

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

*ecourt*

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2603**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**Enhancing Online Connectivity for Judicial Process**

**2603. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:**

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

- (a) whether during the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of connectivity became greater in the overall working of the judicial process and India became a global leader in conducting cases through virtual courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to fast track and extend the facilities to enhance online connectivity for all small and district courts across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total number of courts that are computerised and the connectivity carried out till date; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide and connect all small and district courts with online connectivity in a timebound manner?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b): During Covid period, following the lockdown, the courts took up hearing of cases through Video Conferencing (VC). The Hon'ble Supreme



Court emerged as a global leader having heard 52353 cases. The High Courts heard 24,55,139 cases, and subordinate courts heard 51,83,021 cases over Video Conferencing till 31.01.2021.

(c) to (e): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II computerization of 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts has been completed. As part of eCourts Phase II, under the Wide Area Network (WAN) project, connectivity has been provided to 2939 Court Complexes out of 2992 court complexes located all over India through various mode such as Optical Fiber Cable (OFC), Radio Frequency (RF), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) etc. One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including Taluk Level Court Complexes in rural areas under the Phase II of the e-Courts Project to enable virtual hearings. To further augment the Video Conferencing (VC) infrastructure, the eCommittee of the Supreme Court has approved VC equipment to be provided to 14,443 court rooms in these court complexes for which funds to the tune of Rs.28.88 crore has been released.

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

*eCourt*

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2607**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**E-courts**

**2607. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement the e-Court project in the country with a view to upgrading information and communication technology infrastructure in various courts including High Court and District Courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds spent so far;
- (c) the time by which all the courts will be connected with video conferencing;
- (d) the total number of cases pending in Supreme Court of India and High Court of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending cases in a time bound manner?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of District and Subordinate Courts across the country in



association with the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India. The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II commenced its implementation in 2015. So far 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized and out of 2992 court complexes Wide Area Network connectivity has been provided to 2939 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 project.

With the computerization of 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts and ICT enablement under the eCourts Project Phase-II, several services have been provided to litigants, lawyers and Judiciary which facilitate expeditious delivery of judicial services. 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 eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & SMS pull services and touch screen based Information Kiosks. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for District & Subordinate Courts, created as an online platform under the Project, provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Currently, all stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access case status information in respect of over 18.28 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 13.88 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts on the NJDG. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes & 1272 corresponding jails.

One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including Taluk Level Court Complexes in rural areas under the Phase II of the e-Courts Project for virtual hearings. To further augment the



Video Conferencing (VC) infrastructure, the eCommittee of the Supreme Court has approved VC equipment to be provided to 14,443 court rooms in these court complexes for which funds to the tune of Rs.28.88 crore has been released. During the pandemic period the High Courts heard 24,55,139 cases, while District and Subordinate courts heard 51,83,021 cases over Video Conferencing up to 31/01/2021.

(d): As on 01.02.2021, 66,072 cases are pending in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. As per data available on NJDG on 03.03.2021, total cases pending in Andhra Pradesh High Court are 2, 09,993.

(e) : Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of Judiciary. Though Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts, the Central Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency. 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.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

Justice-I

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2676

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021

Leave in courts

2676. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:

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

- (a) the details of leaves/vacation in courts across the country; and
- (b) the reasons for such long leaves in view of the level of pendency in the courts?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Working days/hours and duration of vacations in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts. The working days as well as working hours of the District/Subordinate Courts are regulated by the respective High Court in consultation with the State Government.

Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of Judiciary. Though Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts, the Central Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency. 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 computerisation, 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.

