

श्री पी. एल. पुनिया (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान (आंध्र प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

†جناب محمد علی خان (آندھراپردیش): مہودے، میں بھی خود کو اس موضوع سے سمبڈ کرتا ہوں۔

Need to establish a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court at Chennai

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, my issue is regarding establishing a Supreme Court Bench in Chennai, South India. When a litigant is faced with an unreasoned or arbitrary order of the High Court, a litigant may by seeking leave of the Court, approach the Supreme Court and appeal. However, the South Indians face a challenge to even file an appeal in these courts. The challenge is bundled with language barrier. They travel to New Delhi at exorbitant ticket fares, spend time on travel and they face lack of affordable accommodation, and the primary issue faced by them being unaffordable, exorbitant fees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have two minutes and one more Member is there to speak on the same subject.

SHRI VAIKO: The aforesaid issues have discouraged the weaker section of the society from seeking legal assistance from the Supreme Court. The highest numbers of appeals from outside North zone are filed from South India. Establishment of Supreme Court Bench in the South will ensure the reduction in backlog of cases and speedy disposal of cases which have been pending before the Apex Court. Justice will become accessible for most South Indians and it would become convenient to lawyers and their clients. Access to justice is guaranteed under the fundamental right of the Constitution, more particularly Article 21. As per the information made available by the Supreme Court of India, the total number of pending cases in the Apex court as on May 4, 2018 was 54,013. Prompt action by the Chief Justice of India with the President's approval is required. Under Article 130, the Chief Justice of India acts as a *persona designata* and is not required to consult any other authority or person. Presidential approval is the sole requirement.

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

[Shri Vaiko]

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, a Supreme Court Bench must be established in the South, in Chennai.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to bring to the attention of the hon. Law Minister, though this august House, the urgent need for setting up of Regional Benches of the hon. Supreme Court of India.

The Supreme Court of India currently hears all appeals from the High Courts and also Tribunals across India. It also hears the writ petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution. The Standing Committee of Parliament recommended setting up of Regional Benches of the Supreme Court in 2004, 2005 and 2006. The Law Commission's 229th Report emphasised the need for a division of the Supreme Court into a Constitution Bench at Delhi and Cassation Benches in four regions, namely, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai and discussed in detail the possibility of setting up Regional Benches of the Supreme court in India.

Even our hon. Chairman, the Vice-President of India, during the launch of a book at Chennai in September this year, titled "Listening, Learning and Leading" had strongly propagated the idea of setting up of Regional Benches.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wilson, don't look at the time. There is something wrong. Please conclude.

SHRI P. WILSON: The advantages of setting up Regional Benches are manifold. Presently, access to the Supreme Court is restricted to only those having economic means to travel to Delhi and afford a lawyer in Delhi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Thank you. Please conclude.

SHRI P. WILSON: I conclude, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who want to associate may send their slips. Please send your names so that these could be included. There are a lot of Members who want to associate.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI R. S. BHARATHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.) (Haryana): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. T. S. TULSI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri B. K. Hariprasad. You have one more person to associate. Please confine yourself to two minutes and he will get one minute.

Floods in Karnataka

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the serious devastating floods and drought situation in Karnataka. Recently, in the month of August, there was severe flood and rainfall in the Northern part of Karnataka, which caused a lot of damage to property and lives of the people of Karnataka. In 2019, the entire State was experiencing a severe drought situation because of deficit rainfall and prolonged delay of rain spell period, during pre-monsoon period between March and May. During South-West monsoon, between June and July, 13 districts were in deficit category and water reservoirs were at 43 per cent of their total capacity; it was in the month of July. During the period from 3rd to 10th August, 2019, the State received 224 millimetre of rainfall, with an overall departure percentage of plus 279, which is the highest in Karnataka in the past 118 years. During the corresponding period, some districts received more than 700 percentage departure from the normal and during the period, the distribution of rainfall was skewed and excessive rainfall had been confined to the parts of North interiors. Ours is a different region. In Malad and the coastal region, such was the intensity of rain that the State which was already grappling with the drought situation was confronted with the devastating floods within a gap of just one week. The devastating floods and landslides have caused loss of lives and enormous damage to crops.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: About 91 human lives were lost due to floods. Sir, the hon. Prime Minister tweets for everything in this country...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't get into...