

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of State Governments and the High Courts concerned. As per information made available by the High Courts and respective State Governments, as on 31.10.2017 the sanctioned strength of Judges/Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts is 22,658 while the number of Judges in position and vacant posts are 16,704 and 5954, respectively.

Average time taken for disposal of cases

106. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that courts in the country take more time to dispose of the cases in comparison to the developed countries of the world, if so, the facts in this regard;

(b) the average time taken by the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts to dispose of civil and criminal cases; and

(c) the assessment regarding the time taken for the same in USA, England, Japan, France and other European countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Courts in various countries operate in different environment on account of difference in availability of infrastructure facilities, use of technology, number of judicial officers per million of population (judge-population ratio), docket ratio (population case filing ratio), provisions of substantive laws and procedures in courts etc. However, a comparison of time taken for disposal of cases in India *vis-à-vis* developed countries may not be valid. The assessment in this regard has to be made by the respective courts. The Government does not maintain data on average time taken for disposal of cases in different courts.

CCTV cameras in District Courts

107. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn any comprehensive plan to install CCTV cameras in the District Courts across the country pursuant to the order passed by the Apex Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has earmarked any fund for this purpose for the current fiscal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) In Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 99 of 2015 (Pradyuman Bisht versus Union of India and others), the Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 14.08.2017 *inter alia* directed that it is desirable that CCTV cameras are installed in all subordinate courts in such phased manner as may be considered appropriate by the High Courts. In pursuance of the above direction of the Hon'ble Court, a copy of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court was forwarded to Registrars General of all High Courts and Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UT by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice *vide* D.O. letter No.15018/10/2015-Jus.II/e-Courts dated 28th August, 2017 for taking action to install cameras in all Subordinate Courts. The respective High Courts are to decide and take action for installation of CCTV cameras in the subordinate courts in their jurisdiction as considered appropriate by them.

(c) to (e) Funds for this purpose are to be provided by the respective State Governments.

Adherence of laid down procedures by Fast Track Courts

108. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one out of the four Fast Track Courts was found to be adhering to the laid down procedures, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the guidelines provide that in every trial, proceeding will be held on day-to-day basis, until all the witnesses have been examined; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to a study, no evidence of counselling provided to survivors was found except in two of the sixteen cases recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The task of setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning is in accordance with the laid down procedures and it lies within the domain of the State Governments as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts. This is in accordance with the award of the 14th Finance Commission wherein States have been provided additional fiscal space for the purpose.