

(d) whether complaints have been lodged by the General Insurance Corporation and the Union Trust of India both having big stake in the company;

(e) if so, what are the complaints; and

(f) whether the former Director has been arrested also?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER):

(a) to (c) & (f). On the basis of an enquiry into the affairs of the company under the previous management, the Government nominated Directors have reported that Shri Sudhir Kapadia, a former Director of the Company had defrauded the company to the tune of Rs. 2.47 crores. In pursuance of the First Information Report filed on 5-11-1977 with the Commissioner of Police, Bombay for initiating appropriate criminal action against the said former Director and others, Shri Sudhir Kapadia was arrested in September, 1978. He was later released on bail and the Police investigations are still going on.

(d) and (e). An application under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 1956 was made jointly by the Unit Trust of India and the General Insurance Corporation of India addressed to the Company Law Board bringing out various irregularities and acts of mis-management committed by the previous management. The Company Law Board appointed 8 Directors on the Board of Directors of the Company by an order dated 11th July, 1977.

Cases Pending in Supreme Court and High Courts

1211. SHRI GANGA BHAKT SINGH Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that 15,000 cases have been pending since long in the Supreme Court and the various High Courts of

the country because there is a great shortage of Judges in these Courts;

(b) if so, the number of posts of judges lying vacant in each of the High Courts and the Supreme Court upto the 31st July, 1978 and since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled and the reasons for which these have not been filled so far?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER):

(a) The major reason for heavy pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and the High Court is the heavy increase in the institution of cases over the years. The institutions increased from 3241 in 1960 to 14507 in 1977 in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts from 3,63,001 in 1972 to 4,54,733 in 1977 without proportionate and timely increase in the Judge Strength.

(b) A statement containing the requisite information is attached. The main reasons why some posts of High Court Judges are still vacant are that in some cases proposals have not yet been received from the State authorities and in some others the consultation that are constitutionally required are going on.

(c) Steps to fill up these vacancies as soon as possible are being taken. Proposals which have already been received are being processed. The State authorities have been reminded to expedite recommendations for vacancies for which no proposals have so far been sent. During the period 1-4-77 to 25-11-1978 as many as 90 fresh appointments have been made to the High Courts.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Nos. of posts of judges lying vacant	Date from which posts are vacant	Remarks
1	Allahabad	2	21-3-1978 and 4-4-1978	
2	Andhra Pradesh	2	15-7-1978 and 17-7-1978	Since filled up
3	Bombay	2	6-4-1978 and 13-7-1978	Since filled up
4	Gauhat . . .	3	18-7-1977, 1-1-1978 & 6-4-1978	
5	Gujarati	5	26-9-1975, 31-5-1976, 5-10-1977, 28-12-1977 and 12-5-1978	
6	Himachal Pradesh	1	20-2-1978	Since filled up
7	Jammu and Kashmir	1	8-4-1978	
8	Karnataka	2	27-1-1978 and 27-4-1978	Since filled up
9	Madhya Pradesh .	3	28-2-1978, 6-7-1978 & 17-7-78	Since filled up
10	Madras .	2	29-5-1978 and 15-7-1978	
11	Punjab	3	9-9-1977, 1-11-1977 & 17-7-1978	Two vacancies have since been filled up

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Before 31-12-1977 the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was 13 Judges (excluding the Chief Justice). In view of the load of work with the Supreme Court the former Chief Justice of India had suggested an increase in the strength of the Judges of the Supreme Court by at least 2 so that 15 Judges (excluding the Chief Justice) could be in position. In view of their sing trend in institution arrears to meet possible requirements of the future and therefore to obviate the need for legislation again after short period the strength of the Supreme Court Judges was increased to 17 (excluding the Chief Justice) by the Supreme Court Judges (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1977 which received the assent of the President on 31st December, 1977. For the present 15 Judges (excluding the Chief Justice) have been appointed as proposed by the Chief Justice of India.

Applications received under MRTPA Act for Manufacture of Essential Articles

1212. SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by Government under the MRTPA Act from the period April, 1977 to October, 1978 and the number of applications rejected during this period;

(b) the names of the companies and their proposed activities for which the applications were made;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the rejected applications contained proposals for manufacture of essential items, like Chemicals, Aluminium and pesticides etc.; and

(d) if so, the reasons for discouraging the manufacture of such items of essential nature with private investment in such a way?