

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2759
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2002
INTRODUCTION OF 'TIME LIMIT' FOR DISPOSAL OF CASES
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

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

- (a) Whether the Government have any plan of increasing working hours in Law Courts to the public and finish the backlog of pending cases;
- (b) whether the Government also propose to reduce Court holidays and draw a plan to limit adjournments granted by Law Courts;
- (c) whether the Government plan to introduce a 'Time Limit' for disposal of cases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI)

(a) to (d) The working hours in the Supreme Court and High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts. According to available information, the Supreme Court of India works for 222 days in a year; all High Courts in the country normally have 210 working days in a year and the number of working days as well as working hours of the District/Subordinate Courts are regulated by the concerned High Court.

The question of curtailing/discontinuing the vacations in the Courts has been considered by the Government recently. The Department of Justice in July 2001 had invited the views of the High Courts regarding the number of working days in the High Courts and the curtailment of their vacations. Replies have since been received from 14 High Courts. The High Court of Uttaranchal has increased the number of its working days in a year from 210 to 224 and the High Court of Karnataka from 210 to 214; Chhattisgarh High Court has stated that the question of increasing the working days will be taken care of while preparing the calendar for the next year. Jharkhand High Court has no objection to increase the number of working days. Other High Courts have not favoured increase in the number of their working days in a year.

The First National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC) has recommended 36 hours of judicial work per week along with six working days in a week for the Subordinate Courts. The FNJC has also recommended that till such time as the arrears are brought down to manageable limits, the court vacations should be cut down by 15 days in a year. These recommendations have been forwarded to High Courts and State Governments by the FNJPC and the Central Government for necessary action.

The Civil Procedure Code has also been amended and the amendments have been brought into force with effect from 1.07.2002, which inter alia, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail, authorize the court to fix time limit for oral arguments and provide for a number of other measures aimed at ensuring expeditious disposal of cases.