

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1336

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2008

INCREASE IN PENDING CASES

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Sudhakar;Vijay Krishna Shri

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

- (a) whether hundreds of civil and criminal cases are lying pending in the High Courts and Supreme Court for more than 20-25 years;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases pending in each High Court and Supreme Court till date alongwith the reasons therefor, category-wise;
- (c) the number of cases disposed off by each High Court and the Supreme Court during the last one year, till date; and
- (d) the steps being taken to dispose the pending cases at the earliest?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): 24 cases were pending in the Supreme Court of India for more than 20 years as on 1.11.2007 out of which 15 cases were pending for more than 25 years. The number of such cases pending in some High Courts, namely Sikkim, HP, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Delhi is given below: -

High Court	As on	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
Sikkim	22.11.07	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	21.11.07	0	0	0
Uttarakhand	22.11.07	45	67	112
Chhattisgarh	31.1.08	09	01	10
Delhi	30.6.07	698	423	1121

Information in respect of other High Courts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c): As per latest available information, 61,957 cases were disposed of by the Supreme Court of India during the period from 1.1.2007 to 31.12.07. Number of cases disposed of by the High Courts during the period of one year from 1.10.06 to 30.9.07 is given below: -

Sl.No	Name of the High Court	Civil	Criminal	Total	Disposal of cases during the year
1	Allahabad	102805	92790	195595	
2	A.P.	58451	10551	69002	
3	Bombay	105865	22121	127986	
4	Calcutta	48347	19595	67942	
5	Delhi	33019	14770	47789	
6	Gujarat	47958	19294	67252	
7	Gauhati	23729	7653	31382	
8	H.P.	12983	1980	14963	
9	Jammu & Kashmir	18734	2148	20882	
10	Karnataka	41984	7742	49726	
11	Kerala	63278	21061	84339	
12	Madras	167562	68097	235659	
13	M.P.	64806	33831	98637	
14	Orissa	38931	23023	61954	
15	Patna	21266	61780	83046	
16	Punjab & Haryana	35120	33968	69088	
17	Rajasthan	40807	28935	69742	
18	Sikkim	39	40	79	
19	Uttarakhand	16124	3358	19482	
20	Chattisgarh	23618	8547	32165	
21	Jharkhand	17483	26677	44160	
	Total	982909	507961	1490870	

(d): Government has taken several steps including deciding to increase the strength of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court, setting up of Fast Track Courts, setting up of special tribunals like the Central Administrative Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, etc. for facilitating reduction of pendency of cases in the courts. Government also has under implementation a scheme of computerization of District and Subordinate Courts to facilitate speedier disposal of cases. Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of cases, the Civil Procedure Code has been amended, inter alia, limiting the number of adjournments that can be given to a party and the concept of `Plea Bargaining` has been introduced through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005. Through the Gram Nyayalays Bill, it is proposed to bring justice to the doorsteps of the rural people by creating over 5000 courts in the intermediate Panchayat level thereby reducing pendency.