

oriented schemes as part of the Economic Package involving an outlay of Rs. 363.77 crores during the Eighth Plan period. The package *inter alia*, includes employment programme for one lakh youth, human resource development in three border districts, making Amritsar, Ferozpur and Gurdaspur as 'no unemployment districts' and setting up of five sugar mills and four cotton textile mills. Both sets of proposals including their financing are under consideration.

#### **Divorce Cases pending in Delhi Courts**

407. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY:  
SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to reply given on 17th August, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 1472 and state:

(a) the number of cases relating to divorce and annulment of marriage under Hindu Marriage Act pending in Delhi courts for more than five years;

(b) whether the family courts have been set up in the Union Territory of Delhi and whether these have started functioning;

(c) if so, the number of such courts and the strength of the Judges;

(d) whether the cases at advanced and judgement stage will also be transferred to such family courts or allowed to be decided by the present courts; and

(e) the other steps taken to reduce pending of such cases in the courts and for their speedy disposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL): (a) A total

of 179 cases relating to divorce and annulment of marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act are pending for more than five years in Delhi Courts.

(b) to (d). The Delhi Administration have decided to set up 10 Family Courts in the Union Territory of Delhi. These are yet to start functioning. The matter is being reviewed.

(e) Besides increasing the Judge strength, various steps have been taken, in general, by the Government, from time to time, to reduce pendency of cases in the Courts. The recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee of three Chief Justices, constituted by the Government to study the problem of arrears in Courts and to suggest remedial measures have been made available to all the concerned authorities for necessary action.

#### **Murder and Criminal cases pending in High Courts**

408. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of murder and criminal cases pending in Delhi and Punjab and Haryana High Courts for the last three years, court-wise; and

(b) the steps taken for speedy disposal and for reducing pendency of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) The number of murder and criminal cases pending in Delhi and Punjab and Haryana High Courts was as follows:

<i>High Court</i>	<i>Murder Cases (Reference) 3 Years old</i>	<i>Criminal Cases 3 years old</i>
1	2	3
Delhi (As on 30.6.90)	Nil	2665
Punjab & Haryana (As on 1.9.90)	Nil	3610

(b) Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, various steps such as grouping of cases involving common question of law, constitution of special benches, etc. have been taken from time to time. The various recommendations of the Arrears Committee (Malimath Committee) relating to hearing of criminal appeals as also Revision Application by a Single Judge other than the criminal appeals involving a sentence of death or life imprisonment (which should be heard by a Division Bench paper books not being prepared in such single judge criminal appeals setting up of proper machinery to carefully and objectively scrutinise proposals for preferring appeals against orders/judgements of acquittal to prevent frivolous appeals being filed by State Governments against such decisions, constitution of specialised benches in different branches of law etc. have been forwarded to all the State Governments/High Courts for necessary follow up action.

#### **Gold Samples Collected in Punjab**

409. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of samples collected by the Customs & Central Excise Department in Punjab under the Gold Control Act since 1987; and

(b) the action taken in such cases till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No samples were collected by the Customs and Central Excise Department in Punjab since 1987 under the Gold (Control) Act, 1968..

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Legal aid to the poor**

410. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of States, state-wise, where legal aid is provided to the poor free of cost; and

(b) the names of States and Union Territories where this facility is not provided and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) and (b). Legal aid is being provided free of cost in all States and Union Territories except the Union Ter-