

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:928  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013  
ACQUITTAL RATE  
Singh Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

[a] whether the rate of acquittals in criminal cases is on the rise over the years; [b] If so, the details thereof during the last three years; [c] whether the lack of a law to protect witness is the main reason behind such acquittals; and [d] if so, the steps taken to bring in such a law and plug in the gaps in the criminal systems ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY [SHRI KAPIL SIBAL]

[a] & [b]: The rate of conviction/acquittal varies from year to year. As per the statistics maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the acquittal rate in IPC cases during the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 was 59.3%, 58.9% and 61.5% respectively. While the rate of acquittal decreased from 2010 to 2011, it registered a marginal increase in 2012.

[c]: There are a number of reasons behind the incidence of acquittals including interalia the quality of investigation and prosecution, the witnesses turning hostile, inadequacy of procedures to protect witnesses and delay in disposal of cases.

[d]: Government has taken a number of steps to improve the rate of conviction including accepting and implementing various related recommendations of Justice J.S. Verma committee. Emphasis is being given to training of police officers and the public prosecutor to improve the quality of prosecution and assist the judges in disposal of cases. Government has also set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms for reducing delays and arrears through policy and legislative changes, reengineering procedures and leveraging ICT for better justice delivery.