

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointment DVN

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3525

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17.03.2021

New Bench of Bombay High Court

3525. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE** be pleased to state:

- a) whether there is any proposal to establish any new bench of Bombay High Court apart from the existing ones at Mumbai, Nagpur and Aurangabad in Maharashtra to enable common people to save their travelling and staying costs during litigation; and
- b) if so, the locations for which such proposals have been received and the details of the status of these proposals?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (b): No, sir. In accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P. (C) No. 379 of 2000, Bench(es) of the High Court are established after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government incorporating readiness to provide infrastructure and meet the expenditure, along with the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is authorized to look after day to day administration of the High Court and its Bench. The proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

At present, there is no complete proposal which has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra to establish new Bench of Bombay High Court.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

JA Desk

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3526
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2021**

Development of Infrastructural Facilities

†3526. SHRI MAHABALI SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented the centrally sponsored scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total fund allocated/released to Bihar by the Government under the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary during the last three years; and
- (d) the extent to which judiciary infrastructure has been improved so far in Jharkhand along with the details thereof?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b): The Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern between Centre and States. The Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District

and Subordinate Judiciary. Till date, Rs. **397.97** crore has been sanctioned to the State Government of Bihar.

(c): The status of funds released by the Central Government under the Scheme during the last three years and the current financial year is as follows:

(In Rs. crore)

State	Funds released during			
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as on 10.3.2021)
Bihar	42.90	62.04	87.62	50.72

(d): The primary responsibility of development of Infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Government to augment the resources of the State Governments. The funds are released under the Scheme for construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. As per information available, the number of court halls in Jharkhand is 637 as on 28.02.2021 and the number of residential units is 569 as on 28.02.2021. In addition, presently 26 court halls and 66 residential units are under construction in the State of Jharkhand.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)

eCourt

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3535
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17th MARCH, 2021

E-filing in Courts

3535. SHRI B. B. PATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian courts have adopted the method of e-filing;
- (b) if so, the details of the courts where e-filing is compulsory; and
- (c) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce paper wastage and to eliminate the burden of court cases in Indian judiciary?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): The eCommittee of the Supreme Court has designed and rolled out in the year 2018, an e-filing system Version 1.0 and created a portal (efiling.ecourts.gov.in) for this purpose. The portal enables electronic filing of legal papers. E-filing being the principal foundation for future technological enhancement in the Indian Judiciary, Version 1.0 is already available in High Courts and District Courts.

The e-Filing application is integrated into the District Court CIS 3.2 & High Court CIS 1.0 software. The upgraded Version 2.0 and Version 3.0 for e-filing with enhanced user-friendly features have also been developed by e-Committee, Supreme Court of India. Upgraded version of eFiling software application have been developed with the latest features like Advocate Portfolio, Advocate Clerk entry module, Calendar and integration with social media platforms etc. Draft Model e-filing rules have been framed and circulated by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court for adoption by the various High Courts to develop a standard operating procedure. Keeping in view the present state of preparedness of courts, lawyers and litigants, the timing for mandatory e-filing of all cases/documents is yet premature.

Establishment of Virtual Courts have helped to reduce paper wastage and to eliminate the burden of court cases. Virtual Courts have been rolled out to try traffic challan cases and have met with appreciable results. Presently there are 9 such courts in 7 States viz Delhi (2 courts), Faridabad (Haryana), Pune & Nagpur (Maharashtra) Kochi (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Gauhati (Assam) and Bengaluru (Karnataka). Environment friendly, these Virtual Courts enable adjudication of cases in paperless manner with e-payment of the fine imposed. The litigants can file the complaint electronically through e-filing, appears before a Judge virtually and also pay the court fees or fine online. To reduce the burden of court cases, the Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, through various strategic initiatives like improving the infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges

and filling up of vacant positions in High Courts/Supreme Court, policy and legislative measures in areas prone to excessive litigation, repeal of outdated and archaic laws, initiatives to fast track special type of cases and emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution etc.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)

eCourts

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3539
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17th MARCH, 2021

e-Courts

3539. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of e-Courts that have been set up both at the district level as well as in High Courts in 2020 under the e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project; and
- (b) the names of districts where the e-Courts mission has been implemented and the names of States where High Courts have e-Court chambers in the year 2020?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology enablement of District and Subordinate Courts across the country in association with the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India. During the year 2020, total 1980 courts have been added in eCourts Mission Mode Project. State wise and Districts wise details of courts computerized in 2020 are given in Annexure-I. The name of states and districts where eCourts Mission Mode Project has been implemented is given in Annexure-II.

