

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4511
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000
SETTING UP OF BENCHES OF KARNATAKA HIGH COURT
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a bench of Karnataka High Court at Malnad in Northern area of Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a number of cases are pending in the Karnataka High Court for the last several years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken to provide expeditious justice and set up a bench of Karnataka High Court at Malnad or any other places in the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI):

- (a): No, Sir.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c) & (d): There were 84,486 cases pending in the Karnataka High Court as on 31st December, 1999.
- (e): Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/ establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

The Government of Karnataka is of the view that a permanent Bench of the Karnataka High Court should be established at Hubli-Dharwad in northern area of Karnataka. However, the proposal has not so far been endorsed by the High Court. The Chief Justice of the High Court has intimated vide his letter dated 28th December, 1999 that he has constituted a Committee of 5 Judges of the High Court to consider the demand for establishing Benches of the High Court at Hubli-Dharwad, Belgaum, Bijapur, Bellary, Gulbarga and Bidar together with its status, if having a Bench of the High Court at a place away from its principal seat is considered necessary.