

RENDERING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN INDIA: NEED SPEEDY & EFFECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

India is a democratic country where **justice** is done to all. It works on the principle “let 100 **culprits** go free but not a single innocent person should be punished.” Doing justice to all, is the concept that has travelled through the ages. From the very old times we had courts and authorities which delivered judgments on various **disputes**. From this we have in the present day various courts at different levels like metropolitan court, district court, session’s **court**, high court, Supreme Court and various other courts at different level which decides cases at different level. But in the present date we have various cases pending in different courts whose number in increasing day by day. The courts take years to decide a case and the **judgment** is passed after eight-ten or even fifteen years or more. But it is something called as delayed justice and it is well said that “justice delayed is justice denied.” So, there should be some mechanism in order to serve the purpose at an appropriate time and in appropriate manner. There should be some control barrier but it does not mean at all that the very purpose should be forgotten because “justice hurried is justice buried”. So, we should basically focus delivery of judgment in a proper way in a proper span of time. Speedy trail is the essence of criminal justice and **delay** constitutes denial of it. While on one hand, reasonably expeditious trail is an integral and essential part of the fundamental right to life and liberty enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution of India. In this paper we discussed that justice delivery system fail to respond quickly to the cries of poor litigants. To get the cheap & speedy justice, both the govt. & the judiciary have to take special measures & introduce innovative idea. The ratio of judges is poor when we compare with USA, Australia & Canada. Alarming issue caused in Delhi **gang rape** case & there has a **agitation** for effective justice in short span & modification of criminal investigation within 7 days & punishment be finalised within 30 days to check the crime.

KEYWORDS: Justice, culprits, disputes, court, judgment, delay, gang rape, agitation, speedy.

INTRODUCTION

Justice is the foundation of any judicial setup. In India, our judicial has been facing problem like inordinate delay, adjournment, appeals, contradictory court opinions, reverse of prior decision. Justice delayed is justice denied. It is happened due to not paying attention by different segments relating to dispensing of justice, police, and court particularly in rendering criminal justice. Reforms pertaining criminal justice could transformed into speedy justice to the author of crime. Non-registration of cases (FIR) & the poor investigation are the main factors for denial of justice. There is need to re-look the criminal justice reforms to examine the objective of reforms graph for speedy. There are 1562 Fast track court in India which have lost their efficacy in working. Even States Govt. of India have not funded adequately. One more question as

resulted why not the trial be held in regular court? So there is need of the hour to review the criminal procedure of Law to be become procedure in law. Whether modern procedure with the deep rooted tradition process to be helpful in disposal of cases. The objective of penal law and the societal interest in setting the criminal law in motion to provide fair and swept justice. The adverse effect of delay on the society at large is immeasurable. The fear of law and the faith in the criminal justice system will be failed.

STATISTIC ANALYSIS

It would be useful to refer to certain data touching on the general scenario of criminal justice in the country with special reference the paper will examine the problems for delay in criminal justice & also reveals the backlog cases to understand the factual reason as well as to find out the shortcomings of present criminal proceeding. To the cases pending in the District and Subordinate (D&S) courts to understand the problem of judicial set up & their proceedings.

• **Table –I**

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA					
THE MONTHLY STATEMENT OF PENDING CASES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2012					
	Pending from the Previous Month	Registered during the month	Disposed of during the month	Disposed of matters pertaining to Previous months, but updated this month	Pending at the end of the month
	A	B	C	D	A+B-(C+D)
Admission Matters	36399	5197	4115	580	36901
Regular Hearing Matters	28532	477	181	26	28802
Total	64931	5674	4296	606	65703
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of the 65703 pending matters as on 30/11/2012, if connected matters are excluded, the pendency is only 37230 matters as on 30/11/2012. • Out of the 65703 pending matters as on 30/11/2012, 22133 matters are upto one year old and thus arrears (i.e. cases pending more than a year) are only of 43570 matters as on 30/11/2012. 					

