

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:435
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2000
PAY SCALES FOR JUDICIARY AND JUDICIAL REFORMS
SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to have uniform pay scales for judiciary both at centre and States of various levels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status of implementations of this process and action taken by the State Governments in the matter so far;
- (d) the details of other judicial reforms proposed/under consideration of the Government;
- (e) the agenda of action during the year 2000-2001 in this regard; and
- (f) the follow up action taken by the State Governments on the directives of Supreme Court in this context?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS

(SHRI RAM JETHMALANI)

(a) & (b) : In pursuance of directions of the Supreme Court of India in W.P. 1022/89 - All India Judges Association Vs. UOI & Ors., the Central Government had set up in March, 1996, the First National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC) to examine the pay scales, allowances, minimum qualification, age of recruitment/retirement etc. of judicial officers belonging to the subordinate judiciary all over the country. The Commission submitted its report in November, 1999. The major recommendations of the Commission relate to amalgamation of multiple cadres in judicial service into three uniform cadres, independent cadre-wise pay scales, joint responsibility of the Centre and the States in expenditure on administration of justice in the States, increase in the retirement age, other fringe benefits, etc.

(c) & (f) : The report of the First National Judicial Pay Commission relates to the subordinate judiciary which is primarily the concern of the State Governments/High Courts. The Commission has sent its recommendations to the Central Government, State Governments, UT Administrations and High Courts. The recommendations are under examination in so far as they relate to the the Central Government. The State Governments are required to send their views to the Central Government on the recommendations of FNJPC within six weeks from 3.2.2000 as per the directives of the Supreme Court of India.

(d) & (e) : Judicial reforms is a continuous process and the Government has taken various measures to expedite disposal of cases. These measures include, inter alia, amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of judges/judicial officers, appointment of special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates to dispose of petty criminal cases and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, conciliation, mediation, arbitration and setting up of Lok Adalats, Special Courts and Tribunals.