

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 339
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 03rd FEBRUARY, 2021**

PENDING COURT CASES

**339. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI HARISH DWIVEDI:
SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:**

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

- (a) the details of number of pending cases in Supreme Court, different High courts and subordinate courts in the country during the last three years, courtwise and the reasons therefor;**
- (b) the number of vacancies that are pending with the Government for appointment of judges in different High Courts;**
- (c) the impact of COVID-19 on case pendency in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts;**
- (d) whether there is clear definition of the category “urgent cases”, which were heard by the Supreme Court during the pandemic and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to reduce pendency of court cases and its outcome thereof?**

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

(a)& (b): As per information available, details of cases pending in Supreme Court of India during last three years are as given below :

Year	Pendency
2018	57,346
2019	59,859
2020	63,146

As per the information/data furnished by High Courts and also information/data available on the web portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), details of High Courts wise and State/UT wise pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Courts during last three years are given in Statement at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively. A statement showing sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the High Courts is given at *Annexure-III*.

(c) to (e): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. There is no one single factor like Covid which can be attributed to increase in pendency of cases. Pendency of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia includes availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. After announcement of nation-wide lockdown from 25th March, 2020, directions have been issued from time to time by the respective High Courts to the Subordinate Courts under their administrative jurisdiction for hearing of urgent civil and criminal matters in virtual or physical mode depending on local conditions. Most High Courts have further advised district and subordinate courts that they may, as far as possible, resume normal functioning by virtual/physical mode. Wherever physical hearing has been permitted in district and subordinate courts, they have been advised to strictly adhere to Covid protocols and social distancing norms. A new Software Patch and Court User Manual has been recently developed for COVID- 19 Management. This tool has been developed to help in smart scheduling all cases to effectively manage overcrowding in courts.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Due to constraints of infrastructure and workforce as well as social distancing

norms, limited number of matters could be listed for hearing as compared to normal times. The Supreme Court had framed guidelines which clarified the classes of cases which may be treated as 'urgent' for purposes of early hearing. Though, there is no clear definition of cases falling in the 'urgent' category since the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, only the urgent matters which are 'mentioned' for early listing before the Hon'ble Court on the ground of urgency are being listed as per 'Standard Operating Procedure' uploaded on the website(www.sci.gov.in) from time to time. Apart from the 'mentioned' matters, fresh matters and specifically directed matters are also being listed. Further, where a matter does not fall under the 'Urgent category', it is left to the discretion of the Bench. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 45,73,159 cases while the High Court heard 20,60,318 cases (totaling to 66.33 lakh) till 31.12.2020 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had nearly 32,000 hearings during the lockdown period.

National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. The major steps taken during the last five years under various initiatives are as follows:

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 8,288.30 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 20,062 as on 28.01.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,736 as on 28.01.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,808 court halls and 1,843 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 28.01.2021, 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 01.01.2021, litigants can access case status of over 17.90 crore cases and 13.36 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 efilings facilities. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for efilings in various court complexes.

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 25.01.2021, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 570 new Judges were appointed and 520 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
28.01.2021	24,247	19,318

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.
- (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 18.01.2021, Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, family and matrimonial disputes, 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) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. 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 823 FTSCs including 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20 and Rs. 89.89 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. Presently 609 FTSCs are functional including 331 exclusive POCSO Courts.

(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.

HIGH COURTS

Total Number of Pending Cases in various HIGH COURTS
in year 2018, 2019 & 2020

S.NO.	Name of the High Court	Total Number of Pending Cases 1(As on 31/12/2018)	Total Number of Pending Cases (As on 31/12/2019)	Total Number of Pending Cases (As on 31/12/2020)
1.	Allahabad	939475	944657	773408
2.	Andhra Pradesh*	354833	193594	207762
3.	Telangana*		206413	236852
4.	Bombay	287864	305962	559119
5.	Calcutta	231576	228060	267431
6.	Chhattisgarh	63574	69316	75836
7.	Delhi	74536	80950	91195
8.	Gujarat	114962	129184	142803
9.	Gauhati	33445	37243	51901
10.	Meghalaya	782	757	1443
11.	Manipur	3062	2468	4374
12.	Tripura	2977	2586	2347
13.	Himachal Pradesh	36177	54452	73862
14.	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	64042	71693	63468
15.	Jharkhand	88932	85272	88445
16.	Karnataka	357604	271929	293259
17.	Kerala	192754	196823	214384
18.	Madhya Pradesh	331388	357929	362932
19.	Madras	293004	272722	580770
20.	Orissa	167909	150562	172476
21.	Patna	153486	172425	178835
22.	Punjab & Haryana	337231	353888	637148
23.	Rajasthan	285012	459828	523600
24.	Sikkim	252	234	241
25.	Uttarakhand	34049	35407	38676
	Total	4448926	4684354	5642567

Note : The above statement is compiled on the basis of the figures received from the High Courts.

*For the period 2018, the figures are for the erstwhile High Court of Judicature are at Hyderabad for the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Details of District & Subordinate Courts wise pendency of Cases during the last three years and current position

Sl. No	Name of States/UTs	Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2017	Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 10.12.2018	Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 14.11.2019	Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 28.01.2021
1.	A & N Island	11,185	---	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4,99,246	5,22,853	558144	645518
3.	Telangana	4,16,164	5,14,425	553032	686819
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	---	---	---	---
5.	Assam	2,23,954	2,84,344	296205	361274
6.	Bihar	16,58,292	24,39,139	2839812	3191323
7.	Chandigarh	38,628	42,980	47132	59265
8.	Chhattisgarh	2,72,888	2,57,782	275552	335230
9.	D & N Haveli	3,552	2,465	3091	3413
10.	Daman & Diu	1,746	1,758	2203	2828
11.	Delhi	6,07,036	7,19,977	832229	978490
12.	Goa	39,745	43,825	46462	57311
13.	Gujarat	16,41,355	16,59,335	1604461	1949686
14.	Haryana	6,45,647	7,21,335	852700	1126576
15.	Himachal Pradesh	2,09,938	2,56,577	287555	423074
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,21,754	1,55,889	174640	218833
17.	Jharkhand	3,33,494	3,53,670	383212	446803
18.	Karnataka	13,81,438	12,77,153	1546631	1763930
19.	Kerala	11,52,056	11,62,952	1275520	1841556
20.	Ladakh	---	-----	-----	768
21.	Lakshadweep	---	---	---	---
22.	Madhya Pradesh	13,25,053	13,70,355	1420511	1719056
23.	Maharashtra	33,36,574	35,61,746	3760171	4582365
24.	Manipur	9,604	9,994	9879	11139
25.	Meghalaya	7,032	6,727	8851	10410
26.	Mizoram	3,306	3,653	2560	4710
27.	Nagaland	---	---	---	1562
28.	Odisha	10,22,635	11,23,055	1220696	1398399
29.	Punjab	5,68,232	5,99,053	631132	831225
30.	Rajasthan	14,24,560	15,05,712	1654941	1863560
31.	Sikkim	1,400	1,306	1180	1600
32.	Tamil Nadu	10,10,381	11,03,460	1158027	1297274
33.	Puducherry	---	---	---	---
34.	Tripura	25,191	23,519	24190	44534
35.	Uttar Pradesh	61,61,822	70,04,569	7504678	8653883
36.	Uttarakhand	2,10,587	2,38,349	197858	269058
37.	West Bengal	17,59,635	22,05,954	2275633	2401947
Total		2,61,24,130	2,91,73,911	3,14,48,888	37183419

Note: Data on District and Subordinate Courts in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry are not available on the web-portal of NJDG. Data in respect of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is not available on NJDG Portal.

Annexure- III

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts
(As on 29.01.2021)

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Sanctioned Strength			Working Strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	120	40	160	82	14	96	38	26	64
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	09	37	19	0	19	09	09	18
3	Bombay	71	23	94	49	15	64	22	08	30
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	31	02	33	23	16	39
5	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	13	01	14	04	04	08
6	Delhi	45	15	60	29	0	29	16	15	31
7	Gauhati	18	06	24	18	03	21	0	03	03
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	30	0	30	09	13	22
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	10	0	10	0	03	03
10	High Court for UTs of J & K and Ladakh	13	04	17	11	0	11	02	04	06
11	Jharkhand	19	06	25	17	0	17	02	06	08
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	26	20	46	21	-05	16
13	Kerala	35	12	47	30	07	37	05	05	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	27	0	27	13	13	26
15	Madras	56	19	75	52	10	62	04	09	13
16	Manipur	04	01	05	04	01	05	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	03	01	04	04	0	04	-01	01	0
18	Orissa	20	07	27	15	0	15	05	07	12
19	Patna	40	13	53	22	0	22	18	13	31
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	37	11	48	27	10	37
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	23	0	23	15	12	27
22	Sikkim	03	0	03	03	0	03	0	0	0
23	High Court for the State of Telangana	18	06	24	14	0	14	04	06	10
24	Tripura	04	01	05	04	0	04	0	01	01
25	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	07	01	08	02	01	03
Total		815	265	1080	577	85	662	238	180	418

PMT – Permanent

Addl. - Additional

MM

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 341
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 03rd FEBRUARY, 2021**

ONLINE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

**341. SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
SHRI L. S. TEJASVI SURYA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is intending to enact new legislation governing Online Dispute Resolution in India and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the details of the existing legislation governing online dispute resolution as well as regular dispute resolution; and**
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to spread awareness regarding Online Dispute Resolution and if so, the details thereof?**

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

(a) to (c): Currently, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) is not governed by any legislation. As far as alternate dispute resolution mechanism is concerned, at present arbitration and conciliation is governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. As far as mediation is concerned, there is no stand-alone law on mediation. However, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 provides for Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement Mechanism (PIMS) in all commercial cases wherein no urgent relief is contemplated.

In order to create an effective implementation framework for ODR in India, NITI Aayog in June 2020, had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of

Justice A.K.Sikri, Retired Judge, Supreme Court of India to develop an action plan that can aid in mainstreaming ODR and thus promote access to justice through ODR. The Committee has placed the first draft of the report in public domain in November 2020, which also contain steps to spread awareness like running a comprehensive campaign utilising multimedia platforms to guide the public on the ways to use ODR processes, leverage social media presence to highlight ODR success stories to encourage people to adopt ODR etc.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointed DN

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 377

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 03.02.2021

Sanctioned Strength of Judges

377. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

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

- a) the present sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country, Court-wise;
- b) the number of male and female Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts at present;
- c) the number of judges belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Minority in Supreme Court and High Courts of the country at present, court-wise;
- d) the total number of Judges appointed in the Supreme Court and High Courts in the country during each of the last five years and the current year, Courtwise; and
- e) the total number of vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a), (b) and (e): Statement showing sanctioned strength of Judges, number of male & female Judges and vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts is attached at **Annexure**.

(c) and (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. Hence no class/category wise data is maintained centrally. 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.

Number of Judges appointed in Supreme Court and High Courts during last 5 years (calendar year-wise) as on 25.01.2021 is given below:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Judges appointed in the Supreme Court	04	05	08	10	--
Judges appointed in the High Courts	126	115	108	81	66
Additional Judges made Permanent in High Courts	131	31	115	68	90
Additional Judges given fresh term	22	05	02	07	03

Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b) and (e) of Unstarred Question No. 377 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 03.02.2021 regarding 'Sanctioned Strength of Judges' by Shri M. Badruddin Ajmal, showing sanctioned strength, no. of male & female judges and vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts.

(As on 27.01.2021)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength		Vacancies
			No. of Male Judges	No. of female Judges	
A.	Supreme Court of India	34	28	2	04
B.	High Court				
1	Allahabad	160	90	6	64
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	16	3	18
3	Bombay	94	56	8	30
4	Calcutta	72	29	4	39
5	Chhattisgarh	22	12	2	08
6	Delhi	60	23	6	31
7	Gauhati	24	20	1	03
8	Gujarat	52	25	5	22
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	09	1	03
10	Common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.	17	10	1	06
11	Jharkhand	25	16	1	08
12	Karnataka	62	41	5	16
13	Kerala	47	32	5	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	25	2	26
15	Madras	75	49	13	13
16	Manipur	05	05	-	-
17	Meghalaya	04	04	-	-
18	Orissa	27	13	2	12
19	Patna	53	22	-	31
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	41	8	36
21	Rajasthan	50	22	1	27
22	Sikkim	03	02	1	-
23	Telangana	24	12	2	10
24	Tripura	05	04	-	01
25	Uttarakhand	11	08	-	03
Total		1080	586	77	417

ecourt

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 381
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 3rd FEBRUARY, 2021

