

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 06.12.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**

**SETTING UP OF CIRCUIT BENCHES OF HIGH COURTS .**

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Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar

Will the Minister of COALLAW & JUSTICE be pleased to state :-

- (a) the criteria and provisions laid down by the Ministry for establishment of circuit benches of High Courts in States;
- (b) the number of circuit benches of High Courts established so far, State-wise;
- (c) the number of proposals under consideration or pending with the Ministry as on date, State-wise;
- (d) whether there is a specific proposal for establishing circuit benches of Gujarat High Court at Rajkot and Surat; and
- (e) if so, by when these benches are likely to be established?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

- (a) Setting up of a Bench of a High Court is considered only if a complete proposal in terms of section 51(2) of the States` Reorganisation Act, 1956 is received from the State Government concerned, including the consent of the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Governor of the State and also if it satisfies the broad guidelines and criteria recommended by the Jaswant Singh Commission.
- (b) No State other than Karnataka has established Circuit Benches of High Courts. Only 2 Circuit Benches at Dharwar and Gulbarga have been established in Karnataka.
- (c) Only one proposal from the State of West Bengal, for establishment of a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri, is under consideration of the Government.
- (d) & (e) There is no specific proposal for establishing circuit benches of the Gujarat High Court at Rajkot and Surat.