

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:366  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014  
DELHI HIGH COURT AMENDMENT BILL  
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

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

- (a) whether the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2014 envisages rise in pecuniary limit of Delhi High Court and if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (b) whether suggestions have been received from various quarters to increase the pecuniary limits in other High Courts/District Courts on the lines of Delhi High Court;
- (c) if so, the details and the status thereof; and
- (d) the other steps being contemplated to reform justice delivery system in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.366 due for answer on 18.12.2014 regarding Delhi High Court Amendment Bill.

(a) : The Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2014 seeks amendment in the Delhi High Court Act, 1986 and the Punjab Courts Act, 1918 to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of Delhi District Courts from existing rupees twenty lakhs to rupees two crore. The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 17th February, 2014 and referred to the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination and report. The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee has submitted its report on 28.11.2014 endorsing the Bill. The Bill will now be considered lay the Rajya Sabha once a motion to do so is notified.

(b) & (c): The control over District and Subordinate Courts is vested in the High Court in accordance with Articles 227 and 235 of the Constitution of India. District Courts in the country have unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction except in the Districts under the jurisdiction of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras High Courts because these four High Courts have original civil pecuniary jurisdiction. While endorsing the enhancement of pecuniary jurisdiction of Delhi District Courts, the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has expressed the view that there is also a need to bring in uniformity in the pecuniary jurisdiction of all High Courts in the country.

(d) : The major initiatives taken by the Government for pendency reduction 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 13,323 courts have been computerized by 30th November, 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 has also identified the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation. As a result of the concerted efforts made by all stake-holders the increasing trend of pendency of cases in subordinate courts has been checked.