Virtual Court

381. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a) whether District and Subordinate Courts lack basic infrastructure and are experiencing difficulties in adapting to Virtual Court system and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of lower and subordinate courts with WAN connectivity and video conferencing facilities;
- (c) whether Courts are moving towards virtual courts and is there need for electronic indigenous software system for secured transmission;
- (d) if so, whether the Courts or the Counsel appearing for the parties have any option for accessing these systems;
- (e) if not, whether the Government has any plans to develop indigenous software systems to ensure secured transmission of the Virtual court proceedings?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : 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 (Details at Annexure-I). A sum of Rs. 5.012 crore has also been released for setting up of 2506 VC Cabin in the Court Complexes besides releasing a sum of Rs. Rs. 7.60 crore to install Document Visualisers. The District and Subordinate Courts have heard 45.73 lakh cases over VC between 24.03.2020 to 31.12.2020. The Wide Area Network (WAN) Project under eCourts project is aimed at connecting all District and Subordinate court complexes, spread across the country using various technologies like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Radio Frequency (RF), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) etc. So far, 2933 sites have been connected out of total 2992 sites with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.

(c) to (e): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II computerization of 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts has been completed. To provide end to end digital solution, Case Information System using free and open source software automates the entire process of court registry. Several services have been provided to litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSCs), eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & SMS pull services and touch screen based Information Kiosks. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for District & Subordinate Courts has been created as an online platform which provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all High Courts and District /subordinate courts of the country. Currently, all stakeholders including Judicial Officers and lawyers can access case status information in respect of over 17.90 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 13.36 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes & 1272 corresponding jails.

A centralized and upgraded cloud based Video-Conferencing infrastructure with latest features including robust data security and facility to support a larger number of concurrent users has been approved by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India, which can be usable for district and subordinate courts also. Under the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' initiative of Govt. of India, Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology has evaluated and shortlisted indigenously developed VC solution which is currently under testing.

ANNEXURE-I

Fund release for VC equipment for Court Rooms

S.No	High Court	Number of Functioning Court Rooms	Number of VC equipment were already provided	Number of additional equipment to be provided	Total Estimated Cost (In Rs. Lakh)
A	B	C	D	E	F=Ex20000
1	Allahabad	2438	150	2288	457.6
2	Andhra Pradesh	550	212	338	67.6
3	Bombay	2178	486	1692	338.4
4	Calcutta	840	88	752	150.4
5	Chhattisgarh	395	90	305	61
6	Delhi	479	6	473	94.6
7	Gauhati	442	194	248	49.6
8	Gujarat	1078	327	751	150.2
9	Himachal Pradesh	135	43	92	18.4
10	Jammu & Kashmir	218	86	132	26.4
11	Jharkhand	417	28	389	77.8
12	Karnataka	1029	200	829	165.8
13	Kerala	508	159	349	69.8
14	Madhya Pradesh	1274	203	1071	214.2
15	Madras	1169	267	902	180.4
16	Manipur	38	37	1	0.2
17	Meghalaya	36	64	0	0
18	Orissa	688	141	547	109.4
19	Patna	1046	76	970	194
20	Punjab & Haryana	972	118	854	170.8
21	Rajasthan	1239	238	1001	200.2
22	Sikkim	21	17	4	0.8
23	Telangana	440	129	311	62.2
24	Tripura	78	66	12	2.4
25	Uttarakhand	184	52	132	26.4
	Total	17892	3477	14443	2888.6

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JR Desk

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 432

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 3RD FEBRUARY, 2021

Village Courts

432. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

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

- (a) the total number of village courts functioning in the country including Bihar, district-wise;
- (b) the structure of the said village courts along with the details of the scope and process to file appeal;
- (c) the details of number of women advocates who are practicing in the High Courts and the Supreme Court; state-wise;
- (d) the number of women who are currently serving as Judge in the High Courts; and
- (e) the steps that have been taken by the Ministry to include more women in the judicial system of India?

