal of cases in courts falls within the domain of Judiciary. However, vacancy of judges is one of the several reasons for pendency of cases. 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.

Shortage of Judges and pending court cases

†417. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases in various Courts of the country are pending due to dearth of Judges;

(b) the number of posts of judges lying vacant at present in various Courts of the country and the steps taken to fill this gap during last three years;

(c) the suggestions of Law Commission on increasing the strength of judges and whether Government is implementing those suggestions; and

(d) the number of cases pending at present in various Courts of the country and the time required to complete the hearing if these are processed at this pace, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, *inter alia*, include availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders *viz.* bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures.

The sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court is 31 and 5 posts of judges are vacant as on 15.11.2016. The sanctioned strength of judges in the High Courts has been increased from 906 in June, 2014 to 1079 in November 2016. 427 posts of judges in the High Courts are vacant as on 15.11.2016. The matters relating to sanctioned strength and filling up of the vacancies of judges/judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts fall within the domain of State Governments and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.