

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5757
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2013
SHORTAGE OF COURTS AND JUDGES
Pandey Saroj

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

(a) whether acute shortage of lower courts and judges in the country at present due to which delivery of justice is delayed to public and they have to face several difficulties; and

(b) if so, the plan chalked out by the Union Government to deal with this problem so that courts may be set up in adequate number and benefits of speedy justice may be delivered to public?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): Backlog and pendency of cases in courts is a major problem affecting dispensation of timely justice. The pendency in courts is not declining because filing of cases is either equal or more than the disposal. Since shortage of judges is one of the reasons affecting disposal, Government has decided in May, 2012 that number of judges in the subordinate judiciary needs to be doubled in five years. This decision has been endorsed by the judiciary and Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India has written to the Chief Justices of High Courts in February, 2013 to take it up with the State Governments so that the annual outlay by States on subordinate judiciary is increased. Lately, the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 07th April, 2013, has also resolved that in order to improve the judge-population ratio, State Governments in consultation with the Chief Justices of respective High Courts will take requisite steps for creation of new post of judicial officers at all levels with support staff and requisite infrastructure. The Central Government on its part has committed to continue financial support to States for infrastructure and computerization of subordinate courts.