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3539 for 17/03/2021 regarding e-Courts. The details of computerized courts under eCourts project during the year 2020 are as under:

Sr. No	High Court	State	Courts
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	150
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	15
3	Bombay	Maharashtra	122
4	Calcutta	West Bengal	30
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	77
6	Delhi	Delhi	254
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	13
		Assam	25
		Mizoram	8
		Nagaland	0
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	160
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	43
10	Common High Court for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	0
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	96
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	134
13	Kerala	Kerala	1
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	160
15	Madras	Tamil Nadu	116
16	Manipur	Manipur	1
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	3
18	Orissa	Odisha	152
19	Patna	Bihar	117
20	Punjab & Haryana	Haryana	28
		Punjab	25
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	146
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	4
23	Telangana	Telangana	0
24	Tripura	Tripura	15
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	85
Total			1980

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3539 for 17/03/2021 regarding e-Courts. State/UTs wise and District wise details of computerized courts under eCourts project are as under:

S. No.	State/UT	District
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	Port Blair
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Ananthapur, Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Krishna, Nellore, Prakasham, Srikakulam, Visakapatnam, Vizianagaram, West Godavari
3.	Assam	Kamrup Metro, Tinsukia, Sivasagar, Morigaon, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Dibrugarh, Darrang, Bongaigaon, Nagaon, Jorhat, Karimganj, Cachar, Nalbari, Dhubri, Dhemaji, Goalpara, Golaghat, Barpeta, Hailakandi, Kokrajhar, Kamrup, Udalguri, Chirang Karbi Anglong, Baksa, Dima Hasao
4.	Bihar	Patna, Kaimur at Bhabhua, Samastipur, Saran at Chapra, Katihar, Begusarai, Banka, Purnea, Motihari, Munger, Madhepura, Rohtas Sasaram, Khagaria, Jamui, Aurangabad, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Saharsa, Supaul, Gopalganj, Araria, Kishanganj, Buxar, Nawada, Bettiah, Siwan, Nalanda, Sitamarhi, Bhojpur, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Jehanabad, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali
5.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Korba, Bilaspur, Raipur, Surguja at Ambikapur, Dhamtari, Raigarh, Durg, Kawardha, Rajnandgaon, Koriya, Mahasamund, Kanker, Bastar, Jashpur, Dantewada, Janjgir, Balod, Bemetara, Surajpur, Kondagaon, Balodabazar, Mungeli, Balrampur, Ramanujganj
6.	Delhi	North East, Shahdara, East, North, North West, South West, New Delhi, Central, West, South, South East
7.	Diu and Daman	Diu, Daman
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Silvassa
9.	Goa	North Goa, South Goa
10.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Mahesana, Rajkot, Amreli, Anand, Banaskanth at Palanpur, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Dahod, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kheda at Nadiad, kachchh at Bhuj, Panchmahal at Godhra, Patan, Sabarkantha at Himmatnagar, Surendranagar, Vadodara, Navsari, Narmada, Tapi, Valsad, Porbandar, Gir Somnath at Veraval, Aravalli at Modasa, Morbi, Devbhumi Dwarka at Khambhaliya, Chhota Udepur, Mahisagar at Lunawada, Botad
11.	Haryana	Karnal, Sirsa, Ambala, Bhiwani, Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar, Jhajjar, Jind, Kurukshetra, Narnaul, Rohtak, Sonapat, Panchkula, Fatehabad, Kaithal, Rewari, Panipat, Nuh, Yamunanagar, Palwal
12.	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur, Kangra, Sirmaur, Una, Solan, Mandi, Bilaspur, Chamba, Kinnaur, Kullu, Shimla

