

Question**Question**

(b) to (d). No action is taken by the Central Government in the matter of establishment of Benches of High Courts till a proposal is received from the concerned State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. No proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

VIRGINIA TOBACCO CROP PRODUCTION

1462. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated Virginia Tobacco crop production during the coming season;

(b) whether the Tobacco Board propose to permit increase in the area for tobacco crop plantation in view of enhanced export possibilities;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID) : (a) to (d). In 1990-91 production of FCV tobacco in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh was 109.46 million Kgs. This year, in view of the increase in demand, and enhanced export possibilities, the Tobacco Board to increase crop size to 165 million Kgs. has decided.

FREE PORT IN TAMIL NADU

1463. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Union Government for establishing a free port in the State along the coastal line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Government have set up an Advisory Committee to examine the desirability and feasibility

of establishing a Free Port in India. A sub-Committee thereof had preliminary discussions with the Tamil Nadu Government when some alternative sites were considered.

CASES PENDING IN SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS

1464. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases both civil and criminal pending before Supreme Court and various High Courts, Court-wise; and

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government for early disposal of cases in the interest of poor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The available information is furnished in the Statement given below; and

(b) The Judge strength is being increased from time to time. Procedural improvements and modifications to speed up disposal of cases are being made. The various courts are taking suitable steps such as rearranging the business by measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, giving priority to cases requiring quick disposal, constitution of specialised benches, increased use of modern office equipments, etc. The various recommendations contained in the Report of the Arrears Committee (Malimath Committee) which went into the problem of arrears in the High Courts, have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Governments, Central Ministries and all the High Courts for suitable follow-up action.

In the Supreme Court, the Benches are being so constituted that they function for longer periods and the work so allocated that similar matters get posted before the same Bench, thus leading to expeditious hearing of cases.