

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:557
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
PENDING COURT CASES
Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) whether it is true that a large number of cases are pending before courts for disposal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cases pending before Supreme Court, High Courts and various courts in the country, court-wise and the reasons therefor, and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to dispose of the large number of pending cases and to ensure speedy justice to each and every petitioner in a stipulated time-frame?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): The data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per the information available, 63,843 cases were pending in Supreme Court as on 01.5.2014. Details of cases pending in the High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2013 are given in Statements at Annex-1 and Annex- II.

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, adjournments, indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction, lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing are some of the main factors responsible for pendency of cases in courts.

Disposal of pending cases in various courts is within the domain of the Judiciary. In order to create an enabling environment for judiciary, the Government has set up National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. The major initiative under the National Mission relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2,198 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation / construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last three years. Under the eCourts Project 13,227 courts have been computerized by 31 March, 2014. Computerization of courts would enable the courts to exercise greater control over management of cases in the docket. It will also provide designated services to the litigants and the lawyers. In order to reduce government litigation in courts the Central Government has encouraged the States to notify their litigation policies which contain provisions for weeding out infructuous cases and promote dispute resolution through alternative mechanisms. The Government is also looking into the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation