

In recent years, the Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act, 2001 (51 of 2001), the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Act, 2001 (49 of 2001), the Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 2002 (26 of 2002) and the Indian Evidence (Amendment) Act, 2002 (4 of 2003) have been enacted, and the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha and is pending for consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha, are some of the major steps taken by the Government to remove gender discrimination and empowering the women. Furthermore, the Department of Women and Child Development is presently engaged in the preparation of an action plan for implementation of the Policy in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

Achievement and deficiencies of FTC

2810. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA :

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

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

(a) the year in which the scheme of Fast Track Courts was introduced together with the details of its aims and objectives;

(b) the extent to which the scheme has proved successful in achieving its objectives over the years; and

(c) the deficiencies, if any, observed in the scheme and the corrective steps to be taken to meet the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) The scheme of Fast Track Courts (FTC) was introduced in the year 2001 on the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission. Its main aim and objective is to dispose of long pending Sessions cases (pending for two or more years) and cases of under-trial prisoners who are languishing in jail for years. The Eleventh Finance Commission fixed a target of 1734 Fast Track Courts to be set up over a period of five years (from the year 2001-2005).

(b) Since its inception the scheme has been found to be effective in quick disposal of cases. As on 31st July, 2003, 1,74,715 cases have been disposed of by Fast Track Courts out of 3,26,059 cases which were transferred to such FTCs. Out of the target of 1734 FTCs, 1356 have been notified and 1074 are functional as on 31st July, 2003.

(c) Some of the State Governments have reported that they could not set up all the FTCs in their State due to non-availability of suitable

land for construction of court buildings and also due to non-availability of required manpower to man these FTCs. The Central Government have advised such State Governments to take available buildings on rent and recruit qualified and eligible persons from the Bar for appointment as Judges so that all the FTCs could be established and made functional as per the target fixed.

Compliance of SC directives on FTCs

2811. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. ABRAR AHMED :

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

(a) whether all the judgements/directions/rulings of the Supreme Court on setting up of Fast Track Courts and their working have been communicated to the State Governments and High Courts for their compliance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Periodically the case relating to fast track courts is coming up in the Supreme Court in which the representatives of the State Governments appear. The Registry of the Supreme Court also sends the copy of the directions of the Supreme Court to the concerned authorities.

The copies of the Supreme Court's Judgement dated 6th May, 2003 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India & Others pertaining to fast track courts have been circulated to the State Governments and the High Courts for their compliance.

Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies

2812. SHRI V.V RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delimitation of the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies is expected to be completed before the next General election; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in the delimitation process, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The section 10(6) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 provides that the Delimitation Commission shall endeavour to complete its exercise within