

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1461
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
WORKING HOURS OF COURTS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Chief Justice of India has suggested to increase the number of courts and working hours of existing courts for early disposal of pending cases in courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has discussed the matter with the concerned institutions/organisations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response of such institutions/organisations thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : The working hours in the Supreme Court and High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts. The matter relating to increasing the number of courts in the country has been deliberated upon in various fora including Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 7th April, 2013 at New Delhi. In terms of decisions taken in the Conference, Central Government has been pursuing the State Governments and High Courts to set up additional Courts and fill up vacancies.

Further, Supreme Court in its order dated 1st February, 2012 in the case of *Intiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh and Others*, inter-alia asked the Law Commission of India to undertake an enquiry and submit its recommendation for scientific assessment of the number of additional subordinate courts. The Law Commission has since submitted its report and has recommended the formula based on Rate of Disposal Method. The Supreme Court has asked the concerned State Government and High Courts to file their response to the recommendations made by Law Commission of India.

As regards High Courts, Chief Justice of India has given in-principle concurrence to increase the sanctioned strength of High Courts by 25% of the existing strength. The High Courts and State Governments have been requested to convey their consent to the proposal, keeping in view the existing vacancies, as also the requirements of additional court room infrastructure, staff and budgets. Specific proposals in respect of the High Courts of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab & Haryana have been approved by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. In the case of the other High Courts, the State Governments have been reminded to expedite their concurrence.