

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