

# 2021

## RAJYA SABHA REPLIES

**BUDGET SESSION, 2021 [253<sup>rd</sup>  
SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA]**

**[Ist part from 29<sup>th</sup> January,  
2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021]**

---

## INDEX

Sl.No	Question No.	Question Type	Date	Subject	Division	Page No.
1.	413	Unstarred	04.02.2021	Functional Fast Track Courts	Justice.II	1
2.	414	Unstarred	04.02.2021	Shifting of High Court of Andhra Pradesh	Appointt. Division	3
3.	415	Unstarred	04.02.2021	Contempt of Courts Act,1971	Justice.I	5
4.	416	Unstarred	04.02.2021	High Court Benches in States	Appointt. Division	6
5.	417	Unstarred	04.02.2021	Appointment of Judges	-do-	8
6.	419	Unstarred	04.02.2021	Backlog of Cases	NM	11
7.	420	Unstarred	04.02.2021	Resumption of physical hearing in the High Courts	eCourt	18
8.	<b>108</b>	<b>Starred</b>	<b>11.02.2021</b>	<b>Mechanism to deal with cases of corruption against Judges</b>	<b>Appointt. Division</b>	20
9.	1209	Unstarred	11.02.2021	Pending cases in Supreme Court and High Courts	NM	23
10.	1211	Unstarred	11.02.2021	Impact on COVID-19 pandemic on Courts	NM	32
11.	1212	Unstarred	11.02.2021	Nyaya Mitras in Andhra Pradesh	A2J	41
12.	1213	Unstarred	11.02.2021	Disposal of cases in Lok Adalats	A2J/LAP	42
13.	1214	Unstarred	11.02.2021	Pending cases in the country	NM	44
14.	1215	Unstarred	11.02.2021	Mandatory e-filing of cases	eCourt	53
15.	1218	Unstarred	11.02.2021	Impact evaluation study on Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)	Justice.II	55

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

Jur. II

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 413**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**Functional Fast Track Courts**

**413. SHRI. DINESH TRIVEDI:**

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

(a) the number of functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country for dealing with cases involving heinous crimes, and cases pertaining to women and other vulnerable sections ;

(b) the reason for delay in achieving the goal of 1800 FTCs as proposed by Government; and

(c) the number of overall pending cases at FTCs specifying the number of years for which they have been pending?

**A N S W E R**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a to c ): As per information made available by High Courts, there are 860 functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country at present. Setting up of

FTCs and their functioning fall within the domain of the respective State Governments in consultation with the High Courts. The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission had urged all State Governments to utilize the enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) to set up the requisite number of FTCs. 7,88,189 cases are pending before the FTCs in the country. Data on the number of years for which these cases have been pending, is not centrally maintained.

\*\*\*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointt. DVM

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 414**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 04.02.2021**

**Shifting of High Court of Andhra Pradesh**

414. SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO:

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

- a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed shifting of High Court of Andhra Pradesh to Kurnool in Rayalaseema region;
- b) if so, whether Government has accepted the request of the State Government;
- c) the procedure and stakeholders involved in taking a decision in this regard;
- d) whether there is a proposal to set up High Court benches in other cities;
- e) the present status of State government's request for relocation of the High Court to Kurnool;
- f) time frame for a final decision in this regard; and
- g) whether the Ministry would recognize Kurnool as legal capital if High Court is established there?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (g): High Court of Andhra Pradesh with principal seat at Amaravati was established under Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 and has

been functioning w.e.f. 01.01.2019.

The Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh in February, 2020 has proposed for shifting of principal seat of Andhra Pradesh High Court from Amaravati to Kurnool. However, there is no proposal for setting up High Court Benches in other cities.

Shifting of Principal Seat of High Court is decided by the State Government in consultation with the concerned High Court. The State Government is responsible for meeting the expenditure for running the High Court of the State. Similarly, the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court is responsible for running the day to day administration of the Court. In the present instance, both the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and High Court of Andhra Pradesh have to form their opinion regarding shifting of High Court to Kurnool. No time frame is laid down in such matters.

Moreover, the matter is presently sub-judice in the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

\*\*\*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Jus. I

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 415

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 04<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

CONTEMPT OF COURTS ACT, 1971

415 DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

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

- (a) whether Government has received a notice from the High Court of Karnataka regarding the constitutional validity of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including Government's response thereto?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A writ petition has been filed in the Hon'ble Karnataka High Court with prayer to declare Section 2 (c) (i) of the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 as being violative of Article 19 and 14 of the Constitution of India. The said petition is under examination of the Government.

.....

