

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4976

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Working of Constitutional Bench without Break

4976. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Supreme Court to have at least one Constitution Bench functioning through out the year to decide pending cases speedily;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether clarity and transparency in the urgent listing of cases in the top court and a clear cut mechanism is proposed to put in place to allow lawyers to mention urgent matters, like bail petitions before the respective Benches for early listing and to decide the cases faster and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, Constitution Benches are established keeping in view the availability of Judges and maintaining the balance between the pendency of regular and miscellaneous matters in the Courts and exigencies in the matters. It has been informed that as on 27.03.2023, a total of 37 main cases are pending adjudication before the Constitution Benches, out of which 05 have been reserved for judgment.

(c) Guidelines have been laid down as regards matters of urgent nature which are accepted by the Mentioning Branch for listing, as 'Listed Mentioning'. These guidelines are available on the website of the Supreme Court of India. With regard to the mentioning of urgent matters, the Bench of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India takes mentioning every day so as to address the situation relating to urgent matters. Mentioning ranging from 70 to 125 cases is being taken by Bench No. 1. Even in pending matters, the mentioning is taken by the concerned Benches. It is further informed that strenuous efforts are being put by the Benches to address urgent matters or any matter which requires immediate attention. In order to streamline filing and listing of the matters, the Supreme Court Registry is striving to evolve an e-filing process.