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

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**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2683  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**DISHA PROGRAMME**

**2683. SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK;  
SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI;  
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR;**

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India (DISHA);**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the fund allocated by the Government in this regard;**
- (c) whether the Government is implementing access to justice - North East and Jammu and Kashmir project in the country;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the Government is implementing Tele Law, Naya Bandhu and Nyaya Mitra programmes under the above project in the country;**
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (g) the other steps being taken by the Government in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

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

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(a) & (b) : Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India (DISHA) Scheme aims to provide a comprehensive integrated solution on Access to Justice at Pan India level through the components of Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu, Nyaya Mitra programme and Legal Awareness programme using dedicated Information Education Communication (IEC) & Technology from 2020-21 onwards. An amount of Rs 40 Crore has been allocated for 2021-2022 F.Y.

(c) & (d): Yes Sir, the Government is implementing Access to Justice in North Eastern States and UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, since 2012. The key focus areas have been legal literacy, legal awareness and establishing legal aid clinics for community facilitation in collaboration with State Legal Services Authorities, State Institute of Rural Development, State Women Commissions, State Resource Centres.

(e) to (g) : Yes Sir, the Government is implementing Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu and Nyaya Mitra Programmes since April, 2017 which are being subsumed by DISHA. The Tele-Law programme aims to connect the needy and underprivileged to seek legal advice from the Panel lawyers through Tele/video conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated at Gram Panchayat Level. Till 28th February, 2021, 6,61,414 beneficiaries have registered and 6,47,193 beneficiaries have received advice through 29,860 CSCs situated in 285 districts (including 115 Aspirational districts) in 29 States/UTs. Department of Justice is implementing Nyaya Bandhu (ProBono Legal Services) programme, to create a network of interested Pro Bono Lawyers and facilitate their connect with registered beneficiaries through technology based platforms and creation of Nyaya Bandhu Panels at High Court. It also aims to instill pro bono culture in Law Schools. Till 28 February 2021, 2477 lawyers have registered as Nyaya Bandhus,



09 High Courts have created Nyaya Bandhu Panels and 29 Law Schools have registered under the Pro Bono Club Scheme (PBCS). Nyaya Mitra programme aims to facilitate the disposal of ten year old or more pending cases at the district level. The other steps include implementation of Legal Literacy and Awareness programme for promoting access to justice among the citizens.

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2698  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**PENDING COURT CASES**

**†2698. SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines under the new policy for the early disposal of the pending cases in the courts in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of pending cases in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during the last two years and the current year;**
- (c) whether shortage of judges is the main reason for the pendency of cases and if so, the details thereof?**

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

(a) and (c): 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 under various initiatives are as follows:

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 8,294.67 crores 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 20,070 as on 04.03.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,735 as on 04.03.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,846 court halls and 1,842 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.

- (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.



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

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.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi). 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'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20 and Rs. 135.26 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 616 FTSCs are functional including 330 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 39653 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.



(b): The details of pending cases in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during the last two years and the current year is as under:-

Sl. No	Name of High Court	2019	2020	2021 (as on 05.03.2021)
1	Chhattisgarh	69316	75836	76650
2	Madhya Pradesh	357929	362932	371191

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

*ecourt.*

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2746**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**Nyay Kaushal**

2746. SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has opened e-resource centre called Nyay Kaushal and also virtual courts to mitigate various inequalities by using technology to save time, money and avoid long travel for speedy justice and unnecessary delays; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made along with funds sanctioned/spent therefor, State/ UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) : The eResource Center Nyay Kaushal has been started by the Bombay High Court, Nagpur Bench. Functioning since October 2020, it provides facility of e-filing, conduct of virtual hearings and other eCourts services etc to lawyers and litigants. Further Virtual Courts to try traffic challan cases have also been started. Presently there are 9 Virtual Courts in 7 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Faridabad (Haryana), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Bengaluru(Karnataka), Kochi (Kerala), Nagpur(Maharashtra),



Guwahati(Assam) and Pune(Maharashtra). Over 41 lakh cases have been handled by these 9 Virtual Courts up till 20 January 2021.

(b): The High Court wise fund release status for implementation of eCourts Project Phase-II is given at Annexure.