13.	Jammu and Kashmir	Kathua, Udhampur, Baramulla, Anantnag, Srinagar, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Budgam, Reasi, Shopian, Kupwara, Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban, Doda, Bandipora, Jammu, Kulgam, Samba, Kishtwar
14.	Jharkhand	Bokaro, Dumka, Koderma, West Singhbhum at Chaibasa, Gumla, Godda, Hazaribagh, Lohardaga, Dhanbad, Giridih, East Singhbhum at Jamshedpur, Jamtara, Chatra, Pakur, Seraikella, Deoghar, Daltonganj, Simdega, Latehar, Garhwa, Sahibganj, Ranchi, Ramgarh, Khunti
15.	Karnataka	Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Bidar, Raichur, Koppal, Gadag, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada, Haveri, Ballari, Chitradurga, Davangere, Shivamogga, Udupi, Chikkamagaluru, Tumakuru, Kolar, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural, Mandya, Hassan, Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Mysuru, Chamrajnagar, Ramanagaram, Chikkaballapur, Yadgir
16.	Kerala and Lakshadweep	Kasaragod, Ernakulam, Kannur, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Alappuzha, Idukki, Palakkad, Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Malappuram, Pathanamthitta, Lakshadweep, Kollam, Wayanad
17.	Ladakh	Kargil, Leh
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Harda, Umaria, Dindori, Panna, Alirajpur, Jhabua, Khandwa, Shahdol, Sheopur, Datia, Rajgarh, Morena, Mandleshwar, Neemuch, Barwani, Shajapur, Chhindwara, Sidhi, Anuppur, Shivpuri, Raisen, Sehore, Balaghat, Damoh, Vidisha, Bhind, Guna, Singrauli, Satna, Seoni, Katni, Mandsaur, Tikamgarh, Betul, Dhar, Chhatarpur, Dewas, Mandla, Ratlam, Sagar, Gwalior, Ujjain, Rewa, Indore, Ashoknagar, Burhanpur, Bhopal
19.	Maharashtra	Nandurbar, Dhule, Jalgaon, Buldhana, Akola, Amravati, Wardha, Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondia, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Nanded, Parbhani, Jalna, Nashik, Thane, Raigad, Pune, Ahmednagar, Beed, Latur, Osmanabad, Solapur, Satara, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Kolhapur, Sangli, Washim
20.	Manipur	Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Senapati, Churachandpur, Ukhrul, Chandel, Tamenglong
21.	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills, West Garo Hills, West Jaintia Hills, East Garo Hills, Ri Bhoi, West Khasi Hills, South West Garo Hills
22.	Mizoram	Aizawl, Lunglei
23.	Nagaland	Dimapur,
24.	Odisha	Cuttack, Kendrapada, Nuapada, Ganjam, Balasore, Koraput, Dhenkanal, Khurda, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Sundargarh, Balangir, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Sonapur, Rayagada, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Boudh, Mayurbhanj, Anugul, Bargarh, Deogarh, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur
25.	Punjab	Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Rupnagar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Ferozepur, Amritsar, Faridkot, Gurdaspur, Kapurthala, Moga, Mansa, Sri Muktsar Sahib, SBS Nagar, Barnala, Bathinda, Hoshiarpur, Sangrur, Pathankot, Tarn Taran, Mohali, Fazilka
26.	Rajasthan	Rajsamand, Alwar, Dausa Jaipur Metro I, Tonk, Bikaner, Ganganagar, MertaNagaur, Udaipur, Bundi, Hanumangarh,