- **Table –II**

Institution			Disposal			Pending as on 1st May of respective year	Number of matters Reduced/Enhanced with respect to previous year
Duration	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	
As on 1st May, 2007							41730
May, 2007 to April, 2008	64161	7370	71531	60605	6282	66887	46374 4644 (+)
May 2008 to April, 2009	59107	6517	65624	55252	6598	61850	50148 3774 (+)
May, 2009 to April, 2010	73412	9048	82460	71276	6314	77590	55018 4870 (+)
May, 2010 to April, 2011	70836	8314	79150	72212	7409	79621	54547 471 (-)

There is a healthy sign that the number of pending cases in Supreme Court has reduced by 2.2 percent. But for both High Courts and Lower courts the number has gone up by 3.8 percent and 2.5 percent respectively. There has been a 2.65 percent annual increase in the total number of pending cases.

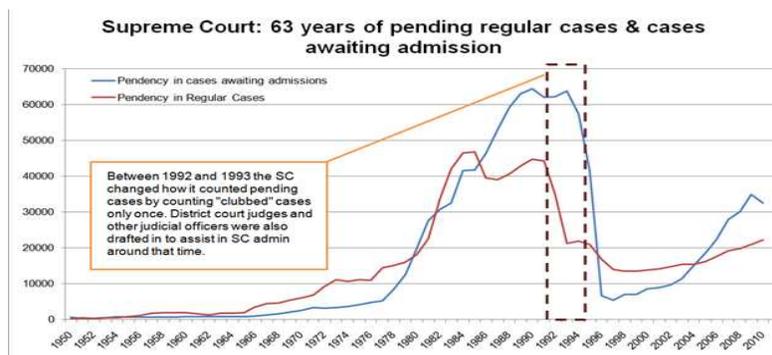
- **Table –III**

State wise Pending Cases:

SL.No	State/Union Territory	High Court*	Lower Courts*
1.	Uttar Pradesh	973,599	5631993
2.	Andhra Pradesh	194,691	956448
3.	Maharashtra	347,618	4057973
4.	Goa	BHC	29721
5.	Daman & Diu	BHC	2034
6.	Dadra, Nagar, Haveli	BHC	3950
7.	West Bengal	333,763	2747170
8.	A & N Islands	CHC	15031
9.	Chhattisgarh	56,102	270186
10.	Delhi	60,375	939850
11.	Gujarat	98,128	2201244
12.	Assam	53,400	251020
13.	Nagaland	GHC	5080
14.	Meghalaya	GHC	12889
15.	Manipur	GHC	8757
16.	Tripura	GHC	57467
17.	Mizoram	GHC	4415
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	GHC	6348
19.	Himachal Pradesh	46,698	170724
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	65,905	184656
21.	Jharkhand	57,218	284,391
22.	Karnataka	209,843	1154526
23.	Kerala	120,764	972995
24.	Lakshadweep	KHC	215
25.	Madhya Pradesh	213,028	1159421
26.	Tamil Nadu	444,979	1255011
27.	Puducherry	MHC	27016
28.	Orissa	275,052	1113844
29.	Bihar	128,293	1523142
30.	Punjab	237,658	572550
31.	Haryana		565591
32.	Chandigarh	P&H HC	84668
33.	Rajasthan	282,826	1509066
34.	Sikkim	52	1304
35.	Uttarakhand	17,911	172374
	Total	4,217,903	27,953,070

* Statistics as of September 30, 2010
 BHC-Bombay High Court; CHC- Calcutta High Court; GHC- Guwahati High Court, KHC- Kerala High Court
 P&H HC- Punjab & Haryana High Court

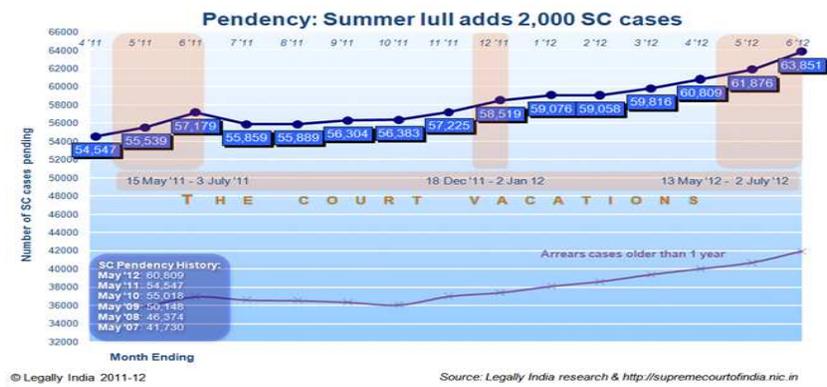
• **Table –IV**



Justice delivery system fails to respond quickly to the crises of poor litigants. To get the cheap & speedy justice, both the Govt. & the judiciary have to take special measures & introduce innovative idea. The ratio of judges is poor when we compare with USA, Australia, & Canada. By this graph we are trying to show pending cases in Supreme Court by last 63 years and they are still awaiting.¹