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## Annexure

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No2746 for 10/03/2021 regarding Nyay Kaushal. The details of High Court wise fund released under eCourts project Phase-II are as under:

Sr.No	High Court	Total Funds released under eCourts Phase-II (in Rs. crore)
1.	Allahabad	109.48
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1.96
3.	Bombay	125.24
4.	Calcutta	37.09
5.	Chhattisgarh	27.31
6.	Delhi	26.80
7.	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	11.64
8.	Gauhati (Assam)	67.28
9.	Gauhati (Mizoram)	7.57
10.	Gauhati (Nagaland)	7.15
11.	Gujarat	72.82
12.	Himachal Pradesh	10.27
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.98
14.	Jharkhand	24.25
15.	Karnataka	65.38
16.	Kerala	35.03
17.	Madhya Pradesh	74.05
18.	Madras	70.15
19.	Manipur	8.52
20.	Meghalaya	9.74
21.	Orissa	46.41
22.	Patna	55.82
23.	Punjab & Haryana	54.13
24.	Rajasthan	67.80
25.	Sikkim	6.81
26.	Telangana	1.79
27.	Tripura	16.90
28.	Uttarakhand	11.65
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1142.30</b>



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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*303  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021.**

**SHORTAGE OF JUDGES**

**†\*303. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the shortage of judges and the vacant posts in the courts of the country and is so, the details thereof, State-wise;**
- (b) whether the process of recruitment has started against the said vacancies during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and**
- (c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the number of such vacant posts in Chhattisgarh and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*303 FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2021 REGARDING 'SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'.**

(a) & (b): A Statement showing the sanctioned strength, working strength, vacancies and appointment of Judges made in Supreme Court and High Courts during the last three years i.e. 2018-2020 is at Annexure I. As per the Constitutional framework, the appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are made under Articles 124, 217, and 224 of the Constitution of India respectively. Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are appointed as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India while the same for Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Therefore, the filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a collaborative and integrated process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional authorities both at the Centre and State.

A Statement showing the sanctioned strength and working strength of Subordinate Judiciary during the last three years i.e. 2018-2020 is at Annexure-II. Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the Rules and Regulations regarding the issues of appointment, promotion, reservations, etc. of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. Hence, in so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States. Central Government has no role in



the matter. Recruitment in the Subordinate judiciary is an ongoing and continuous process and each year vacancies are filled either fully or partially.

(c): Vacancies in Subordinate Judiciary are filled up every year in accordance with the time schedule prescribed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 04.01.2007 passed in Civil Appeal no. 1867/2006 *Malik Mazhar Sultan & Anr. vs. U.P. Public Service Commission*. As per this time schedule, the vacancies for the category of District Judge (Entry Level) and Senior Civil Judge are to be notified commencing on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year.

The sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers and vacancies in the Subordinate Judiciary in the State of Chhattisgarh as on 28.02.2021 is as follows:-

<b>Sanctioned Strength</b>	<b>Working Strength</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>
481	387	94

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**ANNEXURE-I**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*303 FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2021 REGARDING SANCTIONED STRENGTH, WORKING STRENGTH, VACANCIES AS ON 11.03.2021 AND APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES MADE IN SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS i.e. 2018-2020.**

Sl. No	Name of the Court	Sectioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies	Number of appointment made during last three years i.e. 2018-2020		
					2018	2019	2020
A	Supreme Court	34	30	04	08	10	-
B	High Court						-
1	Allahabad	160	96	64	28	10	04
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	19	18	-	02	07
3	Bombay	94	63	31	04	11	04
4	Calcutta	72	32	40	11	06	01
5	Chhattisgarh	22	14	08	04	-	-
6	Delhi	60	31	29	05	04	-
7	Gauhati	24	20	04	02	04	-
8	Gujarat	52	30	22	04	03	07
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	10	03	-	02	-
10	High Court for UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh	17	11	06	02	-	05
11	Jharkhand	25	17	08	03	02	-
12	Karnataka	62	46	16	12	10	10
13	Kerala	47	40	07	04	01	06
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	27	26	08	02	-
15	Madras	75	62	13	08	01	10
16	Manipur	05	05	0	-	-	01
17	Meghalaya	04	04	0	01	01	-
18	Orissa	27	15	12	01	01	02
19	Patna	53	21	32	-	04	-
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	47	38	07	10	01
21	Rajasthan	50	23	27	-	03	06
22	Sikkim	03	03	0	-	-	-
23	Telangana	24	14	10	-	03	01
24	Tripura	05	04	01	01	-	01
25	Uttarakhand	11	07	04	03	01	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>66</b>



