

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:568
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH COURT BENCHES
Premachandran Shri N.K.

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

- (a) whether certain State Governments have submitted proposals for establishment of High Court benches in their States including Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details along with the present status thereof;
- (c) the criteria adopted/formalities required by the Government for establishment of these benches;
- (d) the details of the States including Kerala where such benches have already been established so far: and
- (e) whether the Government intends to establish such benches throughout the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) In accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No. 379 of 2000, Bench(es) of the High Court are established after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government, which is to provide infrastructure and meet the expenditure, along with the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, which is required to look after the day to day administration of the High Court and its Bench.

The State Government of Kerala had sent a request in the year 2005 for setting up a bench of Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. The Chief Justice of High Court of Kerala has not approved the establishment of the High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram.

The status of requests from the other State Governments for establishment of Benches of High Courts is as follows:-

1. West Bengal: The Government of West Bengal had sent a proposal for establishment of a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. The Calcutta High Court has intimated that the infrastructure facilities for establishment of Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri are not adequate at present, and it will take some more time to establish a Circuit Bench. Accordingly, the Hon'ble President has been apprised and his approval obtained for issuing the necessary notification/order after the Calcutta High Court intimates the readiness of all infrastructure.

2. Himachal Pradesh: Proposal for establishment of a Bench of Himachal Pradesh High Court at Dharmsala, has not been agreed to by the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

3. Odisha: Proposal for establishment of two Benches of the Orissa High Court in the Western and Southern regions of Odisha was referred to the Chief Justice, Orissa High Court. The Chief Justice, Orissa High Court has intimated that the matter will be examined by the High Court in due course in the light of all facts and circumstances.

A Statement showing the details of High Courts and their Benches is at Annexure.