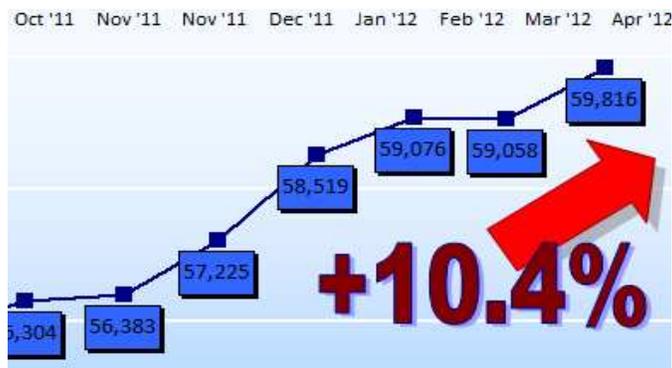
• **Table-V**

¹ Legally India research & <http://supremecourt.nic.in>



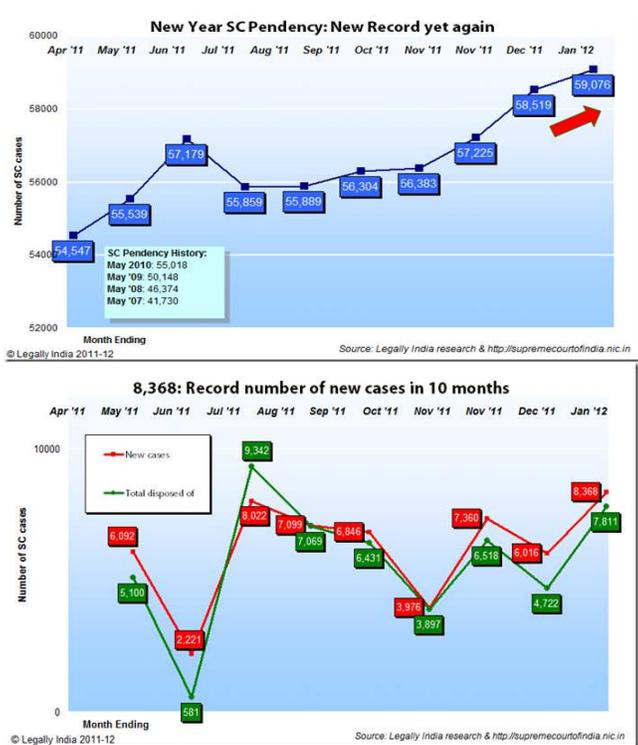
Over the summer holidays the cases pending at the Supreme Court has shot up by around 3,000 cases, with 2,000 pending cases added in the month of July alone when just over 500 cases were disposed of – a record since the start of *Legally India*'s Pendency Project in May 2011. It's not looking good.

- **Table-VI**



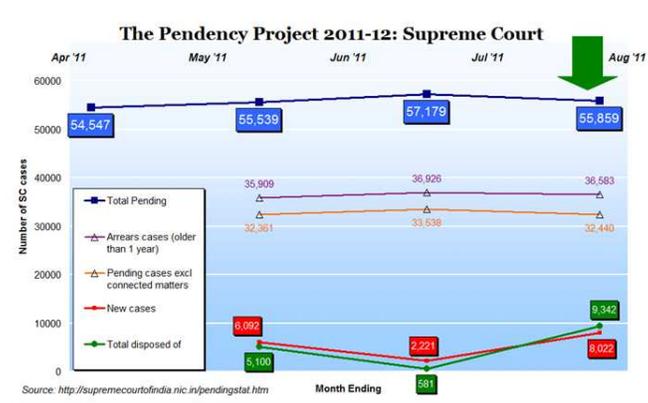
The pendency of cases at the Supreme Court of India is within a whisker of 60,000 – a new record - after rising by more than 700 cases in March 2012.