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Appointa Div*

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 416**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 04.02.2021**

**High Court Benches in States**

416. SHRI M.V. SHREYAMS KUMAR:

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

- a) whether the Government has received requests from various organizations including the State Government of Kerala to allow setting up of High Court Benches in places other than the principal seat of High courts; and
- b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government in the matter?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) and (b): High Court Benches are established 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 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to provide necessary expenditure & infrastructural facilities and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day-to-day administration of the High Court. The proposal to be complete should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.



Requests for establishment of High Court Benches in places other than the Principal Seat of High Courts have been received from various organizations including the State Government of Kerala from time to time. However, at present there is no complete proposal pending with the Government.

\*\*\*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Appointt Dnt*

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 417

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 04.02.2021

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

417 Shri Binoy Viswam:

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

- (a) how many recommendations for elevation of judges to Supreme Court and High Courts have been received by the Ministry from the Supreme Court Collegium during the last three years;
- (b) in how many of the above cases, Government has objected to the elevations of these judges;
- (c) the total number of recommendations for elevation to the Supreme Court and various High Courts currently pending with the Ministry; and
- (d) the total pendency of judges in the Supreme Court and all High Courts in the country?

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (c) : During the last 3 years i.e. 2018, 2019, 2020, the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) made 18 recommendations for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and all of them were appointed.

As per Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of High Court Judges, Government appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by SCC. During the last 3 years i.e. 2018, 2019, 2020, High Court Collegiums made 505 recommendations out of which 177 names which were recommended by SCC were appointed by the Government as High Court Judges in various High Courts. 134 names were rejected by SCC and remitted to High Courts and remaining 194 proposals received from various High Court Collegium are under various stages of processing with Government and SCC.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

(d) : A Statement showing vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 01.02.2021 is at Annexure.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Annexure**

**Statement showing to in reply to part (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 417 for 04.02.2021 regarding "Appointment of Judges".**

**(As on 01.02.2021)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Court</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court of India</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>High Court</b>	
1	Allahabad	64
2	Andhra Pradesh	18
3	Bombay	30
4	Calcutta	40
5	Chhattisgarh	08
6	Delhi	31
7	Gauhati	03
8	Gujarat	22
9	Himachal Pradesh	03
10	High Court for UTs of J & K and Ladakh	06
11	Jharkhand	08
12	Karnataka	16
13	Kerala	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	26
15	Madras	13
16	Manipur	0
17	Meghalaya	0
18	Orissa	12
19	Patna	31
20	Punjab & Haryana	37
21	Rajasthan	27
22	Sikkim	0
23	High Court for the State of Telangana	10
24	Tripura	01
25	Uttarakhand	03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>

NM

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.419  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 04<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**BACKLOG OF CASES**

**419. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:**

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

- (a) the details about pendency of cases involving crimes against women and children, elderly, SCs/STs/OBCs and other victimised groups along with the bifurcation on crimes committed against SC/ST/OBC women and children;**
- (b) the total number of backlog of cases in the country, the detailed break-up thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reduce it and increase the efficiency in the justice delivery process?**

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): The total number of cases pending in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is 65,086 (As on 01.01.2021). Information on backlog of cases in High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts is enclosed at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively. Details of cases involving crimes against women and children, elderly, SCs/STs/OBCs and other victimised groups are not centrally maintained category-wise in the National Judicial Data Grid.

(c): 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 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 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Annexure – I**

**Details of High Court-wise pendency of Cases**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>High Court</b>	<b>Number of Cases pending in High Courts as on 28.01.2021</b>
1.	Allahabad	7,71,665
2.	Punjab & Haryana	6,45,213
3.	Madras	5,81,555
4.	Madhya Pradesh	3,66,167
5.	Andhra Pradesh	2,09,164
6.	Bombay	5,45,989
7.	Rajasthan	5,29,570
8.	Karnataka	2,89,023
9.	Calcutta	2,69,680
10.	Orissa	1,71,779
11.	Kerala	2,15,901
12.	Patna	1,88,337
13.	Gujarat	1,45,539
14.	Jharkhand	86,692
15.	Delhi	91,195
16.	High Court for the UTs for J&K and Ladakh	63,548
17.	Chhattisgarh	76,412
18.	Uttarakhand	38,676
19.	Himachal Pradesh	74,775
20.	Gauhati	51,646
21.	Manipur	4,470
22.	Tripura	2,347
23.	Meghalaya	1,472
24.	Sikkim	242
25.	Telengana	2,36,852
<b>Total</b>		<b>56,57,909</b>

