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Member of Parliament
(Rajya Sabha)

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MEDIA RELEASE

Working Strength of 11 Judges as against Approved 20 in the Jharkhand High Court

Over 30K Civil Cases and 27K Criminal Cases Pending in the Jharkhand High Court

Kapil Sibal Informs RS Member, Parimal Nathwani

Ranchi, August 19, 2013: The data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per the available information, the details of pending Civil and Criminal cases in 21 High Courts of the country were 34,01,193 and 9,39,674 respectively. Thus, there were total numbers of 43,40,867 cases pending in the High Courts as on 31.03.12.

This was stated by Mr. Kapil Sibal, the Union Minister of Law & Justice and Communications and Information Technology in Rajya Sabha in reply to a question from Rajya Sabha Member, Mr. Parimal Nathwani. According to a statement presented by Mr. Kapil Sibal in the house, there were 30,717 civil cases and 27,794 criminal cases pending in the High Court of Jharkhand as on 31st March 2012.

In another statement, it was informed that only 631 High Court Judges were working against the approved strength of 906 judges in various high courts of the country. The High Court of Jharkhand had approved strength of 10 permanent judges and 10 additional judges against which only nine permanent judges and two additional judges were working thereby leaving 11 positions vacant.

Filling up of the vacancies in the High Court is a continuous consultative process among the constitutional authorities to select suitable candidates for higher judiciary, the minister stated. He also informed that in order to expedite the trial of court cases, a number of legislative changes have been made in procedural laws. The challenges posed by huge backlog and pendency of cases in our judicial system cannot be met without active involvement of judiciary, the Minister added.

The High Court of Allahabad topped the list with 6,70,471 civil cases and 3,38,062 criminal cases pending, as per the statement presented in the house by the minister.