

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:713  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011  
UNDER TRIAL PRISONERS  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched Mission Mode Programme for the release of under trial prisoners;
- (b) if so, the progress made so far under the programme; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure speedy justice delivery system in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a)&(b) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Law & Justice has launched a `Mission Mode Programme for Delivery of Justice and Legal Reforms - Undertrials Programme` with effect from 26th January, 2010 with an aim to reduce the congestion in jails. As per information received from the Registry of the High Courts/ State Governments, 5,62,397 undertrial prisoners have been released on bail and 77,940 undertrial prisoners has been discharged during the period from 26.01.2010 to 31.05.2011.

(c) In order to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases in all the Courts, Government has taken a number of measures as mentioned below:

I. The Government has approved setting up of `National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms`. The major goals are :

# Increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system.

# Enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities

A Mission Mode approach to infrastructure development of subordinate judiciary is among the major initiatives under the National Mission for Justice Delivery which is approved by the Government. Inadequacy of infrastructure in subordinate courts has been one of the bottlenecks in the speedy delivery of justice. Keeping this in mind in the financial year 2011-12, the allocation for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infrastructure development has been increased fivefold from `100 Cr to `500 Cr. Funding pattern has also been increased from 50:50 to 75:25 for the states and to continue 90:10 for the NE states.

II. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission to provide a grant of `5000 Cr to the States for improving the justice delivery system in the country over a five year period 2010-15. A grant of `1000 Cr has already been released to the States during the year 2010-11. With the help of these grants, the States can, inter-alia, set up morning / evening / shift / special magistrates` courts, appoint court managers-establish ADR centres and provide training to mediators / conciliators, organise more Lok Adalats to reduce pendencies. The grants also provide for training of judicial officers, strengthening of State Judicial Academies, training of public prosecutors and maintenance of heritage court buildings.

III. In order to computerise the justice delivery system Government is implementing e-Courts Project for the District and Subordinate Courts in the country and up gradation of ICT infrastructure in superior courts at an estimated cost of 935 crore. The target is to computerize 12000 Courts by 31st March, 2012 and 14249 Courts by 31st March, 2014. Court Management and case management can be done through National Arrears Grid created under the project.

IV. The Thirteen Finance Commission while recommending a grant of ` 5000 Cr made a condition for release of 2nd year installment only after formulating State Litigation policy. State Litigation policy is to be formulated with the aim to transform government into an efficient and responsible litigant. If the cases involving government are reduced then the courts will have time to dispose of a large number of cases to achieve the target of reducing the pendency.

V. Enactment of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 which provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas to improve access to justice to marginalised. The current year allocation has been increased from ` 40 Cr to ` 150 Cr. So far 151 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by the states.

VI. The Ministry of Law & Justice has requested all the Chief Justices of High Courts to launch a campaign to reduce pendency of cases in court from July-December, 2011 and also for filling up vacancies of judges in the High Courts and Subordinate Courts during the same period. Vacancies and delays are inevitably correlated, hence a campaign mode approach for filling vacancies need to be

launched. At least 50% of the vacancies could be filled up in respect of subordinate courts by December 2011.