**Annexure-II**

**Details of District & Subordinate Courts wise pendency of Cases**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of States/UTs</b>	<b>Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 28.01.2021</b>
1.	A & N Island	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	645518
3.	Telangana	686819
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	---
5.	Assam	361274
6.	Bihar	3191323
7.	Chandigarh	59265
8.	Chhattisgarh	335230
9.	D & N Haveli	3413
10.	Daman & Diu	2828
11.	Delhi	978490
12.	Goa	57311
13.	Gujarat	1949686
14.	Haryana	1126576
15.	Himachal Pradesh	423074
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	218833
17.	Jharkhand	446803
18.	Karnataka	1763930
19.	Kerala	1841556
20.	Ladakh	768
21.	Lakshadweep	---
22.	Madhya Pradesh	1719056
23.	Maharashtra	4582365
24.	Manipur	11139
25.	Meghalaya	10410
26.	Mizoram	4710
27.	Nagaland	1562
28.	Odisha	1398399
29.	Punjab	831225
30.	Rajasthan	1863560
31.	Sikkim	1600
32.	Tamil Nadu	1297274
33.	Puducherry	---
34.	Tripura	44534
35.	Uttar Pradesh	8653883
36.	Uttarakhand	269058
37.	West Bengal	2401947
<b>Total</b>		<b>37183419</b>

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.

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

*eCourt*

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 420**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**Resumption of physical hearing in the High Courts**

**420 Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many of the High Courts are still functioning only through virtual hearing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has received any representation regarding starting of physical hearing in all High Courts including the High Court of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard by Government?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b): 9 High Courts are still functioning through virtual hearing only. The High Court wise details is placed at Annexure.

(c) : No, Sir.

(d) : Does not arise in view of (c) above.

**Annexure**

Statement referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 420 for 4/2/2021 regarding Resumption of Physical hearing in the High Courts:

(As on 28.01.2021)

S.No.	High Court	Physical Courts have started	Online/VC Courts still functioning
1	Allahabad	Yes	Yes
2	Andhra Pradesh	No	Yes
3	Bombay	Yes	Yes
4	Calcutta	Yes	Yes
5	Chhattisgarh	Yes	No
6	Delhi	Yes	Yes
7	Gauhati-Arunachal Pradesh	Yes	No
8	Gauhati-Assam	Yes	Yes
9	Gauhati-Mizoram	Yes	No
10	Gauhati – Nagaland	Yes	Yes
11	Gujarat	No	Yes
12	Himachal Pradesh	No	Yes
13	Common High Court for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	No	Yes
14	Jharkhand	No	Yes
15	Karnataka	Yes	Yes
16	Kerala	Yes	Yes
17	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	Yes
18	Madras	Yes	Yes
19	Manipur	No	Yes
20	Meghalaya	Yes	Yes
21	Orissa	No	Yes
22	Patna	Yes	Yes
23	Punjab and Haryana	No	Yes
24	Rajasthan	Yes	Yes
25	Sikkim	No	Yes
26	Telangana	Yes	Yes
27	Tripura	Yes	Yes
28	Uttarakhand	Yes	Yes

Appointt' DVN

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 108**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 11.02.2021**

**Mechanism to deal with cases of corruption against Judges**

\* 108 Shri K.T.S. Tulsi:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to put in place an effective and transparent mechanism to deal with cases of corruption against the Judges of the constitutional courts in the country including the Supreme Court; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER.**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a)& (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.\*108 due for answer on 11.02.2021 regarding "Mechanism to deal with cases of corruption against Judges"**

(a)& (b):The issue of checking corruption in the Higher Judiciary is largely to be addressed by the Higher Judiciary as it is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution. Accountability in Higher Judiciary is maintained through "in-house mechanism". The Supreme Court of India, in its full Court meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1997, adopted two Resolutions namely (i) "The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life " which lays down certain judicial standards and principles to be observed and followed by the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts (ii) "In-house procedure" for taking suitable remedial measure against Judges who do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life including those included in the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life.

As per the established "in-house mechanism" for the Higher Judiciary, the Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justices of the High Courts. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of High Court Judges. The complaints/representations received are forwarded to the Chief Justice of India or to the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, as the case may be, for appropriate action.

Administrative control over the members of the subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court.