A N S W E R

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

(a) : As per information available, 402 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by 12 States. The State-wise details of Gram Nyayalayas notified and operational is at *Annexure-I*. Gram Nyayalayas have not been notified in the State of Bihar. However, the State Government has set up 8386 *Gram Kachehris* in Bihar, the district-wise detail of which is at *Annexure-II*.

(b): Section 3(3) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides that Gram Nyayalayas shall be in addition to the ordinary courts established under any other law for the time being in force. For every Gram Nyayalaya, the State Government shall in consultation with the High Court appoint a Nyayadhikari in terms of Section 3(5) of the above Act. The provisions of appeals from any judgment, sentence or order of a Gram Nyayalaya in criminal cases and civil cases is laid down in Sections 33 and 34 of the said Act which is placed at ***Annexure-III***. Gram Nyayalayas shall be deemed to be a court of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class and exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction to the extent provided under the Act. The Nyayadhikari periodically visits the villages under his jurisdiction to hold mobile courts and conduct proceedings.

(c): Information on data relating to women advocates in High Courts and Supreme Court is not centrally maintained.

(d): 77 women are serving as Judges in the High Courts as on 20.01.2021.

(e): The appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively. These Articles do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government has, however, 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.

Referred to in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 432 for Reply on 03.02.2021

State wise notified and functional Gram Nyayalayas

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Gram Nyayalyas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas operational
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
2	Rajasthan	45	45
3	Karnataka	2	2
4	Odisha	22	16
5	Maharashtra	39	24
6	Jharkhand	6	1
7	Goa	2	0
8	Punjab	9	2
9	Haryana	3	2
10	Uttar Pradesh	113	14
11	Kerala	30	30
12	Andhra Pradesh	42	0
Total		402	225

Referred to in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 432 for Reply on 03.02.2021

District-wise details of *Gram Kachehri* in the State of Bihar.

Sl. No.	Name of District	No of <i>Gram Kachehri</i>
1.	Araria	218
2.	Arwal	65
3.	Aurangabad	204
4.	Banka	185
5.	Begusarai	229
6.	Bhagalpur	242
7.	Bhojpur	228
8.	Buxar	142
9.	Darbhanga	324
10.	Gaya	332
11.	Gopalganj	234
12.	Jamui	153
13.	Jehanabad	93
14.	Kaimur	149
15.	Katihar	235
16.	Khagaria	129
17.	Kishanganj	126
18.	Lakhisarai	80
19.	Madhepura	170
20.	Madhubani	399
21.	Munger	101
22.	Muzaffarpur	385
23.	Nalanda	249
24.	Nawada	187
25.	West Champaran	315
26.	Patna	322
27.	East Champaran	405
28.	Purnia (Purnea)	246
29.	Rohtas	245
30.	Saharsa	151
31.	Samastipur	381
32.	Saran	323
33.	Sheikhpura	54
34.	Sheohar	53
35.	Sitamarhi	270
36.	Siwan	293
37.	Supaul	181
38.	Vaishali	288
	Total	8386

Extract of Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008 referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 432 for Reply on 03.02.2021

33. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 or any other law, no appeal shall lie from any judgment, sentence or order of a Gram Nyayalaya except as provided hereunder. Appeal in criminal cases.

(2) No appeal shall lie where—

(a) an accused person has pleaded guilty and has been convicted on such plea;

(b) the Gram Nyayalaya has passed only a sentence of fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

(3) Subject to sub-section (2), an appeal shall lie from any other judgment, sentence or order of a Gram Nyayalaya to the Court of Session.

(4) Every appeal under this section shall be preferred within a period of thirty days from the date of judgment, sentence or order of a Gram Nyayalaya:

Provided that the Court of Session may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within the said period.

(5) An appeal preferred under sub-section (3) shall be heard and disposed of by the Court of Session within six months from the date of filing of such appeal.

(6) The Court of Session may, pending disposal of the appeal, direct the suspension of the sentence or order appealed against.

