

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:117
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2010
FAST TRACK AND VILLAGE COURTS
Lal Shri Kirodi

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

- (a) the number of cases settled by the fast track courts and village courts during the last three years and the number of cases pending as on date;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up more courts and appoint additional Judges in the existing courts in order to expedite settlement of the pending cases;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the pending cases in a time-bound manner?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA QUESTION NO.117 FOR 04-3-2010

(a) to (c): As per the information received from the State Governments/Registries of the High Courts, 12,41,793 cases have been disposed off by the Fast Track Courts during the last three years. As per the latest reports received, 6,64,081 cases were pending in the Fast Track Courts.

The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 has been notified and brought into force w.e.f. 02-10-2009 to provide for the establishment of the Gram Nyayalayas at the grass root level for the purpose of providing speedy and inexpensive access to justice to the citizens at their door steps. More than 5,000 Gram Nyayalayas are expected to be set-up across the country. As the States are in the process of setting up the Gram Nyayalayas, reports on disposal and pendency of cases in Gram Nyayalayas have not been received.

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

- (1) The strength of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts has been increased.
- (2) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Criminal Procedure Code has been amended and the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.
- (3) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, conciliation and arbitration have been encouraged.
- (4) 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.
- (5) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.
- (6) Capacity building of judges has been given a priority through the National Judicial Academy.
- (7) Several reform measures for speeding up the disposal of cases such as operations of shift courts have been recommended by the 13th Finance Commission.