- **Table-VII**



With 6 Supreme Court judges to retire in 2012, 500 pending cases added in Jan

• **Table-VIII**



Supreme Court clears 1300 in record July, would dispose all by 2015 if continues

Statistics released by the Supreme Court shows that the number of vacancies in Supreme Court remains the same as last year. But the statistics of both High Courts and Lower Courts are of concern. There have been nearly 30 percent vacancies in the High Courts for the past three years and Lower Courts are not fairing any better. Lower Courts across India have 19 percent vacancy as compared to 16 percent in 2009. One of the reasons of the creation of huge backlog of cases is that India is facing alarming shortage of judges. There are about 291 vacant posts in the high courts alone and 3,170 in lower courts.

• **Table-IX**

Vacancies in various Courts:

Court		2009	2010	2011
Supreme Court*	Sanctioned	31	31	31
	Vacancy	4	2	2
High Courts*	Sanctioned	895	895	895
	Vacancy	265	287	291
Lower Courts**	Sanctioned	16,880	17,151	-
	Vacancy	2,785	3,170	-

Statistics as of February 1, 2011 ** Statistics as of September 30, 2010
Source: Supreme Court News, *Bar & Bench* (www.barandbench.com)

Delay in disposal of cases is a normal feature in the country and a number of efforts have been made to counter this evil practice but it seems that it will stay in the society. Our Judicial system is not fair & fast justice system .Now its time to wake up and give some innovative idea & measures & time to make some Amendment for effective and speedy criminal justice system.

SHORT COMINGS OF PROCEDURE IN LAW & THEIR FUNCTIONARIES:

Looking at these alarming numbers, both Supreme Court and the Government are taking positive measures to bring in major judicial and legal reforms. In order to tackle the problem of law and order and crimes, state has made laws-substantive as well as procedural. However, the powerful battery of lawyers, which defends criminals, exploits legal point and loopholes to their advantage to the maximum possible extent. Some functionalities discussed as follows-

- (1) Fast Track Courts on the recommendation of the 11th Finance Commission, 1734 Fast Track Courts of Sessions Judges were sanctioned for disposal of old pending cases.
- (2) The functioning of a mobile court in an economically, educationally and socially backward area of Mewat marks the beginning of a new revolution in the Indian judiciary. It will go a long way to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to the poor people of this backward area.
- (3) The Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Ministers of various States have agreed to introduce a shift system in the subordinate courts to dispose of appropriate cases, including those relating to petty offences. The State of Gujarat has taken a lead in introducing shift system in subordinate courts w.e.f. 14-11-2006. 60 evening courts are already in place in different parts of the State. By adopting such methodology the pendency would be reduced by 20%.
- (4) Lok Adalats was first held in the early 1980's. Lok Adalats were described in sec19(5)(1)&(II) recognition under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Lok Adalats for resolution including compoundable cases involving motor accident claims, family disputes regarding electricity, pension & also petty criminal offences.
- (5) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005 has introduced the concept of Alternative Dispute Resolution into the criminal arena. It affords all members of the community to resolve cases without going to trial. The accused, victim & the prosecution settle the outcome between themselves & the Judges give his approval. The ADR mechanisms include arbitration, negotiation of mediation and conciliation. This will not only provide

speedy and inexpensive justice and reduce litigation, but will also bring peace and harmony in the society.

- (6) Gram Nyayalaya means a court established under sub section(1)of section 3of Gram nayalaya act 2008. The gram nayalaya shall follow procedure in criminal trail as provided under sub-section(1) of sec 262,263,264 & 265 of CR.P.C 1973 of certain modifications and as a regards other matters which are not provided in the bill, the provisions of Cr.P.C shall be applicable. Gram Nyayalaya shall be guided by the principles of natural justice & subject to any rule made by the High court.
- (7) Criminal Law (Amendment) Act,2005 has been passed introducing the chapter XXIA in the code of criminal procedure,1973 containing Sections 265 A to 265L, which deal with plea bargaining. The basic concept of plea Bargaining as a reform to curb backlogs & delay in the Indian criminal justice process.
- (8) The Malimath committee which is also known as the arrears committee, undertook a comprehensive review of the working of court system, particularly aspects odd arrears & Law's delay & made various useful recommendation for reducing litigation & making justice readily accessible to the people at the minimum cost to time and money.

