

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:501

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2004

JUDICIAL REFORMS

Rawale Shri Mohan;Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh;Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad;Yadav Shri Ramakant

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

- (a) whether there is an urgent need for judicial reforms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the areas identified in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to amend the various Sections of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which it is likely to be amended?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. A statement in this regard is placed at Annexure I

(d) to (f): A statement is placed at Annexure II.

ANNEXURE-I

Statement in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 501 for answer on 3.12.2004

(a) & (b): Judicial reforms is a continuous process. It keeps pace with the changing time, conditions and requirements of the people. All efforts of the Government is geared to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to the common man.

In recent past, various reforms have taken place in the judicial system of the country for speeding up the delivery of justice. Setting up of Fast Track Courts and Special Courts, Computerisation of judiciary, simplification of judicial procedure, augmenting Judges strength in High Courts and subordinate courts, training of Judicial Officers in Court management, organising Lok Adalats and alternative modes of dispute resolution and setting up of special tribunals are some of the aspects of ongoing judicial reforms.

(c) : The areas identified in this regard are court and case management in higher and lower judiciary, augmentation of physical and IT infrastructure, filling up of vacancies of Judges, simplification of judicial procedures, and training for improvement in the quality of administration of justice.

ANNEXURE-II

Statement in reply to parts (d) to (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.501 for answer on 3.12.2004

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 (which was redrafted in the light of the recommendations of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee), inter-alia, aims at amendment to the provisions relating to appointment of prosecutors, discreet exercise of powers by police in arresting women, summary trial of criminal cases, mandatory judicial inquiry into the cases of custodial deaths/disappearance/rape. etc.

The 154th Report of Law Commission submitted in August 1996 and Malimath Committee Report on reforms of criminal justice system submitted in April, 2003, have also suggested for a comprehensive review of the Code of Criminal Procedure and recommended a few amendments. As the criminal law system is a subject included in the concurrent list of the constitution, the views of the state governments in this regard have been solicited.