

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:670

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2015

Conference of Judges and Chief Ministers

Chautala Shri Dushyant;Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Nath Shri Chand;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Somaiya Dr. Kirit;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand;Vichare Shri Rajan Baburao

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

- (a) whether any committees have been set up following a joint conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 5 April, 2015 to solve the problem of mounting arrears of pending cases in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the terms of reference;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by these committees; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to bring down the huge pendency of court cases in the country?

Answer

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE

(SHRID.V. Sadananda Gowda)

(a) to (d): The Chief Justices' Conference held on 3-4 April 2015 has resolved that each High Court shall establish Arrears Committee to clear backlog of cases pending for more than five years. Other terms of reference include evolving a uniform nomenclature for all categories of cases and counting only main cases towards pendency and arrears.

National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves 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 and emphasis on human resource development. All States have formulated their litigation policies with a view to reduce the Governmental litigation. The number of District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 16,949 in 2010 to 20,214 in 2014. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs.3,132 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation/construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last four years. Under the eCourts Project 13672 courts have been computerized by 30th June, 2015.

Government submitted a comprehensive proposal to the 14th Finance Commission with a financial implication of Rs.9749 crore for five years, which includes reduction in pendency of cases. The Commission in its report has endorsed the entire proposal and urged State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.