**ANNEXURE-II**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*303 FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2021 REGARDING SANCTIONED AND WORKING STRENGTH, VACANCIES OF SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS i.e. 2018-2020.**

Sl. No	States & Uts	2018			2019			2020		
		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	Andaman and Nicobar	11	11	0	0	13	-13	0	13	-13
2	Andhra Pradesh	494	445	49	597	529	68	607	510	97
3	Arunachal Pradesh	30	25	5	41	27	14	41	32	9
4	Assam	430	383	47	441	412	29	466	412	54
5	Bihar	1845	1205	640	1925	1149	776	1936	1433	503
6	Chandigarh	30	30	0	30	29	1	30	26	4
7	Chhattisgarh	452	397	55	468	394	74	481	387	94
8	D & N Haveli	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	2	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	0	4	3	1	4	4	0
10	Delhi	799	541	258	799	681	118	799	649	150
11	Goa	50	42	8	50	43	7	50	40	10
12	Gujarat	1506	1150	356	1521	1185	336	1521	1152	369
13	Haryana	651	489	162	772	475	297	772	493	279
14	Himachal Pradesh	159	149	10	175	153	22	175	161	14
15	Jammu and Kashmir	310	224	86	290	232	58	296	255	41
16	Jharkhand	676	460	216	677	461	216	675	544	131
17	Karnataka	2614	2181	433	1345	1106	239	1357	1071	286
18	Kerala	496	433	63	536	457	79	538	470	68
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	8	8
20	Lakshadweep	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	3	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	1872	1361	511	2021	1620	401	2021	1610	411
22	Maharashtra	2011	1844	167	2189	1942	247	2190	1940	250
23	Manipur	55	40	15	55	39	16	54	36	18
24	Meghalaya	97	39	58	97	49	48	97	49	48
25	Mizoram	67	46	21	64	46	18	64	43	21
26	Nagaland	33	26	7	33	25	8	33	26	7
27	Odisha	911	755	156	919	770	149	950	756	194
28	Puducherry	26	19	7	26	11	15	26	11	15
29	Punjab	674	530	144	675	579	96	692	593	99
30	Rajasthan	1337	1108	229	1428	1121	307	1489	1292	197
31	Sikkim	23	19	4	25	19	6	25	20	5
32	Tamil Nadu	1143	905	238	1255	1080	175	1298	1049	249
33	Telangana	493	445	48	413	334	79	474	378	96
34	Tripura	115	75	40	120	96	24	120	97	23
35	Uttar Pradesh	3225	2037	1188	3416	2578	838	3634	2581	1053
36	Uttarakhand	293	234	59	294	228	66	297	255	42
37	West Bengal	1013	938	75	1014	918	96	1014	918	96
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23951</b>	<b>18596</b>	<b>5355</b>	<b>23721</b>	<b>18810</b>	<b>4911</b>	<b>24247</b>	<b>19319</b>	<b>4928</b>



A2J / LAP

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*320  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021.**

**Legal Literacy Outreach Programmes**

**\*320.SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:**

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

- (a) the number of Legal Literacy outreach programmes conducted in the past three years;**
- (b) the total number of women legal representatives trained through these outreach programmes; and**
- (c) whether the Government, through State Women Commissions, proposes to expand the areas covered and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

**\*\*\***



**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*320 FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2021 REGARDING 'LEGAL LITERACY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES'.**