		Baran, Bharatpur, Ajmer, Jhunjhunu, Pali, Kota, Jalore, Jhalawar, Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara, Sirohi, Balotra, Barmer, Jodhpur Metro, Karauli, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Jaiselmer, Churu, Dholpur, Sikar, Sawai, Madhopur, Jaipur District, Jodhpur District, Jaipur Metro II
27.	Sikkim	Namchi, Mangan, Gyalshing, Gangtok
28.	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	Dharmapuri, Pudukkottai, Tirunelveli, Theni, Namakkal, Nagapattinam, Kanniyakumari, Tiruchirappalli, Thoothukudi, Viluppuram, Vellore, Salem, Chennai, Virudhunagar, Madurai, The Nilgiris, Thanjavur, Coimbatore, Karur, Cuddalore, Ramanathapuram, Tiruvannamalai, Perambalur, Erode, Tiruvarur, Krishnagiri, Dindigul, Puducherry, Sivagangai, Ariyalur, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Tiruppur
29.	Telangana	Adilabad, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Rangareddy, Warangal
30.	Tripura	West Tripura, North Tripura, South Tripura, Unakoti Tripura, Gomati District, Sepahijala Tripura, Khawai Tripura, Dhalai Tripura
31.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Hardoi, Chitrakoot, Meerut, Bahraich, Ghaziabad, Fatehpur, Shravasti, Jaunpur, Pilibhit, Mainpuri, Ambedkar Nagar, Sitapur, Auraiya, Budaun, Kanpur Nagar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ballia, Bhadohi SR Nagar, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Etah, Muzaffarnagar, Varanasi, Ghazipur, Firozabad, Agra, Etawah, Kushinagar, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, Barabanki, Kaushambi, Mahoba, Banda, Kanshi Ram Nagar, Deoria, Mau, Aligarh, Azamgarh, Baghpat, Basti, Bijnor, Bulandshahr, Faizabad, Gonda, Kanpur Dehat, Maharajganj, Mathura, Moradabad, Raebareli, Rampur, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Siddharthnagar, Sonbhadra, Sultanpur, Unnao, Farrukhabad, Hathras, Jhansi, Balrampur, Mirzapur, Kannauj, Jalaun, Santkabir Nagar, Hapur, Sambhal at Chandausi, Chandauli, Shamli
32.	Uttarakhand	Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Almora, Chamoli, Haridwar, Champawat, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag
33.	West Bengal	Malda, Hooghly, Calcutta, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Paschim Medinipur, Birbhum, Purba Medinipur, Purulia, Howrah, Murshidabad, South Dinajpur, North Twenty Four Parganas, Darjeeling, Purba Bardhaman, Bankura, South Twenty Four Parganas, North Dinajpur, Nadia, Kalimpong, Paschim Bardhaman, Jhargram

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointt - DVN

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3568

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17.03.2021

Reservation in appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges

3568. SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:

Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE** be pleased to state:

- a) whether the government proposes to bring constitutional amendment for reservation in appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges;
- b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- c) whether the representation made by the Government to collegium for proportional representation in appointment of Supreme and High Court judges have not been successful; and
- d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (d): Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 & 224 of the Constitution of India respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. At present there is no proposal to bring constitutional amendment for reservation in appointment of Supreme Court and High Court Judges. However, the Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due

consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in appointment of Judges in High Courts.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

ALJ/LAP

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3601

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2021

Nyaya Mitra

**+3601. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BHABHOR:
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objective of Nyaya Mitra yojana;
- (b) whether assistance is also provided to the poor communities through Nyaya Mitra for redressal of disputes;
- (c) if so, the details of measures being taken to provide immediate assistance to the people of tribal areas in Gujarat;
- (d) the details of Nyaya Mitras proposed to be engaged in district courts of Maharashtra;
- (e) whether about 100 Nyaya Mitras have been engaged in various District Courts of the country: and
- (f) if so, the details thereof particularly Maharashtra?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS,
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) & (b) Nyaya Mitra programme aims to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years in High Courts and Subordinate Courts

including civil cases such as matrimonial cases, accident claim cases and criminal cases.

