

# Hindustan Times

January 7, 2008

## Plan to judge the judges

New Delhi

JUDGES MAY be under watch for the number of hours they take to dispose of cases, if the recommendations of a parliamentary standing committee are accepted. With around 2.5 crore cases pending in the country's courts, the parliamentary committee on the Ministry of Law and Justice is working out an "in-house mechanism" to monitor the judges to improve on their efficiency. If the judges knew that they were being watched, they may try to improve on their efficiency, leading to faster clearing of cases that would reduce the backlog, committee chairman E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan said. The panel is considering a "scientific regulation" for monitoring the number of hours put in by each judge and the cases disposed of in that time. "As part of the measures, the committee is considering to study the time taken by a judge to hear both parties in a dispute and go through the records and the precedent in the question of law and finally pronouncing the judgment," Natchiappan said. "This way we can find how many hours they (judges) are working," he said. Regarding the "long vacations" of the Supreme Court and high courts, Natchiappan said: "It is true that vacations are consuming over 100 days and the committee is seriously looking into the issue of having uniform number of holidays in HCs and lower courts."

7.01.08 - <http://epaper.hindustantimes.com/default.aspx>