(a) To make people aware of their legal entitlements as well as their duties, Legal Awareness programmes are held across the country by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). More than 6.59 lakh Legal Awareness Camps have been organized by Legal Service Authorities from April, 2017 to December, 2020 which were attended by more than 8.34 crore citizens. In addition, Legal Empowerment Camps are also organized by NALSA focusing on poor, weak and marginalized people to connect them with their entitlements under the law and the welfare schemes. 5898 camps have been organized from the year 2017 to 2020 which has benefitted more than 82.41 lakh citizens. Furthermore, the Government is implementing the programme of "Access to Justice in North Eastern States and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh" since 2012. Under this programme, legal literacy/legal awareness and legal aid clinics are held in collaboration with State Legal Services Authorities, State Institute of Rural Development, State Women Commissions, State Resource Centres, etc. During the last three years, 4265 Legal Awareness /Legal Literacy programs have been conducted reaching out to 4.6 lakh beneficiaries including 158 Legal Aid Clinics.

(b) Women constitute a substantial part of the Legal Service Authorities workforce in the capacity of Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs).



At present, 11,329 female Panel Lawyers and 19,404 female PLVs are attached with the Legal Services Authorities. This workforce is trained by NALSA through specialised training modules held at regular intervals.

(c) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in collaboration with the National Commission for Women has launched a project, "Empowering Women through Legal Awareness" on 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 2020. Under this Project, legal literacy programmes for women were carried out in 285 districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Legal awareness programmes were held with the overarching objective of making women aware of their relevant rights and protections available for them under the various laws and enhance their capacities to advance their rights and navigate the judicial and administrative set up for actualization of their rights. From 15.08.2020 to 31.12.2020, 675 programmes were held under the said project which were attended by 34,621 women. In addition, the Government in partnership with the State Commission for Women, Arunachal Pradesh disseminated 6.02 lakh copies of Information Education and Communication materials on issues related to women and children. Furthermore, the Government in collaboration with the State Commission for Women, Meghalaya trained 350 tribal women as Resource Persons for spreading legal literacy at the grass root level.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Appoint. Div.*

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3459**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17.03.2021**

**Setting up a Bench of High Court**

†3459. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a High Court bench in Western Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the time by which the said bench is likely to be set up; and
- (c) if not, whether any such proposal is under consideration of the Government for future?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (c): 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 no complete proposal has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to establish a Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh.

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

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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3489

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021

Lok Adalats

A2J/LAP

†3489. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

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

- (a) the details of Lok Adalats organised in rural areas during the last three years to date, State-wise and place-wise;
- (b) the details of total number of cases settled in these Lok Adalats, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government contemplates to make these Lok Adalats more effective and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the State-wise total number of Lok Adalats proposed to be organised during the current year?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) and (b) State/UT-wise and year-wise details of number of Lok Adalats organised and cases disposed of by State Lok Adalats, National Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) during the last three years is at Annexure-A, Annexure-B and Annexure-C respectively.
- (c) The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) vide National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 to organise more Lok Adalats so that pendency of cases could be reduced. Further in view of Covid, E-Lok Adalat was



conceptualized which significantly improved access to justice for people who were otherwise unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. The first E-Lok Adalat was held on 27.06.2020 and since then E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 24 States / UTs wherein 8.07 lakh cases were taken up and 4.11 lakh cases disposed of.

- (d) Every year, NALSA issues calendar for the year for organising National Lok Adalats. During 2021, National Lok Adalats are scheduled to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> December. State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per local conditions and needs.

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Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3489 for answering on 17.03.2021 raised by Shri Prataprao Jadhav, MP - Lok Adalats.

Statement containing the information of cases disposed of in the State Lok Adalats and benches constituted during the last three year viz. 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 (upto December 2020).

