

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:592

ANSWERED ON:06.05.2010

PENDING COURT CASES

Nirupam Shri Sanjay Brijkishorilal ; Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the steps taken to reduce the arrears of cases pending in various courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the 13th Finance Commission has recommended operation of evening/special judicial Metropolitan Magistrate/shift courts, so as to liquidate the arrears;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken to minimise the pendency of cases in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 592 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH MAY, 2010

(a) & (b): The Government has taken a number of steps to facilitate reduction of pendencies in the courts. Of these, the Fast Track Courts that commenced in the year 2000 have disposed since their inception and up to February, 2010, 29.08 lakh cases out of the 35.85 lakh cases transferred to them. The measures taken by the Government such as development of the infrastructure facilities for the judiciary, increase in the strength of Judges, computerization of courts etc. have resulted in improvement in the administration of justice and have contributed to the disposal of cases in the courts in the country generally keeping pace with the institution of cases. However, the exact impact of such steps in reducing the arrears in courts cannot be measured since many of the schemes are still under implementation.

(c) & (d): The Government has accepted the recommendation of the 13th Finance Commission for providing Rs. 5000 crores for various initiatives including setting up Of morning/evening/special judicial-metropolitan magistrate/shift courts in the States to address the problem of large number of arrears of cases.

(e): Other steps taken by the Government to reduce pendency of cases in the country are as follows:

(i) 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 the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.

(ii) Encouraging alternate modes of resolution of disputes including mediation, conciliation, arbitration and Lok Adalats;

(iii) Grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches and setting up of special courts;

(iv) The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2009) has been enacted, which provides for establishment of over 5000 Gram Nyayalayas, to deliver justice at the door step of the rural people.

The Government has also decided, in principle, to set up a 'National Mission for Delivery of Justice and Legal Reforms' which would be serviced by a Special Purpose Vehicle, to facilitate reduction of arrears in courts in a time bound manner.