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Title: Need to expedite disposal of pending civil and criminal cases in the country.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Sir, kindly allow me to speak from here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI : Thank you, Sir.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Ministry of Law regarding fast track courts scheme in India. So far, fast track courts disposed of 19,43,342 cases. Even the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions headed by the former Chairman, Shri Natchiappan, has recommended the scheme beyond 2010. It is going to end by March 2010. The Committee has appreciated the good work being done by the fast track courts. They are disposing of the oldest cases. They are able to dispose of long pending civil and criminal cases.

The Presiding Officers of Fast Track Courts were selected by some High Courts after conducting written exams and interviews wherein the rule of reservation was also followed in the selection process.

I request the Law Ministry to continue such a good scheme as it would not only be beneficial to the litigant public but also for judiciary. At the same time, I also request the Ministry to regularise the services of the Presiding Officers of Fast Track Courts as judiciary will be having experienced officers. It also saves a lot of time in the process of further selection. There are about 77 qualified persons in the country who were appointed by the respective High Courts as *ad hoc* Judges. Though the Central Government is meeting the expenditure on the functioning of Fast Track Courts, certain States are not paying salaries as recommended by the Apex Court. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to extend the scheme beyond 2010, to regularize the services of *ad hoc* Judges and to implement the recommendations of the Nachiappan Committee at the earliest.