(7) The decision of the Court of Session under sub-section (5) shall be final and no appeal or revision shall lie from the decision of the Court of Session:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall preclude any person from availing of the judicial remedies available under articles 32 and 226 of the Constitution.

34. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 or any other law, and subject to sub-section (2), an appeal shall lie from every judgment or order, not being an interlocutory order, of a Gram Nyayalaya to the District Court. 5 of 1908

(2) No appeal shall lie from any judgment or order passed by the Gram Nyayalaya—

(a) with the consent of the parties;

(b) where the amount or value of the subject matter of a suit, claim or dispute does not exceed rupees one thousand;

(c) except on a question of law, where the amount or value of the subject matter of such suit, claim or dispute does not exceed rupees five thousand.

(3) Every appeal under this section shall be preferred within a period of thirty days from the date of the judgment or order of a Gram Nyayalaya:

Provided that the District Court may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within the said period.

(4) An appeal preferred under sub-section (1) shall be heard and disposed of by the District Court within six months from the date of filing of the appeal.

(5) The District Court may, pending disposal of the appeal, stay execution of the judgment or order appealed against.

(6) The decision of the District Court under sub-section (4) shall be final and no appeal or revision shall lie from the decision of the District Court:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall preclude any person from availing of the judicial remedies available under articles 32 and 226 of the Constitution.

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

AM

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 442

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 3RD FEBRUARY, 2021

Subordinate Courts

442. SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) the details of number of subordinate courts, civil courts, district level courts that are functioning in rented buildings in Uttar Pradesh and particularly in Jaunpur;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to construct buildings for courtrooms to enable the subordinate courts to function in a good atmosphere;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

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

- (a) A total number of 18 subordinate courts are functioning in rented buildings in 12 districts of Uttar Pradesh. No subordinate court is functioning from rented building in Jaunpur District. The details of rented courts district wise is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Number of rented courts
1.	Agra	2
2.	Aligarh	1
3.	Amroha	2
4.	Banda	2
5.	Bareilly	1
6.	Budaun	1
7.	Mathura	1
8.	Meerut	1
9.	Kanpur Dehat	1
10.	Shahjahanpur	1
11.	Shravasti	4
12.	Sonbhadra	1
Total		18

(b) to (d) It is the primary responsibility of the State Government to provide judicial infrastructure for District and Subordinate Courts. The Union Government has been administering a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary since 1993-94 to augment the resources of the State Government by providing financial assistance to the States/UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern. This scheme covers the construction of district and subordinate court buildings and residential accommodations of judges/judicial officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. A sum of Rs. 8288.30 cr has been released under the Scheme since 1993-94 out of which Rs. 1260.32 cr has been released to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh including Rs. 111.00 cr released during the current financial year.

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

AM

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 459
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 03rd FEBRUARY, 2021**

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL JUDGES

459. SHRI D. K. SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking into consideration the recommendations of the Economic Survey Report 2018-19 on the appointment of additional Judges to achieve a higher clearance rate and establishment of Indian Courts and services;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the impact of a burdened Judiciary on the 'ease of doing business' in the country where the pendency of cases is adding to the economic slowdown; and**
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to dispose of the court cases to bring down the pendency in various courts?**

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b): The Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India, has increased the Judge strength of the Supreme Court from 30 to 33 Judges (excluding Chief Justice of India) w.e.f. 09 August 2019. The sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has increased from 906 in 2014 to 1080 in 2021. The strength of High Courts has been increased after receiving approvals from the State Governments, High Courts and Chief Justice of India. At present, there are 4 vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and 418 vacancies of Judges in various High Courts. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies

expeditiously, vacancies in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in the Judge strength.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vests 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. Therefore, Central Government has no role in this regard.

(c)&(d): Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of judiciary. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal and reduction in pendency of cases. National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. The major steps taken during the last five years under various initiatives are as follows:

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 8,288.30 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 20,062 as on 28.01.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,736 as on 28.01.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,808 court halls and 1,843 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 28.01.2021, 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 01.01.2021, litigants can access case status of over 17.90 crore cases and 13.36 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. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual

hearings. Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

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 25.01.2021, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 570 new Judges were appointed and 520 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
28.01.2021	24,247	19,318

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.