To ensure greater accountability and transparency in the Higher Judiciary, a bill titled, "the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill", was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 01.12.2010. The Bill laid down Judicial Standards, derived from the Restatement of Values in Judicial Life, 1997. It made it mandatory for Judges to declare their assets and liabilities as well as that of their spouses and dependent children. It also provided for a comprehensive mechanism for handling complaints made by citizens on alleged misbehavior and incapacity against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and for taking action against those found guilty after investigation. The Bill along with proposed amendments was considered and passed by Lok Sabha on 29.03.2012. The Bill could not be discussed in Rajya Sabha and lapsed consequent to the dissolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

\*\*\*\*



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1209  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

PENDING CASES IN SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS

1209.# DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

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

- (a) the total number of pending cases of both civil and criminal nature in the Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country;
- (b) the number of cases pending in each of the above, for less than five years and more than five years and less than ten years and more than ten years; and
- (c) whether any measures have been taken by Government to expedite the process of disposal of cases?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): As per the information provided by the Supreme Court, 65331 cases including 52391 Civil cases and 12940 Criminal cases are pending in the Supreme Court of India as on 05.02.2021. The details of cases pending in respect of Supreme Court is as under:-

Period of pendency	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
Less than 5 years	35029	9360	44389
More than 5 years	17362	3580	20942
Less than 10 years	47390	12150	59540
More than 10 years	5001	790	5791

As per data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), total 56,69,960 cases are pending in High Courts, out of which 40,83,266 are Civil cases and 15,86,694 are Criminal cases as on 05.02.2021. The details of cases pending for less than five years and more than five years and less than ten years and more than ten years in respect of High Courts is as under:-

(Number in lakh)

Number of pending cases in High Courts			Number of cases pending in High Courts, age-wise					
			For less than 5 years		More than 5 years and less than 10 years		More than 10 years	
Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
40.83	15.87	56.70	22.91	9.39	8.84	2.98	9.08	3.50

High Court-wise details of pending cases for less than five years, for five to ten years and for more than ten years as on 05.02.2021 is given in a statement at *Annexure*.

(c): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. 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. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. However, Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases

in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. 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. After announcement of nationwide lockdown from 25<sup>th</sup> 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 where there is no shut down/lockdown, they may, as far as possible, resume normal functioning by virtual/physical mode and take up all kind of cases, including those pertaining to under-trial prisoners, trial of civil cases, matrimonial disputes, child custody matters, recording of evidence and other old matters. 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 and take all precautions including consent of the parties. 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. As regards the Supreme Court, an

overarching order has been issued by the Supreme Court on 06.04.2020 giving legal sanctity and validity to video conference hearing.

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. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 45,73,159 cases while the High Court heard 20,60,318 cases (totalling to 66.33 lakh) till 31.12.2020 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had 52,353 hearings since the lockdown period upto 31.01.2021.

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. 8,288.81 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 20,248 as on 05.02.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,942 as on 05.02.2021 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 05.02.2021, 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
05.02.2021	24,282	19,310

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 2019 *inter alia* 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.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Annexure**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1209 FOR ANSWER ON 11.02.2021 REGARDING PENDING CASES IN SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS**

Details of Age Wise Pending Cases in High Court as on 05.02.2021

Sl. No	Name of High Courts	Less than 5 years		More than 5years & Less than 10 years (5-10 years)		More than 10 years		Total
		Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	
1	Allahabad High Court	142303	146823	104057	72727	167062	140355	773327
2	Bombay High Court	235588	57185	96203	15453	127420	15396	547245
3	Calcutta High Court	67812	17035	45768	11395	114327	13918	270255
4	Gauhati High Court	35452	7674	5905	1954	868	122	51975
5	High Court for State of Telangana	109211	20793	57707	9199	36175	3767	236852
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	92263	18937	53167	7947	32617	3984	208915
7	High Court of Chhattisgarh	37014	18769	9561	6354	1366	3387	76451
8	High Court of Delhi	43120	15040	11245	5303	11289	5198	91195
9	High Court of Gujarat	69264	31049	19863	8680	9888	7611	146355
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	55610	6920	8101	2104	2085	326	75146
11	High Court for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	26564	5418	21071	2131	7883	392	63459
12	High Court of Jharkhand	26726	24850	9072	8454	5116	12359	86577
13	High Court of Karnataka	144438	28626	61099	8236	40535	5119	288053
14	High Court of Kerala	111523	23556	45877	10960	14183	10350	216449
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	107201	66721	65960	39154	52978	36004	368018
16	High Court of Manipur	3421	384	283	16	365	37	4506
17	High Court of Meghalaya	1216	122	106	4	0	0	1448
18	High Court of Punjab & Haryana	232836	204119	66398	41793	77638	25432	648216
19	High Court of Rajasthan	268788	86505	68452	19927	55178	31045	529895
20	High Court of Sikkim	201	38	4	1	1	0	245
21	High Court of Tripura	2014	301	29	2	1	0	2347
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	18081	11783	3867	2748	1470	727	38676
23	Madras High Court	323942	53251	77192	3024	118837	5572	581818
24	Orissa High Court	62229	31016	35053	10499	21713	11195	171705
25	Patna High Court	74824	61995	17496	9964	9094	17459	190832
<b>Total</b>		<b>2291641</b>	<b>938910</b>	<b>883536</b>	<b>298029</b>	<b>908089</b>	<b>349755</b>	<b>5669960</b>