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (upto Dec.20)	
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22	432	1	75	2	290	1	90
2	Andhra Pradesh	9652	16212	9860	13731	8493	11400	1915	21413
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6	48	3	26	47	118	6	25
4	Assam	748	109151	576	58278	419	33084	3	1
5	Bihar	784	2283	1041	1361	931	1256	26	0
6	Chandigarh	12	43	12	88	12	28	4	0
7	Chhattisgarh	1035	11448	629	5687	610	1662	195	2270
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	10	1	5	0	0	0	0
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	55	3685	69	4393	52	16340	185	19857
11	Goa	41	623	8	132	5	81	0	0
12	Gujarat	6254	19074	5555	18662	4542	20611	1208	13028
13	Haryana	58876	149528	69880	143703	66040	124952	17935	26594
14	Himachal Pradesh	1311	52899	2088	75180	1865	68651	83	3105
15	Jammu and Kashmir	133	4485	107	10611	145	16774	111	4276
16	Jharkhand	690	7906	870	12468	743	14341	231	74234
17	Karnataka	11307	114272	8898	89616	3890	45165	1547	119701
18	Kerala	2206	27038	2356	31732	1972	21408	501	1661
19	Lakshadweep	12	13	11	198	2	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1897	7877	1541	3561	1166	10675	1010	9661
21	Maharashtra	65	1117	47	798	592	7932	6	96



		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre- litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre- litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre- litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre- litigative and Pending cases)
22	Manipur	0	0	2	28	0	0	1	21
23	Meghalaya	1	10	23	166	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	95	526	85	477	112	552	21	67
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	612	267324	361	82717	101	45210	239	4628
27	Puducherry	58	1111	56	1011	49	699	12	150
28	Punjab	1100	6980	1034	29266	803	4242	0	0
29	Rajasthan	4470	73277	4185	10673	3689	6522	238	33838
30	Sikkim	120	677	110	729	120	560	90	133
31	Tamil Nadu	3364	19024	3259	17144	2181	16621	379	7398
32	Telangana	2533	14435	1956	13032	1862	12352	828	19915
33	Tripura	165	73882	116	57069	35	7353	9	714
34	Uttar Pradesh	204	9569	280	41576	197	3916	162	61725
35	Uttarakhand	45	16868	41	7808	72	27258	110	2473
36	West Bengal	1821	916855	1650	315654	1307	25698	260	9839
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>109695</b>	<b>1928682</b>	<b>116711</b>	<b>1047655</b>	<b>102056</b>	<b>545751</b>	<b>27316</b>	<b>436913</b>



**Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3489 for answering on 17.03.2021 raised by Shri Prataprao Jadhav, MP - Lok Adalats.**

**Statement containing the information of cases disposed of in National Lok Adalats during last three years.**

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2018	2019	2020
		Cases Disposed Of	Cases Disposed Of	Cases Disposed Of
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDs	0	0	248
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	95017	97415	37896
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1338	588	104
4	ASSAM	31192	21596	12188
5	BIHAR	170983	164984	66451
6	CHANDIGARH	11783	11188	2569
7	CHHATTISGARH	70362	57648	24464
8	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	170	2021	1768
9	DAMAN AND DIU	107	249	31
10	DELHI	75546	71377	83006
11	GOA	2704	1565	351
12	GUJARAT	137105	193150	41584
13	HARYANA	91141	103298	30298
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	20298	25432	5971
15	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	59330	32177	13258
16	JHARKHAND	72058	49228	53152
17	KARNATAKA	99957	281849	334681
18	KERALA	106013	128729	15010
19	LAKSHADWEEP	103	4	8
20	MADHYA PRADESH	310569	234433	108365
21	MAHARASHTRA	808625	428376	215837
22	MANIPUR	1689	1994	204
23	MEGHALAYA	936	695	303
24	MIZORAM	1076	495	218
25	NAGALAND	2328	973	251
26	ODISHA	41288	43197	18329
27	PUDUCHERRY	4745	4194	1738
28	PUNJAB	111771	89016	32528
29	RAJASTHAN	165621	219098	103060
30	SIKKIM	233	165	30
31	TAMIL NADU	475753	340594	88819
32	TELANGANA	88135	110838	47560
33	TRIPURA	2845	3354	382
34	UTTARAKHAND	34487	26058	8088
35	UTTAR PRADESH	2724616	2484405	1171022
36	WEST BENGAL	62637	62890	28596
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5882561</b>	<b>5293273</b>	<b>2548368</b>



Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3489 for answering on 17.03.2021 raised by Shri Prataprao Jadhav, MP - Lok Adalats.