- (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 18.01.2021, Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, family and matrimonial disputes, 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) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. 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 823 FTSCs including 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20 and Rs. 89.89 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. Presently 609 FTSCs are functional including 331 exclusive POCSO Courts.

(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.

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

NM

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *130
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 2021.**

VACANCIES FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND PROSECUTORS

***130 SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON:
SHRI SELVAM G:**

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

- (a) the sanctioned strength and vacancies for Judicial Officers and Prosecutors in the State of Tamil Nadu, court-wise;**
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the gap between their sanctioned and actual strength ;**
- (c) the total number of training academies/institutes with their trainee capacities available for the training of Judicial Officers and Prosecutors, State-wise ;**
- (d) the total number of Judicial Officers and Prosecutors who have been imparted basic training during the last three years in the State of Tamil Nadu, rank-wise; and**
- (e) whether the Government has suggested for creation of a central selection mechanism to expedite and rationalize the process of selection and if so, the responses/suggestions of States and UTs in this regard?**

ANSWER

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *130 FOR ANSWER ON 10.02.2021 REGARDING 'JUDICIAL OFFICER VACANCY'.

(a) :The details of the sanctioned strength and vacancies in respect of Judicial Officers and Prosecutors, in the State of Tamil Nadu is given at *Annexure I and Annexure II* respectively.

(b): As per the constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in Subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per information provided by High Court of Madras, Tamil Nadu the number of vacancies in the cadre of District Judge (Entry Level) under 65% quota was 18. Appointment orders of these 18 promotee District Judges has been issued on 03.02.2021. The number of vacancies in the cadre of District Judge (Entry Level) under 10% quota is 8 which is presently vacant. The number of vacancies in the cadre of District Judge under the 25% quota is 34 against which notification had been issued for filling up of 32 vacancies. The preliminary examination for the said selection process was conducted on 01.11.2020. The main examination for the 6 candidates who had passed the preliminary examination was held on 30.01.2021 and 31.01.2021. The number of vacancies in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge in the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service as on date is 67 for which a Panel of 123 Civil Judges is available for filling up the existing and arising vacancies in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge in the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service. The number of vacancies in the cadre of Civil Judge in the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service, as on date is 123. Notification dated 09.09.2019 has been issued by the Government of TamilNadu for

filling up 176 vacancies i.e. existing and arising vacancies in the cadre of Civil Judge. Preliminary examination for the said selections were held on 24.11.2019 and the Main Examination for the said selection was conducted on 17.10.2020 and 18.10.2020. The oral test for the said selection was scheduled to be conducted on 08.02.2021 and 09.02.2021 at the office of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.

In respect of Assistant Public Prosecutors Grade-II, the Government of Tamil Nadu has in coordination with the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission provisionally selected 47 candidates and the process of verification of genuineness of their certificates and their antecedents is going on. As regards 50 vacancies for the panel year 2019-20 in the post of Assistant Public Prosecutor Grade II, Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission is yet to notify the recruitment of the said posts. It has also been informed by Government of Tamil Nadu that Prosecutors have been given promotion as and when vacancy arises in various cadres regularly.

(c): The details of the total number of training academies/institutes with their trainee capacities available for the training of Judicial Officers and Prosecutors, State-wise, is given at *Annexure III*.

(d) :The details of the total number of Judicial Officers and Prosecutors who have been imparted basic training during the last three years in the State of Tamil Nadu, rank-wise, is given at *Annexure IV*.

(e): As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in Subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. 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 some other States.

The Supreme Court, through a judicial order in Malik Mazhar case, has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary. This order of January 2007 by the Supreme Court stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments / High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions.

