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Title: Regarding need to establish circuit bench of High Court of Bombay at Kolhapur.

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK (KOLHAPUR): The agitation for establishment of Circuit bench at Kolhapur for six districts namely Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Solapur is on for the past 25 years. There is a pendency of close to 63000 cases from this region which is a major injustice to the concerned parties and the citizens in general. However, no positive steps have been taken in this regard. It may be recalled that the Government of India had appointed the Jaswant Singh Committee to ascertain and give suggestions for establishment of benches of High Court at such other place or places other than the Principal seat of High Court. The said committee has made survey and has given certain guidelines / norms. However, there is tremendous change so far as population, litigation and changed economic position of these six districts is concerned. It is worthwhile to note that in the year 2009, the Law commission of India had suggested certain reforms in the judiciary and has made certain suggestions. That report is Report No. 230. The committee was chaired by Hon'ble Dr. Justice L.R. Laxman. This committee has mentioned the changed circumstances on page II, Para 1.7 of the report. I may quote the said Para as it is:- "In almost every High Court, there is huge pendency of cases and present strength of the Judges can hardly be said to be sufficient to cope with alarming situation. The Institution of the cases is much more, than the disposal and it adds to arrears of cases. The litigating citizens have a fundamental right of Life that is a tension free 'life through speedy justice delivery system. Now it has become essential that the present strength of judges should be increased manifold according to the pendency, present and probable.

" In Para 1 (8) of the said report it is observed as below:-

"It is also necessary that the work of High Court is decentralized that is, more benches are established in all the states. Therefore the establishment of new benches is necessary. It is also in the interest of litigants."

It is the intention of Government that "Justice is to be rendered at the doorsteps." If this is so, the establishment of benches at different places is absolutely necessary. Therefore, the demand for establishment of circuit bench of High Court of Bombay at Kolhapur is need of the hour.