

[*Translation*]

Strengthening of Judicial System

1044. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

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

(a) whether the judiciary is not able to provide cheap and speedy justice to the common people;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the strength of Judges is disproportionate with population in comparison to other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to expedite judicial procedure and to dispose of the pending cases and augment the strength of judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The delay in disposal of cases in courts, besides the inadequate strength of Judges, is due to various factors including increased institution of cases, rise in population, radical change in the pattern of litigation, awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, etc. However, in order to provide inexpensive and speedy justice, Lok Adalats have been given statutory base with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, w.e.f. 9.11.1995. Lok Adalats have proved to be an effective and successful supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

(c) and (d) The Law Commission in its 120th Report had, inter-alia, recommended that the present strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population. With regard to the strength of Judges in High Courts, it has been decided not to accept the proposal to increase Judge-strength only on the basis of population. In so far as the matter relating to Subordinate Judiciary is concerned, their strength is determined by the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts.

(e) Various measures have been taken by the Government including amendment of the Civil Procedure

Code and Criminal Procedure Code, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution. In addition, the Supreme Court and High Courts have taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, viz; grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law, setting up of specialised benches, computerization of listing of cases, etc.

[*English*]

Development of Cochin Port

1045. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the development of Cochin Port is under consideration of the Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time frame within which the development work is likely to be completed and the total cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major capacity yielding schemes proposed to be undertaken in Cochin Port during the 9th Plan are as under:—

(i) LNG/LPG terminal at Puthuvyppeen with a capacity of 2.5 million tonnes.

(ii) Multi-purpose berth of long wharf area with the capacity of 0.5 million tonnes.

(iii) Deepening of channel with the capacity of 3 Million tonnes.

(iv) Conversion of Q6 and Q7 berths into container berths with the capacity of 1 million tonnes.

(v) Upgradation of Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal in Willingdon Island and International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam.

(c) Project Development and tendering for the above schemes has been started. Some of the works are