Details of Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies for Judicial Officer in State of Tamil Nadu

S. No.	Cadre	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	District Judge	333	273	60
2.	Senior Civil Judge	342	275	67
3.	Civil Judge	623	500	123

Details of Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies for Prosecutors in State of Tamil Nadu

S. No.	Court Description	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Special Public Prosecutors in the rank of Add. Public Prosecutor in Special Courts for trial of Criminal cases related to MP / MLAs	3	2	1
2.	Special Public Prosecutors in the rank of Add. Public Prosecutor in Special Courts for trial of POCSO Act Cases	16	16	0
3.	Additional Public Prosecutors in Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts	31	25	6
4.	Deputation in Vigilance and Anti-Corruption and other Departments in the rank of Additional Public Prosecutor	34	19	15
5.	Assistant Public Prosecutor, Grade-I in District cum Judicial Magistrate Court	97	76	21
6.	Deputation in Vigilance and Anti-Corruption and other Departments in the rank of Assistant Public Prosecutor, Grade-I	6	4	2
7.	Assistant Public Prosecutor, Grade-II in Judicial Magistrate Court	203	117	86
	TOTAL	390	259	131

Details of training academies/institutes with their trainee capacities available for the training of Judicial Officers and Prosecutors:

S. No.	Name of State/UTs	No. of Training Academies/Institutes	Trainee capacity for training of Judicial Officers and Prosecutors
1.	Telangana	01	300
2.	Assam*	02	440
3.	Bihar	01	150 (Lecture Hall capacity) 350 (Auditorium seating capacity)
4.	Punjab & Haryana	01	190 (6 Lecture Hall capacity) 286 (Auditorium seating capacity)
5.	Chhattisgarh	01	Two class rooms having capacity of sitting of more than 100 trainee judicial officer is available. At present, no training is imparted to the Prosecutors by the Judicial Academy.
6.	Delhi	01	170 (2 Lecture halls, 1 Seminar hall and 1 Conference Hall)
7.	Gujarat	01	240 (4 Lecture Hall capacity) 80 (Convention Hall) 80 (4 Discussion room) 68 (2 Conference room capacity)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	01	198 (1 Conference Hall, 1 Auditorium, 3 Lecture rooms)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	02	<i>Trainee capacity of academy campus at Jammu :</i> 70 (Lecture Hall capacity) 20 (Conference Hall seating capacity) <i>Trainee capacity of academy campus at Srinagar :</i> 35 (Conference Hall seating capacity) 50 (Lecture Hall capacity) 280 (Auditorium seating capacity)
10.	Jharkhand	01	40 (4 Lecture Hall capacity) 467 (Auditorium seating capacity)
11.	Karnataka	01	356 (8 Lecture Hall capacity)

			290 (Auditorium seating capacity)
12.	Kerala	01	128
13.	Madhya Pradesh	01	100
14.	Maharashtra	02	<i>Trainee capacity of Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Thane :</i> 390 (class room capacity) 410 (Auditorium seating capacity) <i>Trainee capacity of Judicial Officer's Training Institute, Nagpur :</i> 40
15.	Manipur	01	154
16.	Meghalaya	01	20
17.	Odisha	01	100
18.	Rajasthan	01	200 Online -300
19.	Sikkim	01	100
20.	Tamil Nadu	01	<i>Trainee capacity at Chennai :200 (Auditorium capacity)</i> 110 (Conference Hall capacity) 80 (Lecture&Meeting Hall capacity) <i>Trainee capacity of Regional Centre, Coimbatore :</i> 200 (Auditorium capacity) 80 (Lecture&Meeting Hall capacity) <i>Trainee capacity of Regional Centre, Madurai</i> 200 (Auditorium capacity) 50 (Lecture& Meeting Hall capacity)
21.	Tripura	01	50
22.	Uttar Pradesh	02	320 (07 Lecture Hall capacity) 500 (01 Auditorium seating capacity)
23.	Uttarakhand	01	120
24.	West Bengal	01	240 (4 Classroom seating capacity) 320 (2 Conference Halls)

*includes Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh.

ANNEXURE - IV

Details of Total Number of Judicial Officers & Prosecutors, rank-wise, who have been imparted Basic Training, during last 3 years in State Of Tamil Nadu, rank-wise :

Cadre	Year			Total
	2018	2019	2020	
District Judges	1520	814	1863	4197
Senior Civil Judges	1505	758	2257	4520
Civil Judges	3008	1926	4144	9078
Public Prosecutors	491	299	Nil	790
Grand Total	6524	3797	8264	18585