

Opening of High Court benches in States

143. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the broad principles, criteria and procedure followed by the Government for the opening of a bench of High Court;

(b) whether some High Court benches have been opened during the last ten years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) In its report submitted to the Government on 30.4.85 the

Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of establishment of a bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factor to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said bench. The report of the Commission was placed in the Parliament Library on 15.10.86 and was laid on the Tables of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 20.4.87 and 21.4.87 respectively, which may be referred to. The question of opening a High Court Bench is considered by the Central Government in the light of these principles and criteria as and when a proposal is received from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

(b) and (c). The details of the High Court benches opened during the last 10 years are given below:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>Name of the Bench of the High Court</i>	<i>Date from which the Bench began functioning</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	Goa	Panaji (Bombay)	30.10.1982
2.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad (Bombay)	27.8.1984
3.	Nagaland	Kohima (Guwahati)	10.2.1990
4.	Mizoram	Aizawl (Guwahati)	5.7.1990

Gold Seizure in Gujarat

144. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold worth Rs. 4 crores was seized in December, 1990 from a ship/vessel on the Jamnagar sea coast in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). It is presumed that the Hon'ble MP is referring to one of the two cases in which significant quantities of contraband gold have