Problem in source of Expeditious Criminal Justice System:

These are the following problems are given below which show the reason of delay in justice-

- (a) Undue delays in the disposal of cases and lack of sensitivity (accountability) to the mounting arrears of cases.
- (b) Strength of Judges are inadequate according to population and bunch of cases.
- (c) The infrastructure of the lower courts is very disappointing.
- (d) Competency of the Other Staff in Court.
- (e) Investigative agencies generally delay.
- (f) Injecting avoidable uncertainties in the law and thereby making the task of the Executive more difficult and sometimes unmanageable.
- (g) Lack of transparency in judicial appointments and transfers.
- (h) Absence of strategic Action plan for clearance of arrears in courts.
- (i) Unnecessary pre-trial hearing

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF STUDY

The aim of the review was to examine how all the agencies involved in delivering courts based criminal justice contributing to the overarching objective of the system, namely protecting the public & reducing crime. We have achieved a number of significant improvements to the criminal justice system but not fully why? One of the reason is that when court is open thousands of cases come under that court within a time of period & we are still facing the problem of pending cases.

Crime, and the fear of crime, is a critical concern for people. The criminal justice system is there to fight crime. Its purpose is clear: to reduce crime, and to protect the public & why accused is suffer in jail at the time of investigation, trail & hearing. And why accused is suffer because of this slow & lasy criminal justice system. If he is guilty then investigate the case as far as possible try to punish them. Certain provision are given in Cr.P.C which delay the Case. Legal provision: Sec 309 of Cr.P.C. has power to postpone or adourn proceeding.

In this section the proceeding must be held as expeditiously as possible. Under the present code, the accused is to be given a chance to plead separately on the quantum of the sentence. As it is desirable that this healthy provision should not indirectly lead to any delay in the proceeding, the 1978 Amendment has now clarified that no adjournment can be granted only for the purpose of enabling the accused to show cause against the sentence proposed to be imposed on him.

Amendment to Section 477 Cr.P.C.

[e] providing for supervision and monitoring towards expeditious disposal of cases pending over a long period, or such categories or classes of cases having regard to their impact on administration of Justice or public interest.

[The rules may provide both for administrative and judicial supervision.]

Amendment to Section 483 Cr.P.C:

The existing provision may be substituted by the following:

[1] Every High Court shall so exercise its superintendence over

[a] all courts subordinate to it under this Code, and

[b] courts from whose orders or judgments appeals or revision lie to the High Court, so as to ensure expeditious and proper disposal of cases by such courts.

[2] The Public Prosecutor, the complainant or any other person on behalf of the victim/injured or deceased may apply to the High Court seeking exercise of the above-said power of superintendence.

A new provision - Section 157A Any time after the passing of an order under sub-section (2) of Section 155 relating to investigation of non-cognizable cases or after receipt of a report under sub-Section (1) of Section 156, relating to investigation of cognizable cases, the court concerned, either *suo motu* or on an application by the public prosecutor, or any other person acting on behalf of the deceased, injured or the victim of the offence, may call for information regarding the investigation of the case and issue such directions as may be necessary to facilitate expeditious investigation without in any way prejudicing the manner of investigation.

The Supreme Court made it clear that "speedy trial is of essence to criminal justice and there can be no doubt that the delay in trial by itself constitutes denial of justice".

In yet another case It added that "there can be no doubt that speedy trial - and by speedy trial we mean a reasonably expeditious trial -- is an integral and essential part of fundamental right to life and liberty enshrined in Art 21".

It is a very important obligation. Even apart from Art. 21 the constitutional mandate for speedy justice is inescapable. The preamble of the Constitution enjoins the state to secure social, economic and political justice to all its citizens. Art.20 of constitution is protection in respect of conviction for offence- in this no person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence & no person shall be punished more than once for same offence & no accused shall be compelled to be a witness against himself. Art.14 tells Equality before law.