(c) to (f) Since introduction of Nyaya Mitra programme in April 2017, a total of 29 Nyaya Mitras were engaged in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Tripura, Rajasthan, Odisha including one Nyaya Mitra in Mumbai City Civil Court of Maharashtra. No Nyaya Mitra has been engaged in the state of Gujarat so far.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3638

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17th MARCH, 2021

Amending Contempt of Courts Act

3638. Shri RAVIKUMAR D. :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to amend Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 to curtail the contempt power of the judiciary and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of contempt of court cases pending for the last five years, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of contempt of court cases punished in Supreme Court during the last five years?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b): There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to amend Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. The Government does not maintain state-wise details of contempt of court cases.

...2/-

(c): As per information received from the Supreme Court of India, details regarding punishment for contempt of Court is not maintained by them. However, the number of contempt of Court Cases instituted and disposed of in the last five years is as under:

Year	No. of Contempt Cases instituted	No. of Contempt Cases disposed
2016	342	353
2017	375	301
2018	363	397
2019	421	424
2020	204	203
2021 (upto 11.03.2021)	51	55

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

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**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3644
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2021**

Establishment of Court in Rajasthan

†3644. SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of courts proposed to be set up by the Government in view of shortage of courts in Rajasthan;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to set up courts also in Bansara-Dungarpur in Rajasthan;
- (c) whether funds have been released by the Government for this purpose; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely justice to the people of the State?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (c): It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to set up Courts and to provide Judicial Infrastructure / Court Rooms for District / Subordinate Courts. The Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed

fund sharing pattern between Centre and States. The Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court halls and court complexes and residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. Till 10.03.2021, Rs. 8295 crore have been released since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. Out of this, Rs. 286.62 crore has been released to the State Government of Rajasthan. 1250 court halls have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme as on 28.02.2021. In addition, 217 court halls are under construction. The year-wise funds released to the State Government of Rajasthan under the Scheme is at *Annexure*. As per information received from State Government of Rajasthan, there is no such proposal to set up courts in Bansara-Dungarpur in Rajasthan.

(d): Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts.

The Government is, however, fully committed to speedy disposal of cases. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach

for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

The major steps taken during the last six years in the country including Rajasthan under various initiatives are as follows:

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 8,295crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 20,075 as on 28.02.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,738 as on 28.02.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,463 court halls and 1,861 residential units are under construction. As far as the State of Rajasthan is concerned, 1250 court halls and 1016 residential units are available in the State as on 28.02.2021. In addition, 217 court halls and 146 residential units are under construction.
- (ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of

computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 (in 2014) to 18,735 as on 22.02.2021, registering an increase of 5,063. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 03.03.2021, litigants can access case status of over 18.28 crore cases and 13.88 crore order/judgements pertaining to these courts. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID- 19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, funds have been provided for setting up 235 e-SewaKendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgements/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Nine Virtual Courts have been set up at Delhi (2 courts), Faridabad (Haryana), Pune & Nagpur (Maharashtra) Kochi (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Guwahati (Assam) and Bengaluru (Karnataka) to try traffic offences. As on 20.01.2021, these courts have handled 41,98,095 cases and realised Rs.139.25cr in fines.

In the State of Rajasthan, 1240 courts housed in 247 court complexes have been computerized under eCourts Project Phase-II. So far in Phase-II, an amount of Rs. 67.80 crore has been released to the High Court of Rajasthan. Currently, litigants of Rajasthan can access online case status information through NJDG in respect of over 73.97 lakh pending and decided cases and more than 8.57 lakh orders/judgements of district & subordinate courts of the State. Video conferencing facility has been provided in 238 court complexes and 95 corresponding jails in the State of Rajasthan under eCourts project.

- (iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 01.03.2021, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 576 new Judges were appointed and 524 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1080 currently. As far as the position of Judges in High Court of Rajasthan is concerned, there are 23 Judges working against sanctioned strength of 50 Judges in the Rajasthan High Court as on 15.3.2021. Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
04.03.2021	24,283	19,295

There were 1292 Judges/Judicial Officer working against the Sanctioned Strength of 1489 Judges/Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts in the State of Rajasthan as on 28.02.2021.

Filling up of vacancies in Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned.

- (iv) Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees: In pursuance of resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts including Rajasthan.

