

Campaign to register new adult voters

2341. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a campaign has been launched to register new young adult voters in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Bihar and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has informed that in tune with theme of 'No voter to be left behind', the Commission has launched a special drive in all States/Union Territories including Bihar and Jharkhand for enrolment of left out electors giving focus on first time electors (age group 18-21 years). The period of special drive was from 1st July, 2017 to 31st July, 2017.

Pending cases and their disposal

†2342. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is working through Fast Track Courts to dispose of old cases, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of cases disposed of during the last three years; and
- (c) the number of cases still pending, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) lies within the domain of State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

The Fourteenth Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal of the Union Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years for all cases of heinous crimes like cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants afflicted with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments as well as for cases pertaining to civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than 5 years, at a cost of ₹ 4144 crores. Further, the Fourteenth Finance Commission has urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Union 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.

The details regarding the number of cases disposed of by Fast Track Courts during the last three years and number of cases still pending in these Courts is not maintained Centrally.

Strengthening of the Anti-Defection Law

2343. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government has received any representation regarding strengthening of Anti-Defection Law, if so, the details thereof and the status of the said representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India deals with Anti-Defection matters. Few representations for amending the provisions of the aforesaid Schedule, were received in the past. However, the Government's view is that the provisions of the said Schedule are adequate for dealing with cases of defection by the elected Members.

Shortage of officers in Legislative Department

2344. Dr. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of officers in Legislative Department, specially those for drafting/vetting of Bills, rules, regulations etc.;

(b) if so, the actual and required strength; and

(c) the details of the position regarding vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The strength of officers in the Legislative Department has been augmented in the year 2016. Ten posts in various grades of Indian Legal Service and twenty eight posts in Official Languages Wing have been created in the Legislative Department.

(b) Against a sanctioned strength of 171 officers, 96 officers are in position.

(c) Vacancies are filled up on the basis of recommendation of the recruiting agency