

डॉ. आलोक श्रीवास्तव, भा.प्र.से.
Dr. Alok Srivastava, IAS



सचिव
न्याय विभाग
विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

D.O.No. 15011/27/2017-JUS (AU)

Dated the 11th January, 2018

Dear

This is to apprise you of the significant events relating to the Department of Justice for the month of December, 2017.

1. Appointment of Acting Chief Justice - Smt. Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani was appointed Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court w.e.f. 05.12.2017.
2. Appointment of Permanent Judges - Three Additional Judges were made Permanent Judges (one each in the High Courts of Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh).
3. The Bill for amendments in the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 and the High Courts Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 for revision in the salaries, gratuity, allowances, pension etc. of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.12.2017.
4. The fifth meeting of the Task Force constituted for Improving India's ranking in World Bank Report on Doing Business regarding the parameter of "Enforcing Contracts" was held on 29th December, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Justice) where in the Action Plan was reviewed.
5. On the subject of Ease of Doing Business, a meeting-cum-workshop was held on 15.12.2017 in the Bombay High Court to create awareness about electronic services being provided under eCourts Programme for EoDB. The meeting was attended by the Advocates, members of Bar, Respondents, Contributors, Law Firms of Mumbai. Information relating to reforms undertaken/being undertaken in judicial sector for improving rank of the country under Ease of Doing Business for the parameter "Enforcing Contracts" was disseminated.
6. The Cabinet approved the continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 3320 crores up to 31.03.2020. A first time meeting was held under chairmanship of Secretary (Justice) with the officers of State Governments and Registrar Generals of High Courts on 18.12.2017 regarding norms and specifications being used in the States for construction of court halls and residential units and for online monitoring. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of CPWD and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC). The NRSC is developing the web portal and mobile app for online monitoring mechanism by linking them with its BHUVAN application to achieve geo-tagging.

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7. As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (C) No.699/2016, a scheme for setting up of 12 Special Courts for trial of 1581 criminal cases pending against elected MPs/MLAs was submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 11.12.2017. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has approved the scheme and directed the Union Government to allocate grants to the concerned State Governments where Special Courts (12 in number) are proposed to be set up. The Hon'ble Court further directed that immediately after such allocation is made, the State Governments in consultation with High Courts will set up these 12 courts to ensure that they start functioning from 01.03.2018. An estimated expenditure of Rs. 7.8 crore to make 12 courts operational for one year has been prepared. The proportionate allocation to the concerned States where such courts would be setup is being worked out.

8. The following activities have been completed under Phase II Mission Mode Project of the eCourts:

- a) A sum of Rs.10.10 crores has been released on 07.12.2017 to National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi towards implementation of cloud connectivity for National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) infrastructure of North East States under Phase II of eCourts Project.
- b) The Conference of Central Project Coordinators (CPC) of all High Courts was held on 2nd and 3rd December, 2017 in New Delhi. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B Lokur, Supreme Court Judge and In-Charge, eCommittee and Secretary, Department of Justice, Members of eCommittee, Officials from NIC and Central Project Coordinators of all High Courts participated.
- c) E-Filing software for District Judiciary was launched by Secretary, Department of Justice during the CPC Conference on 3rd December, 2017.

9. Under the Tele Law scheme, legal advice is provided to marginalized community and citizens in general through video conferencing, chat or telephonic conversation. In North Eastern States & Jammu & Kashmir, a total of 9298 cases were registered and legal advice was provided in 6405 cases. Out of 2554 female litigants registered for obtaining legal advice, 1968 were provided legal advice. Total 495 Scheduled Caste applicants and 926 Scheduled Tribe applicants have been benefitted through the Tele Law scheme by providing them specific legal advice.

10. Non-compliance of ACC directions - NIL.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(Alok Srivastava)

Shri P.K. Sinha,
Cabinet Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
New Delhi.

Copy to:-

- 1) PS to Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 2) PS to Minister of State for Law & Justice and Corporate Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

(Alok Srivastava)