

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:303

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2009

IMPROVING JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

(a) whether the Vision Document released recently envisages creation of National Arrear Grid,improvement in selection,training and performance, assessment of judicial officials, for improving justice delivery system in the country;

(b) if so,the details thereof alongwith the other important suggestions/recommendations made in the Vision Document; and

(c) the further action taken/proposed on the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

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

Statement in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. +303 to be answered on 10.12.2009

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A `National Consultation for Strengthening the Judiciary towards reducing Pendency and delays` was held on 24th-25th October, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan,New Delhi,which was, among others, attended by the; Chief Justice of India,other Supreme Court Judges,Chief Justices of High Courts along with another Judge of every High Court,two District Court Judges from every High Court, State Law Secretaries, Advocate Generals of State Governments, representatives of academia, eminent jurists and the President and office bearers of the Bar Council of India.A Vision Statement presented to the Chief Justice of India in the National Consultation was considered and deliberated.In the Vision Statement,the following measures were suggested for implementation:

- i. Creation of National Arrears Grid/Identification of Arrears,
- ii. Identification of bottlenecks in crisis areas;
- iii. Tackling the Bottleneck Areas;
- iv. Adoption of innovative measures for expeditious case disposal;
- v. Focus on selection, training and performance assessment of judicial personnel and court management executives;
- vi. Efficient utilization of the judicial system and existing infrastructure through effective manning, effective planning and timely management by increasing the use of technology and management methods;
- vii. Uncluttering the System: Removing dead weeds and preventing their re-growth,
- viii. Procedural changes;
- ix. Management and administrative changes.

For filling up vacancies in the judiciary,the following improvements were suggested:

- i. There should be lucid and comprehensive guidelines which the Collegium should follow in the matter of selection of judges,
- ii.The Executive and the Legislature must take initiative in recommending the best possible talent for selection to the judiciary.
- iii. The Collegium should be given a timeline to clear the back-log in vacancies.
- iv. The Government and the Collegium should work hand in hand while appointing Judges, so that the difference between the two does not lead to delay in appointment.
- v. Government should also be given the power to suggest outstanding lawyers and jurists as Judges.

The Vision Statement also suggested various measures with regard to computerisation of courts, tackling the criminal justice system, creation of an Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for funding and removal of bottlenecks and the role of Bar Council and Lawyers.

The Vision Statement was endorsed by a Resolution accepted for implementation at the end of the Consultation. A copy of the Resolution is Annexed.

(c) The Government has considered the recommendations made in the above Consultation and decided, in principle, to setup a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms which proposes to undertake several strategic initiatives to

- (i) outline policy changes
- (ii) re-engineer procedures
- (iii) focus on Human Resource Development and
- (iv) leverage Information and Communication Technology & tools for better justice delivery. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms will be serviced by a Registered Society in the nature of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that will manage and implement the various action plans of the Mission. The Society will be centrally funded.