
Standing Committee Report Summary

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2008

- The Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice submitted its 28th report on the 'The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2008 on August 4, 2008. The Chairperson was Dr E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan.
- The Committee recommends that the Bill be considered after taking into account the suggestions made by it.
- The Committee feels that the government should take every conceivable measure to reduce pendency of cases not only in the Supreme Court but also in High Courts and subordinate courts. In order to reduce pendency in the Supreme Court and ensure speedy and timely justice to the people, it is necessary to devise various mechanism and to take corrective measures.
- The Committee emphasizes the need to look into various other issues which contribute to the pendency of cases such as judges' accountability, measures of control and regulation existing within the judiciary, reforms in the criminal procedure code, and alternative dispute redressal mechanism.
- The Committee suggests that the retirement age of the judges of the High Court should be increased to 65 years. This would facilitate availability of experienced judges.
- The Committee recommends that benches of the Supreme Court should be set up in Southern, Western and Eastern parts of the country.
- The Committee is of the opinion that the government should ensure adequate representation of the weaker sections and women in the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- The Committee recommends that a differential court fees system for the corporate sector be considered. They should be required to pay court fees as per the value of their disputes which should extend from one to five per cent of the total value of dispute. This may help the institutionalization of Arbitration and Conciliation as a method of dispute resolution.
- The Committee notes that the number of working days in the Supreme Court should be increased to accord speedy justice to the people.

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