

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3367
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2010
SPEEDY JUDICIAL PROCEDURE
Lal Shri Pakauri;Patel Shri Devji

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

- (a) whether the Dalits, Backward Classes and the Poor do not have access to legal remedies on account of cost consideration and complicated legal system in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to make the judicial process speedy and less expensive to enable the said categories to get justice?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a),(b) &(c):-Members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and persons whose annual income is less than Rs.9000/- or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court and persons whose annual income is less than Rs.50,000/-if the case is before the Supreme Court, are entitled to free legal services in terms of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The income ceiling limit for free legal aid prescribed by the States and Union Territories is given in the Annexure.

The following steps have been taken to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in courts:

- (i) Increasing the strength of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- (ii) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and concept of `Plea-Bargaining` has introduced.
- (iii) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, conciliation and arbitration have been encouraged.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts. Separately, the Government has decided, in principle, to set up 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 of Human Resource Development and (iv) leverage information and communication technology & tools for better justice delivery.