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

NM

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1211  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON COURTS**

**1211. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:**

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

- (a) whether the courts are hearing limited matters owing to the COVID-19 pandemic;**
- (b) whether this has impacted the pendency of cases across courts; and**
- (c) if so, the details and data thereof for district courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court?**

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 where there is no shut down/lockdown, they may, as far as possible, resume normal functioning by virtual/physical mode and take up all kind of cases, including those pertaining to under-trial prisoners, trial of civil cases, matrimonial disputes, child custody matters, recording of evidence and other old matters. 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 and take all precautions including consent of the parties. 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. As regards the Supreme Court, an overarching order has been issued by the Supreme Court on 06.04.2020 giving legal sanctity and validity to video conference hearing.

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. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 45,73,159 cases while the High Court heard 20,60,318 cases (totalling to 66.33 lakh) till 31.12.2020 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had 52,353 hearings since the lockdown period upto 31.01.2021.

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.

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 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.

(C): The total number of cases pending in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is 66,072 (As on 01.02.2021).

As per the information/data available on the web portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), details of pendency of cases in the High Courts and the District and Subordinate Courts are given in Statement at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

\*\*\*\*\*



**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1211 FOR ANSWER ON 11.02.2021  
REGARDING IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON COURTS**

**Statement showing the Pendency of High Courts as on 05.02.2021**

Sl.No.	High Court Name	Civil	Criminal	Total
1.	Allahabad High Court	413422	359905	773327
2.	Bombay High Court	459211	88034	547245
3.	Calcutta High Court	227907	42348	270255
4.	Gauhati High Court	42225	9750	51975
5.	High Court for state of Telangana	203093	33759	236852
6.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	178047	30868	208915
7.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	47941	28510	76451
8.	High Court of Delhi	65654	25541	91195
9.	High Court of Gujarat	99015	47340	146355
10.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	65796	9350	75146
11.	High Court for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	55518	7941	63459
12.	High Court of Jharkhand	40914	45663	86577
13.	High Court of Karnataka	246072	41981	288053
14.	High Court of Kerala	171583	44866	216449
15.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	226139	141879	368018
16.	High Court of Manipur	4069	437	4506
17.	High Court of Meghalaya	1322	126	1448
18.	High Court of Punjab & Haryana	376872	271344	648216
19.	High Court of Rajasthan	392418	137477	529895
20.	High Court of Sikkim	206	39	245
21.	High Court of Tripura	2044	303	2347
22.	High Court of Uttarakhand	23418	15258	38676
23.	Madras High Court	519971	61847	581818
24.	Orissa High Court	118995	52710	171705
25.	Patna High Court	101414	89418	190832
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4083266</b>	<b>1586694</b>	<b>5669960</b>

**Annexure-II****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1211 FOR ANSWER ON 11.02.2021  
REGARDING IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON COURTS**

Statement showing the Pendency of Distict and Subordinate Courts as on 05.02.2021

Sl.No.	State	Civil	Criminal	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	356043	294548	650591
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	----	----	----
3.	Assam	78406	286665	365071
4.	Bihar	436698	2761308	3198006
5.	Chandigarh	21514	38148	59662
6.	Chhattisgarh	62875	275166	338041
7.	Delhi	222457	762102	984559
8.	Diu and Daman	1378	1474	2852
9.	DNH at Silvasa	1487	1897	3384
10.	Goa	24228	33310	57538
11.	Gujarat	464786	1497860	1962646
12.	Haryana	393858	739905	1133763
13.	Himachal Pradesh	146822	276859	423681
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	87581	131651	219232
15.	Jharkhand	79236	369879	449115
16.	karnataka	849645	919947	1769592
17.	Kerala	486908	1369384	1856292
18.	Ladakh	368	404	772
19.	Lakshadweep	----	----	----
20.	Madhya Pradesh	363967	1362151	1726118
21.	Maharashtra	1374973	3231228	4606201
22.	Manipur	7080	4105	11185
23.	Meghalaya	2735	7647	10382
24.	Mizoram	1639	3061	4700
25.	Nagaland	181	1380	1561
26.	Orissa	287503	1116686	1404189
27.	Punjab	355116	480223	835339
28.	Puducherry	----	----	----
29.	Rajasthan	494756	1380424	1875180
30.	Sikkim	578	1052	1630
31.	Tamil Nadu	727426	571355	1298781
32.	Telangana	291090	403883	694973
33.	Tripura	9111	32549	41660
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1869275	6810272	8679547
35.	Uttarakhand	42733	226898	269631
36.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0
37.	West Bengal	555648	1849809	2405457
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10098101</b>	<b>27243230</b>	<b>37341331</b>

