

1	2	3
South East Central	10	13
South Central	43	59
South Eastern	29	40
Southern	80	113
South Western	32	44
West Central	10	13
Western	70	90
TOTAL	686	914

Improving judicial infrastructure for quick disposal of cases

†*386. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking speedy steps to fill the vacancies in lower judiciary;

(b) whether Government has carried out a survey about the time needed to dispose of all the pending cases in lower courts of the country with the help of existing infrastructure; and

(c) whether Government would take initiative to expand the basic infrastructural framework for speedy disposal of pending cases if the delivery of justice is getting inordinately delayed owing to the existing infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The filling of vacancies of Judges/Judicial officers in Districts and Subordinate Courts is within the domain of the State Governments and the High Courts concerned. The Central Government has no role in the matter. However, the Central Government takes up the matter with the High Courts from time to time to fill up the vacancies of Judges/Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts.

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.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The primary responsibility for development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary in the States rests with the State Governments. The Central Government augments the resources of the State Governments by releasing financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary. A sum of ₹ 5,479 crore has so far been released to State Governments/UTs under the Scheme since its inception in the year 1993-94, out of which a sum of ₹ 2,034 crore has been sanctioned since the year 2014-15.

As per the information made available by the High Courts/State Governments, 16,974 Court Halls were available in the country as on 31.12.2016 for the working strength of 16,528 Judges/Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on 30.09.2016. Further, 2,968 Court Halls were under construction to take care of immediate increase in working strength of Subordinate Judiciary. In addition, 13,201 Residential Units were available for Judges/Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts and 1,817 Residential Units were under construction as on 31.12.2016.

During the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of the High Courts held at New Delhi in April 2015, reduction of pendency and backlog of cases in courts emerged as an area which required focused attention at the High Court level. The Chief Justices of the High Courts in the Conference held on 03rd and 04th April 2015 have resolved 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. It was further resolved in the Conference of Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2016, that in order to ensure expeditious disposal of cases pertaining to women, marginalized segments, senior citizens and differently-abled, steps be taken to (a) prioritize the disposal of cases falling in these categories within the existing court system; (b) an endeavour be made to revisit the cadre strength of subordinate courts and, where necessary, create additional courts to deal with such cases. As per information available, Arrears Committees have been set up by the High Courts.

Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Regions

*387. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) projects in the country have not met their expected targets even after eight years since policy formulation;

(b) the current status of existing PCPIRs and expected period of completion, including the details of actual benefits received, targets and actual infrastructure created, employment generated, investments made, PCPIR-wise;