

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:617

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015

Pending Court Cases

Biswas Shri Radheshyam;Choubey Shri Ashwini Kumar;Choudhary Shri Ram Tahal;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Gutha Shri Sukender Reddy;Jadhav Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Kashyap Shri Virender;Mahajan Smt. Poonam ;Meena Shri Harish Chandra;Mullappally Shri Ramachandran;Nayak Shri B.V.;Rai Shri Nityanand;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy;Singh Shri Ravneet;Somaia Dr. Kirit;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.;Yadav Shri Laxmi Narayan

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

(a) the details of criminal and civil cases, as on date, pending in the Supreme Court. High Courts and Subordinate Courts in the country showing the cases pending for more than ten years separately and the total number of cases disposed of during the last three years in these courts, court and year-wise;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the reasons for delay in justice delivery;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with remedial action taken / being taken by the Government in this regard including filling of large number of vacancies of Judges in various courts;

(d) whether the Government has received certain suggestions / recommendations from various quarters including from Law Commission for expeditious disposal of pending cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken / being taken by the Government on these suggestions / recommendations?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) : The data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per the information made available by Supreme Court, 50,343 civil cases and 11,443 criminal cases were pending in Supreme Court as on 20.02.2015. The number of cases disposed of by the Supreme Court in last three years are as follows:-

Year Number of Cases Disposed

2012 68,744

2013 77,085

2014 92,722

The total number of cases pending in the Supreme Court for more than 10 years as on 31.01.2015 are 704.

As per the information received from High Courts, 31.16 lakh civil cases and 10.37 lakh criminal cases were pending as on 31.12.2014 in various High Courts. In District and Subordinate Courts, 82.34 lakh civil cases and 182.53 lakh criminal cases were pending as on 31.12.2014 Details of cases disposed during the last three years and cases pending for more than ten years in the High Courts and District / Subordinate Courts are given in the Statement annexed.

Some of the main factors responsible for pendency of cases in courts are increasing number of state and central legislations, accumulation of first appeals, continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, vacancies of Judges, appeals against orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, number of revisions / appeals, frequent adjournments, indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction, lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing

The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration by providing support for better court infrastructure including computerisation, encouraging increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and initiating policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure, initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges of a High Court rests with

the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and for appointment of a Judge in the Supreme Court, it rests with the Chief Justice of India. The Government is periodically reminding the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling up the existing vacancies as well as the vacancies anticipated in the next six months in the High Courts. The filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. For filling of vacancies in District and Subordinate Courts, the matter is regularly pursued with the High Courts.

The Law Commission of India, in its 245th Report, titled "Arrears and Backlog Creating Additional Judicial

(wo) manpower", inter-alia, recommended 'Rate of Disposal Method' for calculating adequate judge strength for District and Subordinate Courts. The other recommendations of the Law Commission in the Report include increasing the retirement age of judges of subordinate courts, creation of special morning and evening courts for traffic / police challan cases, provision of adequate staff and infrastructure for the working of additional courts and enabling uniform data collection and data management method by High Courts in order to ensure transparency and to facilitate data based policy prescriptions for the Judicial System. As the subject matter of creation and filling up of posts in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of State Governments and High Courts, the recommendations of the Law Commission have been forwarded to them.