A2J

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1212

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

Nyaya Mitras in Andhra Pradesh

1212. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vernireddy:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Nyaya Mitras proposed by the Ministry;
- (b) the details of Nyaya Mitras proposed to engaged in district courts of Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether it is a fact that about 100 Nyaya Mitras have been engaged in various District Courts of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Nyaya Mitra programme aims to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years in High Courts and Subordinate Courts.
- (b) & (c) No Nyaya Mitra has been engaged in District Courts of Andhra Pradesh. Since introduction of Nyaya Mitra programme in April 2017, a total of 27 Nyaya Mitras were engaged in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- (d) Question does not arise in view of answer at (c)

\*\*\*\*\*

A2J/LAP

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1213

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

Disposal of cases in Lok Adalats

1213. Shri Prashanta Nanda:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Lok Adalats established in the country till date and the disposal rate of cases in Lok Adalats; and
- (b) the steps taken to improve the disposal rate?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Under Chapter VI-A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) have been established which deal with the matters relating to the public utility services at the pre-litigation stage. As on December 2020, 355 Permanent Lok Adalats are functioning in the Country. 12,971 sittings were held in the Permanent Lok Adalats during April, 2020 to December, 2020 which settled 23,679 cases.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been organizing National Lok Adalats on pan India basis. Usually, three to four pan India National Lok Adalats are held in a year. In the year 2020, 1,11,51,174 cases were taken up by National Lok Adalats out of which 25,48,368 cases were disposed of. The State Legal Services

Authorities (SLSA) also organize Lok Adalats from time to time as per the local circumstances. In these State Lok Adalats, 27,315 benches were constituted during April, 2020 to December, 2020 which took up 7,92,725 cases disposing 4,36,913 cases.

(b) To improve the disposal rate, awareness is being made amongst the masses, highlighting the advantages of settlement through Lok Adalat. From June, 2020, E-Lok Adalats have also been introduced to make the system more efficient and fast to improve the disposal rate. E-Lok Adalats have been conceptualized in a way that it facilitates party interaction and exchange of information, allowing an opportunity to effectively resolve a dispute. E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 24 States wherein 8 lakh cases were taken up and 4.07 lakh cases disposed of.

\*\*\*\*\*

NM

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1214  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**PENDING CASES IN THE COUNTRY**

**1214. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:**

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

- (a) the details of cases pending, civil and criminal at the level of lower judiciary in the country, State-wise as on date;**
- (b) the details of pending cases civil and criminal at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on 01st January, 2020 and 01st January, 2019, State-wise;**
- (c) the details of increase/decrease in pendency of cases criminal and civil, State-wise during the last three years; and**
- (d) the details of efforts taken by Government for early disposal of cases in the country during the last two years?**

**ANSWER**

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

- (a):** The details of cases pending, civil and criminal of lower judiciary (District and Subordinate Courts) is given at Annexure - I.
- (b) & (c):** The details of pendency of cases criminal and civil, State-wise during the last three years is given at Annexure - II.
- (d):** Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. 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. After announcement of nation-wide lockdown from 25<sup>th</sup> 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 where there is no shut down/lockdown, they may, as far as possible, resume normal functioning by virtual/physical mode and take up all kind of cases, including those pertaining to under-trial prisoners, trial of civil cases, matrimonial disputes, child custody matters, recording of evidence and other old matters. 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 and take all precautions including consent of the parties. 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. As regards the Supreme Court, an overarching order has been issued by the Supreme Court on 06.04.2020 giving legal sanctity and validity to video conference hearing.

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. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 45,73,159 cases while the High Court heard 20,60,318 cases (totalling to 66.33 lakh) till 31.12.2020 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had 52,353 hearings since the lockdown period upto 31.01.2021.

