

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAW AND JUSTICE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2844  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002  
PENDING CASES  
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether the Chief Justice of India has suggested that arrears in courts continue to pose a serious problems and mooted the idea of compulsorily sending cases pending for more than 10 to 15 years to Lok Adalats;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken in this regard;
- (c) if so, the total Lok Adalats at present in operation;
- (d) the number of cases forwarded to Lok Adalats; and
- (e) the extent to which these Lok Adalats have reduced the arrears in courts?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANAKRISHNAMURTHI)

- (a) Hon`ble Shri B.N. Kripal, the then Hon`ble Chief Justice of India while addressing a special gathering after inaugurating the new building of the National Law Institute University at Bhopal as reported in the New Delhi edition of The Hindu` dated 21.7.2002 said that arrears in Court continue to pose a serious problem and mooted the idea of compulsorily sending cases pending for more than 10 to 15 years to Lok Adalats.
- (b) The procedure for referring cases to Lok Adalats is provided under Section 20 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987). Under this Section a case can be referred to the Lok Adalat by the Court when both the parties agree or when one of the parties makes an application to the Court and the Court is prima-facie satisfied that there are chances of mutual settlement or when the Court is satisfied, after hearing the parties, that the matter is an appropriate one to be taken cognizance of by the Lok Adalat.
- (c) to(e) Till date, over 1.43 crore cases have been amicably settled through 1,39,172 Lok Adalats held throughout the country.