Further Communications have been addressed by Minister of Law & Justice to Chief Justices of High Courts and to Chief Ministers on 20.06.2014 and 14.08.2018 drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign.

- (v) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- (vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc.,

and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.01.2021, 894 Fast Track Courts (FTC) are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children. Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 842 FTSCs including 363 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Presently 616 FTSCs are functional including 330 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 39653 cases as on 31.01.2021. In the State of Rajasthan, 45 FTSCs including 26 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional, which disposed 1703 cases as on 31.01.2021.

- (vii) In addition, to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

Annexure

**Referred to in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †3644 for Reply
on 17.03.2021**

Year	Fund released to the State Government of Rajasthan (In Rs. cr.)
1993-94	1.39
1994-95	2.71
1995-96	2.65
1996-97	2.43
1997-98	2.93
1998-99	2.36
1999-2000	2.49
2000-01	3.41
2001-02	3.29
2002-03	1.96
2003-04	3.00
2004-05	0.00
2005-06	0.00
2006-07	0.00
2007-08	0.00
2008-09	12.57
2009-10	0.00
2010-11	0.70
2011-12	11.72
2012-13	10.42
2013-14	0.00
2014-15	0.00
2015-16	50.00
2016-17	43.74
2017-18	17.34
2018-19	17.41
2019-20	64.21
2020-21	29.90
Total	286.63

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

NM

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4649
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2021**

PENDING CASES IN GUJARAT HIGH COURT

†4649. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases pending in Gujarat High Court along with the number of cases pending for the last ten years;**
- (b) the number of the posts of judges lying vacant in Gujarat High Court at present along with the time since when these posts are lying vacant; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to fill the said vacancies?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a): As per the information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 1,47,763 cases are pending in the Gujarat High Court, out of which 17,417 cases are pending for ten years or more, as on 18.03.2021.

(b): The sanctioned and working strength of Judges in the Gujarat High Court is 52 and 30 respectively as on 18.03.2021. The details of vacancies since 01.12.2018 is as follows:-

As on Date	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
01.12.2018	52	29	23
01.12.2019	52	28	24
01.12.2020	52	30	22
18.03.2021	52	30	22

At present no proposal has been received from Gujarat High Court Collegium for appointment of Judges of Gujarat High Court.

(c): The appointment of Judges of the High Court is done under Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution respectively. As per procedure prescribed in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of Judges in the Higher Judiciary, prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case), the initiation of appointment of Judge of the High Court vests with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned. Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Centre level. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also the increase in the strength of Judges.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)**

eCourt

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4675
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24th March, 2021**

e-Court Project

**4675. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has completed the Phase 1 of the E-Courts project and has approved the Phase 2 project; and
- (b) if so, the detailed thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS
AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b): The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts across the country in association with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India. The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-I was implemented during 2011- 2015 with a total expenditure of Rs. 639.41 crore.

The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II has commenced since 2015 for a period of four years (2015-19) or until the project is completed, whichever is later. So far 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been

computerized. Out of 2992 court complexes Wide Area Network connectivity has been provided to 2940 court complexes. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores for eCourts Phase-II, the Government has so far released a sum of Rs. 1548.13 crore for implementation of the eCourt project. Some of the other salient achievements under eCourts Project Phase II include the introduction of Case Information Software using Free and Open Source Software to automate the entire process of Court registry. This has led to the 'National Judicial Data Grid' (NJDG), which provides status of 18.28 crore pending/disposed cases and 13.88 crore orders/judgments of Subordinate Courts and High Courts (as on 3rd March 2021). Open Application Programming Interface (APIs) has been recently introduced to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants to access NJDG data for pendency monitoring. Seven platforms have been created for disseminating real time information on case status, cause list, judgements etc. to lawyers and litigants viz. a multilingual and disabled-friendly eCourts Portal, eCourts Mobile App and JustIS App for judges, Automated emails, SMS Push and Pull Service, Judicial Service Centers and Information Kiosks.