The major achievements during the last two years under various initiatives to make the functioning of judiciary more efficient are as follows:

(i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:

As on date, Rs. 8,288.81 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The details of availability of court halls and residential units during the last two years are as under:-

Year	Court Halls	Residential Units
2019	19604	17315
2020	20062	17738
2021 (as on 05.02.2021)	20248	17942

In addition, 3,284 court halls and 1,958 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 to 18,735 as on 28.01.2021. 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. 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 2019 to 2021 (as on 05.02.2021) 10 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court, 147 new Judges were appointed and 158 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. The details of Sanctioned and Working Strength of Judges in High Courts are as under:-

Year	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
2019	1079	669
2020	1079	665
2021 (as on 05.02.2021)	1080	661

The details of Sanctioned and Working Strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts are as under:-

Year	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
2019	22,782	17,569
2020	24,018	19,111
2021 (as on 05.02.2021)	24,282	19,310

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 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 was amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 stipulating 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 2019, *inter alia*, includes 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. 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 842 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1214 FOR ANSWER ON 11.02.2021  
REGARDING PENDING CASES IN THE COUNTRY**

Statement showing the details of cases pending, civil and criminal of lower judiciary  
(District and Subordinate Courts) as on 05.02.2021

SLNo.	State	Civil	Criminal	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	356043	294548	650591
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	---	---	---
3.	Assam	78406	286665	365071
4.	Bihar	436698	2761308	3198006
5.	Chandigarh	21514	38148	59662
6.	Chhattisgarh	62875	275166	338041
7.	Delhi	222457	762102	984559
8.	Diu and Daman	1378	1474	2852
9.	DNI at Silvassa	1487	1897	3384
10.	Goa	24228	33310	57538
11.	Gujarat	464786	1497860	1962646
12.	Haryana	393858	739905	1133763
13.	Himachal Pradesh	146822	276859	423681
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	87581	131651	219232
15.	Jharkhand	79236	369879	449115
16.	karnataka	849645	919947	1769592
17.	Kerala	486908	1369384	1856292
18.	Ladakh	368	404	772
19.	Lakshadweep*	---	---	---
20.	Madhya Pradesh	363967	1362151	1726118
21.	Maharashtra	1374973	3231228	4606201
22.	Manipur	7080	4105	11185
23.	Meghalaya	2735	7647	10382
24.	Mizoram	1639	3061	4700
25.	Nagaland	181	1380	1561
26.	Odisha	287503	1116686	1404189
27.	Punjab	355116	480223	835339
28.	Puducherry*	---	---	---
29.	Rajasthan	494756	1380424	1875180
30.	Sikkim	578	1052	1630
31.	Tamil Nadu	727426	571355	1298781
32.	Telangana	291090	403883	694973
33.	Tripura	9111	32549	41660
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1869275	6810272	8679547
35.	Uttarakhand	42733	226898	269631
36.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0
37.	West Bengal	555648	1849809	2405457
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10098101</b>	<b>27243230</b>	<b>37341331</b>

Source: National Judicial Data Grid.

\*Data in respect of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Arunachal Pradesh are not available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) and (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1214 FOR ANSWER ON 11.02.2021 REGARDING PENDING CASES IN THE COUNTRY**

**State-wise detail of pending cases Civil and Criminal**

S. No.	Name of State /UTs	2018		2019		2020		2021 (as on 05.02.2021)	
		Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
1	Andhra Pradesh	295060	228852	301437	245046	310520	254173	356043	294548
2	Arunachal Pradesh*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3	Assam	64464	220993	66024	227416	68310	229062	78406	286665
4	Bihar	375746	2093808	384676	2330204	400260	2475453	436698	2761308
5	Chandigarh	17084	26456	18026	28992	18242	30020	21514	38148
6	Chhattisgarh	54833	205422	56041	204768	57124	222286	62875	275166
7	Delhi	187182	532120	190219	598144	200714	665551	222457	762102
8	Diu and Daman	945	929	1124	1079	1156	1154	1378	1474
9	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Silvassa	1257	1513	1397	1695	1421	1612	1487	1807
10	Goa	21571	22631	13426	10768	13614	11199	24228	33310
11	Gujarat	450956	1173367	428860	1243392	428268	1183091	464786	1497860
12	Haryana	279603	446503	295444	510343	314158	554962	393858	739905
13	Himachal Pradesh	116524	141734	119649	159644	123147	167318	146822	376859
14	Jammu and Kashmir	70111	88953	71954	97135	73843	103411	87581	131651
15	Jharkhand	59550	295121	64516	301604	68734	317330	79236	369879
16	Karnataka	650064	632682	750997	881187	744877	810740	849645	919947
17	Kerala	334919	833035	382997	873082	402141	892769	486908	1569384
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	155	295	368	404
19	Lakshadweep*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
20	Madhya Pradesh	323545	1058735	355163	1109192	330157	1119226	363967	1362151
21	Maharashtra	1181071	2377581	1205140	2495640	1232698	2533702	1374973	3231228
22	Manipur	5532	4362	5680	4218	6106	3720	7080	4165
23	Meghalaya	1994	4757	1994	5381	2366	6481	2735	7647
24	Mizoram	1529	2117	1072	1270	1161	1383	1639	3061
25	Nagaland	0*	0*	0*	0*	0*	0*	181	1380
26	Odisha	253984	877101	256824	927596	262517	982315	287503	1116686
27	Punjab	255953	343079	268436	355692	276208	363475	355116	480223
28	Puducherry*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
29	Rajasthan	403128	1111890	404292	1142758	435695	1263473	494756	1380424
30	Sikkim	428	879	515	813	527	775	578	1052
31	Tamil Nadu	619648	477294	654269	500804	651866	501396	727426	571355
32	Telangana	224388	291955	236415	298719	243477	320930	291090	403883
33	Tripura	7640	15656	7453	15615	7559	17560	9111	32549
34	Uttar Pradesh	1670383	5339766	1729831	5732842	1743565	5947401	1869275	6810272
35	Uttarakhand	34101	202940	36155	192286	34760	173251	42733	226898
36	Andaman and Nicobar*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	West Bengal	496028	1712813	504371	1766327	513611	1776853	535648	1849809
	Total	8459284	20765044	8794400	22263652	8970957	22932357	10098101	27243230

