

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:434
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015
CONFERENCE OF JUDGES AND CHIEF MINISTERS
Singh Shri Bhola;Singh Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) whether a conference of Judges and State Chief Ministers was held recently;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof ;
- (c) whether certain suggestions including expeditious disposal of pending court cases, use of Hindi/regional languages, live telecast of court proceeding etc. were made in the conference;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the follow-up action being taken by the Government on the suggestions made at said conference?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 434 FOR 23/04/2015 REGARDING CONFERENCE OF JUDGES AND CHIEF MINISTERS

(a) to (e): A Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts was held on 5th April, 2015 in New Delhi. The agenda for discussion included infrastructure and manpower for courts, judicial reforms, ICT enablement of courts, reduction of arrears and expeditious case disposal, role of the justice system in the ease of doing business, implementation of recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission for the justice sector, drawing up a National Vision and Mission Plan for 2015-2020, strengthening of legal aid services, judicial academies, juvenile justice system and alternate dispute resolution mechanism, and service conditions of sitting and retired Judges.

The conference provides a forum for dialogue between the Chief Justices of all the 24 High Courts and the Chief Ministers of States and the Lt. Governors/Administrators of Union Territories. Chief Ministers and Chief Justices gave an update on the issues discussed and resolutions passed in the Joint Conference held in April, 2013 and spoke of the situation obtaining in their own States. Many Chief Justices confirmed existence of good coordination with Chief Ministers while some expressed the need for closer coordination between them to address issues relating to infrastructure, manpower and facilities. Some Chief Ministers expressed the need for the judiciary to focus on cheque bouncing cases, motor vehicle challans and arbitration and to have the mechanism of pre-trial conference in order to reduce pendency. Some of them requested the use of Hindi and other regional languages in proceedings in High Courts, while others advocated installation of CCTV cameras in court premises and audio-video recording of court proceedings. Some Chief Justices remarked on the need for appropriate infrastructure and manpower. A number of issues relating to staff and facilities for judges were also raised.

The Chief Justice of India suggested that the demands from the Chief Justices need to be attended to expeditiously for the good of the institution and for the development of the Judiciary. Therefore, it was resolved that the Chief Justices and Chief Ministers shall institute a mechanism for regular interaction to resolve issues, particularly those relating to infrastructure and manpower needs and facilities for the Judiciary.

Government is of the view that continued discussion between the Judiciary and State Governments is highly advisable and meaningful results can emanate from such discussions in order to carry forward the efforts to provide litigant friendly environment in courts and to eliminate the long-pending arrears of cases in courts.