The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader with more than 59,309 virtual hearings (as on 15th February 2021). The High Courts (27,58,560 hearings) and Subordinate Courts (54,46,876 hearings) have conducted more than 82.05 lakh virtual hearings till 28th February 2021. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms have also been released. In a first of its kind, 11 Virtual courts have been set up in 9 States which tried 55.44 lakh traffic offences including online realization of Rs. 150 crore as fines. Expanding the scope of Virtual Courts, Delhi High Court has recently started 34 Digital Courts to deal exclusively with cheque bounce cases under Section 138 NI Act. eFiling system has

been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers. For making the payment process easy and transparent, online payment of court fees, fines, penalties and judicial deposits has been enabled. Electronic processing and serving of summons has been introduced through National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP). To mitigate the handicaps caused by digital divide, 235 e-SewaKendras or e-Resource Centre have also been funded.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A2J/LAP

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4801

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24th MARCH, 2021

National Legal Service Day

4801. SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government observed National Legal Service Day in the country recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to achieve the aims and objectives of the event along with the details of programmes organized by the Government to mark this occasion;
- (c) the norms and guidelines of the legal assistance system for providing free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society and steps taken to open new legal aid clinics especially in Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) whether the Government has assessed and evaluated the implementation of legal aid programme for the poor and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) and (b) National Legal Services Day is observed every year on 9th November to commemorate the commencement of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on 9th November, 1995. On National Legal Services Day, legal awareness camps are held by State Legal Services Authorities across the country to apprise people about the availability of free legal aid. At the national level, commendation ceremony is generally held for acknowledging and

awarding exemplary work done in legal aid by Para Legal Volunteers/District Legal Services Authorities/Panel lawyers and State Legal Services Authorities. Due to ongoing pandemic, commendation ceremony could not be held this year. However, 10516 legal awareness programmes were held across the country in November, 2020 which were attended by 6,29,826 citizens.

- (c) Persons covered under Section 12 (a) to (g) of the Legal Services Authorities Act (LSA), 1987 are eligible to get free legal services irrespective of income ceiling which include a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes, a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar, a woman or a child, a person with disability, a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster or an industrial workman or in custody. For persons, not covered under Section 12 (a) to (g) of the LSA Act, the annual income limit for getting free legal aid is prescribed by the Central Government if the case is before the Supreme Court and by the State Government if the case is before the court other than the Supreme Court.

The National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011 provide for establishment of legal services in jails, courts, Juvenile Justice Board (JJBs), community centres and other places, schools/colleges/universities, villages/rural areas or for a cluster of villages. As on 31.01.2021, 13540 Legal Services Clinics are functioning in the country including 834 in Tamil Nadu.

- (d) Three Evaluation and Impact-assessment studies by third party agencies have been taken up covering the following aspects :-

- (i) Evaluation and impact assessment of practice and procedure of empanelment, capacity building, engagement and management of Lawyers empanelled with Legal Services Authorities.
- (ii) Evaluation of legal aid provided in civil and criminal matters in courts, tribunals, quasi-judicial body & jails.
- (iii) Evaluation & impact assessment of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs).

Jus. II

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4808**

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24th MARCH, 2021

Fast Track Courts

+4808. SHRI LALLU SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to form a fast track court to provide justice to the undertrial prisoners in various jails of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any suggestions/proposals in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a to d): There is no such proposal before the Government. Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning fall within the domain of the respective State Governments in consultation with the High Courts. However, the 14th Finance Commission had endorsed the proposal of Union of India for setting up of

1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for dealing with specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizens, other vulnerable sections of society and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The Commission had urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. As per information made available by High Courts, there are 894 afore-mentioned functional FTCs in the country.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Jus.I

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4826

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24th MARCH, 2021

Use of Local Language in High Court

+4826. Shrimati Poonamben Maadam :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has permitted the use of local language as the language of proceedings in Gujarat High Court and District Courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): As regards language of proceedings in the High Courts, Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. The Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of

a language other than English in the High Court. No such proposal is before the Government in respect of Gujarat High Court.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. As regards, use of Hindi or regional language in lower courts, it is decided by the High Court and State Government concerned in consultation with each other.