Statement containing the information of number of sittings of Permanent Lok Adalats (PUS) and cases settled in these sittings during the years viz. 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 (upto December, 2020)

S. No	Name of the State/UT Authority	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (upto Dec.20)	
		Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	793	1404	1204	1805	1384	1608	226	689
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	474	312	350	99	263	38	59	1
5	Bihar	347	78	1688	491	1754	688	747	134
6	Chandigarh	243	3205	247	1653	246	582	186	62
7	Chhattisgarh	1154	163	995	122	918	96	121	8
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	454	11922	502	18897	516	19439	333	6791
11	Goa	6	93	19	107	21	57	18	0
12	Gujarat	5	439	23	365	9	120	0	0
13	Haryana	2585	40966	3501	39930	3578	45839	2560	7565
14	Himachal Pradesh	31	75	35	70	38	112	4	4
15	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	2032	3137	1668	6414	2738	10517	2526	1269
17	Karnataka	1515	8673	1615	4014	1578	6399	766	2783
18	Kerala	479	818	273	544	276	442	269	166
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	427	12094	304	951	368	510	266	132
21	Maharashtra	787	10089	723	2981	797	3304	329	154



S. No	SLSA	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	555	1583	705	1352	935	1870	357	988
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	3428	19626	3336	9427	4504	8391	1790	2150
29	Rajasthan	3295	3208	3765	4423	4545	5254	546	252
30	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	245	47	97	25
32	Telengana	153	4856	222	6243	181	3546	28	173
33	Tripura	88	49	189	245	147	208	1	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	5964	1663	4956	2340	4274	1230	1699	170
35	Uttarakhand	27	5	314	151	461	379	43	163
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24842</b>	<b>124458</b>	<b>26634</b>	<b>102624</b>	<b>29776</b>	<b>110676</b>	<b>12971</b>	<b>23679</b>



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

NM

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3507  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**PENDING CASES IN SUPREME COURT**

**3507. SHRI D. M. KATHIR ANAND:  
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:**

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

- (a) the total number of cases pending with the Supreme Court of India along with the measures taken to effectively dispose off the cases;**
- (b) the existing ratio of judges in comparison to cases and whether the Government is taking any measures to increase the number of judges in Supreme Court; and**
- (c) if so, details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

(a): As on 01.03.2021, total number of cases pending with the Supreme Court is 66,727. Various measures have been taken by the Supreme Court from time to time to effectively dispose of the cases including during corona virus pandemic while adhering to the Covid protocol norms notified by the Government. Hearing of the matters is being done through video conferencing mode. Considering the special circumstances due to the pandemic, the summer vacation of the Supreme Court for seven weeks was curtailed to two weeks only and five weeks were declared working weeks. Even during the vacation of two weeks, Vacation Bench was



constituted for hearing urgent matters. Further, in order to reduce the number of pending cases, miscellaneous weeks for listing only fresh admission cases etc. were declared from time to time so that maximum number of cases could be listed. An Arrrears Committee has been constituted at the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases.

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.

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 for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

(b) & (c): The existing ratio of judges in comparison to cases in Supreme Court is 1:2301. The Chief Justice of India had requested the Government in June, 2019 to consider augmenting the Judge-strength in the Supreme Court appropriately. Though there has been no criteria for fixing the judge strength of the Supreme Court, in view of the number of cases pending disposal, an increase in the judge strength was considered by Government. The sanctioned strength of Supreme



Court of India has been increased from 30 to 33 (excluding the Chief Justice of India) w.e.f 09.08.2019 vide GOI notification.

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