

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 960**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 08TH FEBRUARY, 2022/ MAGHA 19, 1943 (SAKA)

MERCY PETITIONS

960. SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mercy petitions pending before the Government from each year;**
- (b) whether the Government is aware that as per the Supreme Court ruling in Shatrughan Chauhan v Union of India, inordinate delays in deciding mercy petitions amount to a violation of Article 21;**
- (c) whether the Government has framed rules, procedures and guidelines for the timely disposal of mercy petitions; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)

(a) to (d) Four mercy petitions are pending under article 72 of the Constitution of India. The year-wise detail is as under:

Year	Number of mercy petitions
2012	01
2015	01
2021	02

Under Article 72 of the Constitution of India there is no limitation of time within which the power conferred may be exercised. However, the mercy petitions are disposed of as expeditiously as possible. The Government has also filed a Miscellaneous Application on 22.01.2020 in the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) No.55 of 2013 seeking clarifications on the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the common final judgment and Order dated 21.01.2014 in the case of Shatrughan Chauhan and Another to curtail delay in execution of death sentence.