

**Pathetic situation of our Justice delivery system:** Despite seeking justice is our premier fundamental right, it is denied by long delays. On an average it takes 15-20 years for criminal cases and 25-30 years in civil cases to decide in lower courts. Then the next higher court, and so on till the matter is finally disposed off at the Supreme Court of India. It is due to the snail paced justice delivery system that it takes several years to finally decide a matter. Litigants die but litigation continues. To take a decision our judiciary takes years and years. There is neither accountability nor transparency. This is making the poor suffer a great deal as to why a democratic government is not able to settle their disputes in time. This is the reality in which the people of India are trapped in the middle of second decade of 21<sup>st</sup> Century India.

It is common saying among litigants that in our Courts of Law, dates (adjournments) are easy to get but justice is hard to come. Despite law prohibits from giving more than three adjournments, no one is held accountable despite number of adjournments are given.

It is a pity that our law makers have not done enough to arrest this monster of pendency of cases in courts of India. From just 22 lakh (2.2 million) cases in the year 1956 pendency in 2012 rose to 3.30 crore (33 million) cases. The cry for speedy justice is going to be shriller in the next two decades as a conservative judicial estimate predicts that if no concrete positive steps are taken, pendency is going to register a five-fold increase to touch 15 crore (150 million).