

(c) whether Government has consulted State Governments also to seek their views on the proposed legislation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of each State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to bring in a legislation, namely, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. So far, the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have given their views/comments on the proposal.

**Complaints of sexual harassment at workplace
by women working in Judiciary**

1383. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:

SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether Government maintains a State-wise record of complaints of sexual harassment at workplace by women working in Judiciary as per the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women in its Action Taken Report (2014) on the "Working Conditions of Women in Police Force"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the number of such complaints received, disposed of, and the action taken against the implicated officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir. This information is not maintained by Government of India because such records are maintained by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the High Courts themselves.

(b) Does not arise.

Filling up of vacancies in High Court of Tamil Nadu

1384. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any action to fill up the vacancies that are existing in High Court of Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has formulated any plan to fill up the vacancies in the High Courts in a time-bound manner, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment and transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts, the proposal to fill up vacancies in the High Courts is initiated by the Chief Justice of concerned High Court. Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process, between the Judiciary and Executive. It requires consultation and approval of various Constitutional Authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously; vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in Judge Strength from 906 in 30.06.2014 to 1079 as on today.

Due to the combined efforts of Executive and Judiciary, 126 fresh appointment of Judges were made in the High Court in the year 2016, which is the highest ever in a given year. During the current year 115 fresh appointment of Judges have been made in the High Courts. In so far as Madras High Court is concerned, 25 Judges were appointed during the year 2016 and 12 Judges have been appointed during the current year.

**Post Offices under Rural Business and Access
to Postal Network Scheme**

1385. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has proposed to open a number of Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices during the current financial year under the scheme “Rural Business and Access to Postal Network”;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices opened so far, particularly in the State of Odisha;

(c) the time by which the number of remaining Sub/Branch Post Offices are likely to be opened; and

(d) the details of funds sanctioned, released and utilised so far for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the number of Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices proposed to be opened in the country during the current financial year (2017-18) and the number of Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices opened so far under the scheme