JUDICIAL GUIDELINES FOR SPEEDY TRIAL

The Constitution of India, 1950 does not specifically guarantee the fundamental right to speedy trial but it has been included implicitly in art. 21 due to judicial activism shown in respect of art. 21 which deals with fundamental right to life and personal liberty. Justice Bhagwati in *Hussainara Khatoon (I)*² emphasized that the right was implicit in art. 21. He

². (1980) 1 SCC 81.

asserted that mere semblance of procedure was not enough and speedier trial meant reasonably expeditious trial. However, the Court did not provide a categorical answer as to what would be the effect of denial of speedy trial. In *Hussainara Khatoon (II) V Home Secretary*³ the Court emphasized expeditious review for withdrawal of cases against under trials held for more than two years. Protective custody was held to be a blatant violation of art. 21 in *Hussainara Khatoon (III) v Home Secretary*⁴. The Court passed appropriate order on the assurance of the State Government that where the delay had been for more than two years, the Superintendent of Police would see that the investigation would be completed expeditiously. However the Court desired a reasonable time to be fixed. In *Hussainara Khatoon (IV) v. Home Secretary*⁵ the Court emphasized the right as an essential ingredient of art. 21, which could not be denied on the ground of financial or administrative inability of the state. The Court came to know that there were certain under-trial prisoners, who were in prison for more than the maximum term of the sentence impossible for the offence charged. The court used strong terms such as 'shocking state of affairs', 'betrayal with concern of human values', Callousness of our legal and judicial system' to condemn delay. In *Hussainara Khatoon (V) v. Home Secretary*⁶ it was held that those charged with multiple offences and already imprisoned for period longer than the total maximum period, if the sentences were to run consecutively, were also held entitled to be released. In *Hussainara Khatoon (VI) v. Home Secretary*⁷. the court repeated proposition laid down in *Hussainara Khatoon (V)*. The expeditious trial and the investigation were reemphasized by Justice Krishna Iyer in *Nimeon Sangma v. Home Secretary, Govt. Of Meghalaya*⁸. However, Justice Krishna Iyer did not refer to any of the *Hussainara* rulings, though the Court had made five orders covering the same field by then. In *Mantoo Majumdar v. State of Bihar*⁹, the two under trial prisoners had been in jail for seven years without any investigation of the charges or filing of charge sheet before the Court. Admonishing the State of Bihar, Justice Krishna Iyer held it to be gross violation of art. 21 and directed the release of two forth with on their own bond without sureties. Thus, by this time, the Court tried to solve the problem of inordinate delay by providing fundamental right to speedy trial and in case of denial, generally the relief was release. Take into consideration **Bhopal Gas Leak Tragedy** involving lives of more than 15000 people. 20 years had passed for that incident and still people suffered a lot to get the compensation. The condition of those girls who were brutally gang raped during the Godhra riots in front of their helpless family members. Consider the case of Jessica Lal, where Delhi police yet to grab Manu Sharma, key accused, still able to safeguard himself from the clutches of the judicial administration. The victims of Best Bakery case who awaited justice to be dispensed in their favour but the climax starts with the key witness in the case turned hostile and the entire fate of the Bakery case is in turmoil. Today the victims of the all the above-enumerated cases know full well that the price of truth is extremely high.

There are a variety of theoretical and practical reasons for wanting to know more about what others do about the sanctioning of offensive conduct . Whatever misgivings they may have about how their own system works, many people are even more suspicious of what goes on when their fellow citizens end up being tried in courts abroad.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN WESTERN COUNTRIES

³. (1980) 1 SCC 91.
⁴. (1980) 1 SCC 93.
⁵. (1980)1 SCC 98.
⁶. (1980) 1 SCC 108.
⁷. (1980) 1 SCC 115.
⁸. (1980) 1 SCC 700.
⁹. (1980) 2SCC 406.

In U.K, every policeman has an original power vested in him. Once a law is passed by parliament, no one cantell him how he should act in upholding it. In Japan¹⁰ there is a National Public Safety Commission which is an apex body. It is insulated from political pressure & the prime minister is not empowered to give it any direction. In U.S.A¹¹ following the reform carried out in seventies, as stated by Jerome H. Skolnick and Candace McCoy,” political machines can no longer control the working of American Police Department nor can they protect police departments from public scrutiny.”

In October 2011 The Sentencing Project celebrated its 25th anniversary with a forum held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. That event, *Criminal Justice 2036*, was designed with two ideas in mind. First, to celebrate the accomplishments of our organization over a quarter century, of which we are indeed proud. Our contributions to public debate and public policy on issues of crime and punishment during the period, we hope, have helped in some measure to reduce harm and improve lives. Secondly, and more importantly, we used the occasion to envision what our criminal justice system—and our approach to public safety—should look like 25 years into the future, in the year 2036. We did so because we believe there is a moment of opportunity now, and therefore it is timely to think broadly about directions for constructive reform.

