

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:80

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010

REFORMS IN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the number of judicial posts is inadequate as compared to the population of the country and the number of pending court cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the progress made in streamlining the judicial system?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.80 TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 29TH JULY, 2010

(a)to(c): Hon`ble Supreme Court in its -order in the case W.P. (Civil) No. 1022 of 1989 directed the States that an increase in the judge strength from the existing ratio of 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges for 10 lakh people should be, effected and implemented within period of 5 years. However, Central Government filed a modification petition to the effect that appropriate judges strength may be determined on relevant factors including pendency of cases.

According to information available there were 2785 vacancies out of a sanctioned strength of 16880 Judicial Posts in the District and Subordinate Courts in the country as on 31.12.2009. The Central Government from time to time urges all State Governments/UTs and High Courts to accord utmost priority to fill up vacant posts of judges in the subordinate judiciary.

Although the State Government and the concerned High Court are responsible for increase in judges` strength and filling up of the vacant posts of judges/magistrates in the District and Subordinate Courts, the Union Government has taken the following steps to reduce pendency :-

(i) For expediting disposal of long pending Sessions cases and the cases of under trial prisoners, Fast Track Courts were set up, as judicial reform initiative, on the recommendation of the 11th Finance Commission.

(ii) With a view to improve access to justice, Government enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 to bring justice at reasonable cost at the door step of the people, particularly those in the rural areas. After the Act came into force w.e.f. 2nd October, 2009, the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Maharashtra, taken together, have notified 144 Gram Nyayalayas out of which 47 have been made operational till date.

(iii) Morning Courts/Evening Courts have been put into operation in some High Courts/States to deal with Petty Criminal cases punishable with imprisonment upto 3 years and speedy disposal of such cases.

Further, the 13th Finance Commission has recommended a grant of Rs.5000 crore for improving the justice delivery system in the country. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Commission.