

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:35

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2007

PENDING COURT CASES

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

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

- (a) whether the number of pending cases in High Courts and Supreme Court have increased during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and
- (c) the efforts made to dispose of the huge number of cases before the High Courts and the Supreme Court?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No 35 FOR 16.11.2007

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The number of pending cases in the Supreme Court and that of all the High Courts taken together have increased over the last three years. A Statement indicating the number of pending cases in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, as on 31st of December 2004, 2005 and 2006, is enclosed as Annexure.

(c) Expeditious disposal of cases in Courts is a matter that is exclusively within the domain of the Judiciary. However, with a view to facilitating disposal of cases including pending cases in the superior courts, Government reviews the Judge Strength in the High Courts periodically and ensures prompt filling up of vacancies in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. The Government is implementing a scheme for application of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Judiciary which, inter-alia, provides for upgradation of the ICT infrastructure in the Supreme Court and the High Courts to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases.

The Civil Procedure Code has been amended with effect from 1.7.2002 which, inter-alia, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three. Code of criminal Procedure has been amended through the Code of Criminal Procedure(Amendment) Act, 2005 providing for speedy disposal of cases. The concept of "Plea Bargaining" has been introduced through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005.

Training to Judicial Officers is being provided by National Judicial Academy and the State Judicial Academies.

In order to reduce pendency of cases Government has initiated a number of measures including alternative modes of disposal which include negotiation, mediation and arbitration. Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken. Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.

The Supreme Court and All High Courts are maintaining computerised records of pending cases, and this data is being used for generation of cause lists, preparation of judgment and orders, caveat matching, notice generation and also for dissemination of information to the litigant public on internet.