

Grants for evening courts

1585. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

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

- (a) whether Government intend to give grants to newly established evening courts; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b)
There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Master Cards for voters

1586. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to give voters a Master Card;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when it is expected to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India has requested the Government to declare the Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) an important and mandatory document for being used as multi-purpose identity card, such as for the purposes of opening of bank accounts, seeking driving licences, etc. so that people would be encouraged to go for it resulting in increased coverage of these cards which is at present lagging behind, especially in some large States and some metropolitan areas.

(c) The Government has not formed any view in respect of the proposal of the Election Commission, which requires assessment with respect to similar other identity cards issued by other agencies and accordingly it is not possible to indicate any definite time-frame to take a decision in this regard.

Supreme Court bench in North East

1587. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether there is a demand for creating a Circuit Bench of Supreme Court of India at Guwahati, as Government have given special emphasis towards North Eastern Region, so that the people of the region can avoid wide travel to reduce the all round expenditure and other facilities?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):
Representations have been received from time to time for setting up of Bench of the Supreme Court outside Delhi, including Guwahati. The matter of setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi has been taken up with successive Chief Justices. The Chief Justice of India as well as the Full Court have been

consistently opposed to the proposal for the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court in other regions of the country. The Chief Justice of India has last conveyed on 12.08.2007 that the matter was discussed in a Full Court meeting of Hon'ble Judges on 7th August, 2007 but Full Court did not favour setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. However, Advocate-on-Record or a petitioner in-person can file cases in the Supreme Court of India through Internet.

E-courts in Orissa

1588. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

- (a) whether Government propose to fund e-courts in the districts of Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time-frame within which this programme would be completed in all the districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) A scheme for computerization of all the District and Subordinate Courts in the country has been approved by the Government, which will also cover the courts in the districts of Orissa. The scheme envisages providing of laptop computers to Judicial Officers, installation of computer hardware at the courts, providing of application software, training of the Judicial Officers, etc. The scheme is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) who are being provided funds by the Central Government. The scheme is to be implemented in three phases over a period of five years.

Declaration of assets and court cases for election to the President and Vice-President

†1589. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the elections for Parliament and Legislative Assemblies all the candidates have to furnish details regarding their property and the court cases against them;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is no such provision for the candidates contesting for the office of President and Vice-President; and
- (c) whether Government propose to amend the law related to the elections of President and Vice-President in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

- (c) There is no such proposal under consideration to make any change in the existing position with regard to Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.