

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4946
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013
JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEM
Acharia Shri Basudeb;Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating any plan of action to address people's grievances against the slow paced justice delivery system in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) If not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is considering allowing e-petitions and e-filing of cases as part of an effort to speed up judicial processes and to modernise judicial system through digital technology; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c) The disposal of pending cases in Courts is within the domain of judiciary. The Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in August, 2011 to achieve twin goals of (i) increasing access by reducing delays and arrears; and (ii) enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing five strategic initiatives: (i) outlining policy and legislative changes (ii) re-engineering of procedures and court processes (iii) focussing on Human Resource Development, (iv) leveraging Information and Communication Technology & tools for better justice delivery and (v) Improving Infrastructure. The Mission has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration which, inter-alia, involve better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases.

In the short span since it has come into existence, the Mission has taken several steps. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) constituted to suggest necessary amendments to the Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act along with other policy and administrative measures to check increasing litigation relating to cheque bounce cases, has recommended measures including procedural and legislative changes to reduce number of cheque bounce cases. An important aspect of the judicial reforms relates to re-engineering court procedures and court processes for early disposal of cases. A comprehensive scheme of National Court Management Systems (NCMS) has been formulated and notified by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Under the NCMS, a National Framework of Court Excellence (NFCE) has been prepared, which shall set measurable standards of performance for courts addressing the issues of quality, responsiveness and timeliness. With a view to enhancing resources of the State Governments, Government has increased the central share by revising the funding pattern from 50:50 to 75:25 (for States other than North Eastern States) under modified Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary from the year 2011-12 onwards. The funding pattern for North-Eastern States has been kept as 90:10 with effect from 2010-11. The Government of India had launched a pendency reduction drive from July 2011 to December, 2011. As per feedback received from various High Courts, total pendency was reduced by over 6 lakh cases, out of which about 1.36 lakh cases belonged to the senior citizens, disabled, minors and marginalized sections of society. The pendency of civil and criminal cases in subordinate courts has come down to 2,68,51,766 as on 31.03.2012 in comparison to pendency of 2,75,48,070 one year before i.e. as on 31.03.2011.

(d) & (e) The Government is implementing the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project for computerisation of 14,249 District & Subordinate Courts and for upgradation of ICT infrastructure in Supreme Court and High Courts. As on 31st March 2013, 12,233 district & subordinate courts have been computerized.

The Project envisages delivery of a number of services such as filing and registration of cases, generation of automated causelists, uploading of judgments etc. Some of these services are already being delivered to the citizens in different courts. Allowing e-petitions and e-filing of cases has not as yet been provided for in the ongoing eCourts Mission Mode Project.