Source: National Judicial Data Grid.

Data in respect of Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland are not available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid.

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

eCourt

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1215**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**Mandatory e-filing of cases**

**1215 Shri K. C. Ramamurthy:**

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has developed 2.0 version of e-filing with the successful computerization of 16,875 district and subordinate courts in the country under e-Courts Mission Mode Project;
- (b) the manner in which 2.0 version is advanced and different from 1.0 version of e-filing; and
- (c) whether the Ministry will consider mandatory e-filing of cases, documents, etc., in view of a lot of emphasis on digital transactions given by the Prime Minister?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (c): The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II is being implemented by the Department of Justice in collaboration with eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India headed by a Supreme Court Judge. The technical team of e-Committee, Supreme Court of India has developed e-Filing version 2.0, and its installation is going on in the District and Subordinate Courts in the country. Keeping in view the present state of preparedness

of courts, lawyers and litigants, the timing for mandatory e-filing of all cases/ documents is yet premature.

e-Filing version 2.0 has a New User Interface which is more user friendly and has certain other additional features :

- Advocates can select and store their cases. Advocates can keep track of Case status, orders and judgments from within e-Filing system login.
- Advocate can register their clerks in the e-Filing application. Advocate clerk can do data entry and Advocate can check and approve the entries made by their clerks.
- Advocates can write and store their notes and citation for each of their stored/saved cases.
- Advocates can store their party contact details each case wise.
- It is integrated with Google Calendar. An advocate can view their cases in google calendar from their mobile.
- Advocates can send the status of case details through WhatsApp to their clients from the eFiling portal.
- Advocates can upload consolidated/single PDF and after uploading they can virtually slice the PDF and create the index as per the rules of the Court.
- An advocate can search laws using India Code from inside the e-Filing portal and get results from India code website directly.



*Jus II*

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1218**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**Impact evaluation study on Fast Track Special Courts (FTCs)**

**1218 Dr. Narendra Jadhav:**

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

- (a) the details of establishment and functioning of Fast Track Special Courts;
- (b) the details of conviction rate of Fast Track Special Courts; and
- (c) Whether Government has conducted an impact evaluation study of the efficiency of Fast Track Special Courts (FTCs) in terms of conviction rate in such courts vis-à-vis regular courts?

**A N S W E R**

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

- (a) In pursuance to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (c-POCSO) Courts for speedy disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act since October 2019. The Scheme is for one year spread over two Financial Years (FY) 2019-20 and 2020-21. The total cost of the project is

estimated to be Rs. 767.25 Cr. out of which, Central Share of Rs. 474 Cr. is to be funded from the Nirbhaya Fund. Each FTSC comprises of 1 Judicial Officer and 7 Staff Members. 31 States and UTs where related pending cases were 65 and above (as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018) are covered under the Scheme. 28 States/UTs have already joined the scheme while Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and A&N Island are yet to join. Presently 609 FTSCs including 331 exclusive POCSO Courts have become operational which have disposed 36,982 cases (till Dec 2020). Central Share of Rs. 140 Cr was released in FY 2019-20. Rs. 89.89 Cr, has been released in FY 2020-21 so far.

(b) and (c) Third Party Evaluation of FTSC was conducted by National Productivity Council (NPC) during the third quarter of 2020 and the same is being shared with State Governments and judicial authorities to improve their judicial efficiency including conviction rate.