

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1694
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2000
BURDEN ON JUDICIARY
SANJAY PASWAN

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Overburdened judiciary struggles with crisis of credibility` appearing in the `Economic Times` dated December 13, 1999;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
(SHRI RAM JETHMALANI)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The news item relates to huge pendency in the courts and the delay in the disposal of cases.
- (c) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates 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.
A periodical review of the Judge strength in the High Courts is undertaken by the Government once in three years. On the basis of the review in 1998, it has been decided to create more posts of Judges in High Courts.
A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary is also being implemented since 1993-94. The Scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential quarters for the judges/Judicial Officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Funds aggregating to Rs. 619 crore have been spent by various States and Union territories under this Scheme till 1998-99.
The State Governments have been requested to take necessary action regarding financial autonomy to the High Courts and the Courts under their control as well as to fill up vacancies in the subordinate judiciary.