

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1732  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011  
BENCHES OF HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT  
Biju Shri P. K.;Meena Shri Raghuvir Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments for setting up of regional Benches of Supreme Court and High Courts in their respective States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposals received till date, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the criteria adopted by the Government for setting up of additional Benches of High Court in the States; and
- (d) the number of such benches set up so far and number of Benches proposed to be set up in the country, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) and (b): No proposal has been received from any State Government for establishment of regional Benches of the Supreme Court.

The Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal for making two Circuit Benches of the Karnataka High Court at Dharwad and Gulbarga as Permanent Benches, which is under consideration of the Government.

The Government of West Bengal had sent a proposal for establishment of a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. The Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court had inspected the infrastructural facilities provided by the State Government at Jalpaiguri for establishment of the temporary Circuit Bench till the permanent building of the Circuit Bench is ready. However, in his opinion, the infrastructural facilities provided for establishment of the temporary Circuit Bench in the Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad Dak Bungalow are neither satisfactory nor the premises suitable, even for temporary period. The space and accommodation provided is also insufficient.

The Chief Minister of Kerala had sent a request in the year 2005 for setting up a bench of Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. He was advised to seek consent of the Chief Justice of the High Court as envisaged in Supreme Court Judgment in case of Federation of Bar Association in Karnataka vs. Union of India (AIR 2000 SC 2544). No reply has been received from the Government of Kerala.

The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has sent a request for establishment of a Bench of Himachal Pradesh High Court at Dharamsala. The Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court has not given a recommendation so far.

(c): Setting up of benches of High Courts away from their principal seats is considered by the Central Government on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government which has the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

(d): A list of High Courts and their Benches is annexed in Annexure-I.