There are following five great challenges for the next quarter century:

1. We must help crime victims rebuild their lives.
2. We must pursue a focused and scientific crime prevention agenda.
3. We must use science to develop professional standards for the justice system.
4. We must rethink the role of the criminal sanction.
5. We must rethink a venerable American institution, the prison.

Here we discussed that U.S.A has organizing such kind of seminar for developing their justice system. We have also try to organize such seminar and other activities to provide knowledge of law for every citizen of country and try to improve our justice system. In our country criminals are not easily getting the punishment because of some loopholes in our laws. We have to develop sum innovative idea to make strong criminal justice system.

CONCLUDING SUGGESTION

We can conclude from the above discussion that we should not resort in extra-ordinary hurry-up of cases by whatever means. As justice delayed is justice denied, similarly, the saying, justice hurried is justice buried is equally true. Law is not enough to ensure justice.”Law without justice is blind and justice without Law is lame” .Therefore, sufficient, reasonable and due hearing of every cases with consideration of its circumstances is the necessary requirement of natural justice and balance of convenience. In fact, the untiring efforts put by fear and flavorless Indian Judiciary is doing commendable job of imparting justice inspite of so many difficulties, which created faith of public in the rule. Of law is a great achievement, which really requires

¹⁰ P.Psingh, Pllice Reforms-Their Raison d’etre,SVP NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY JOUNARAL 3,Jan-June 2000

¹¹ ID

deep appreciation. It is alarming position that we have to wake up and start our efforts to make strong & effective criminal justice system. India has 1500 jails: capacity is 2.5 lakh. But the over crowded jail has 3.5 lakh people .90% of them are undertrials. A big portion of the people are completed the jail term according to their offence ,but still judgement is not delivered..!Dirty jails kill people day by day.

(1) There is need to establish more courts and to increase number of judges according to population. As it is estimated that India has, only about II Judges per million population, which is among the lowest ratios in the world. Obviously, there is an urgent need to increase the number of judges specially at the local level for giving access to the ordinary people.

(2) It is needed to establish a body at national level composed of Judges, Lawyers and Legal academics, which should be charged with a duty to conduct examinations for recruitment to Indian Judicial Service (IJS). Article 233 will have to be amended to confer power on the president to appoint members of Indian Judicial Services on the recommendation of National Judicial Service Commission. The creation of Indian Judicial Service is appeared necessary to get best available talent in the country.

(3) Demand of establishing large number of ordinary courts is pending, yet special courts have its own importance. The special courts and prosecuting agencies may be appointed to deal with cases of corruption and cyber crimes. The beginning may be made in Delhi and other state capital where the number of cases is highest.

(4) There is urgently need to improve the basic infrastructure and management of resources. Modern technology and use of computers could also increase the efficiency of the court system. The judiciary has also to learn management techniques through training at all levels. Though, the Supreme Court and High Courts are having good infrastructure but this in not the same position with lower courts. It is necessary to improve their infrastructure by modern technology in lower courts also.

(5) Our criminal justice system has urgent requirement of Independent Investigative Agency. It is, therefore, good to create an independent wing of police force, fully in charge of crime investigation, and functioning under the direct control of independent prosecutors.

(6) The civil and criminal procedure codes and the laws of evidence have to be substantially revised to meet the requirements of modem judicial administration. For e.g. Section 301 Cr. P.c. should be amended to allow the victim to appoint a lawyer of his choice in addition to public prosecutor to defend his case. Similarly, Section 313 (3) of Cr. P.C. also be amended so that the accused would be held liable for refusal to give answer or telling lie. The victim will be allowed to cross-examine the accused to elucidate the truth. There must be some fixed time for presentation of written statement, counter claim and reply like the plaint, under the limitation Act. After all procedural law is meant to further ends of justice.

(7) Yearly announced the fair justice maker who gave the fair justice.

(8) Mechanical reforms are one of the device to eliminate the delaying factors. In exiting law ensure speedy justice and increasing the strength of judges & introduction of new managerial techniques & devices.

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