

Time limit for disposal of pending cases in Courts

297. DR. A. K. PATEL :
SHRI K. S. RAO :

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

(a) whether various Chief Ministers and Chief Justice of High Courts were asked to send relevant proposal with a view to attaining the target of disposal of all cases within two years, if so, the response in this regard; and

(b) whether a time limit of maximum of two years is adequate to set the entire machinery in motion to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). In the Conference of Chief Justices held in February, 1985, the Chief Justices of High Courts were asked to review the strength of their High Courts on the basis that no civil case should be pending for more than 2 years and no criminal cases for more than one year. In June, 1985, Chief Justices of certain High Courts and the Chief Ministers concerned were addressed to consider whether the Judge Strength of the High Courts should not be augmented so as to dispose of the arrears in two years and thus achieve the target indicated above. They were requested to examine the matter taking into consideration such relevant aspects like availability of accommodation for Courts and of residential accommodation for the Judges, the feasibility of filling up early the vacancies that would arise by raising the strength etc.

Some proposals have been received for increasing the strength of High Courts taking into consideration the relevant factors, while other proposals are awaited.

The target of two years for disposal of arrears was suggested in order to expedite the clearance of arrears in the High Courts.

In the Conference of the Chief Justice of High Courts and Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held in August-September, 1985, it was resolved unanimously that the arrears in all courts should be eliminated with the utmost speed and all steps should be taken towards this end. The State Governments were asked to increase the number of subordinate courts and the

strength of Judges after making an assessment having regard *inter alia* to the accepted norms with regard to time limits for disposal of different categories of cases.

Introduction of better coal distribution system

298. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present system of coal distribution in the country is not satisfactory;

(b) whether Government are aware that many trains have to be cancelled every due to shortage of coal and power generation has also suffered resulting in loss of production;

(c) the measures being taken by Government to solve the problem of coal shortage and for introducing better coal distribution system; and

(d) the time by which the problem will be solved ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Since 1967, except for coking coal used for metallurgical purposes, there is no statutory control on the distribution of coal. However, as a substantial portion of the coal is despatched to the consumers by rail, the actual supplies of coal continued to be regulated under a system of sponsorship in regard to the allotment of railways wagons. In rail movement, the core sector industries get a higher priority. The non-core sector units enjoying lower priority have been allowed to supplement the rail movement by road movement. Further the sale of coal has been liberalised in respect of specified collieries having substantial stocks. Under this scheme, a quantity of more than 7 million tonnes of coal has been made available by CIL for sale by road under which any consumer can procure upto 500 tonnes of coal at a time without any sponsorship, from the collieries earmarked for this purpose.

The present system of coal distribution is, in general, working satisfactorily.

(b) to (d). Coal supplies to priority sectors like Power and Railways have been largely satisfactory in the last few years as will be revealed by the following figures :