

2021

LOK SABHA REPLIES

**BUDGET SESSION, 2021 [5th
SESSION OF 17th LOK
SABHA] [2nd Part from 8th
March, 2021 to 8th April,
2021. Lok Sabha adjourned
sine die on 25th March, 2021.**

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointment SVN

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 231**

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10.03.2021

Law Commission Report

* 231 SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

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

- a) whether the Law Commission in its 125th report in the year 1988 reiterated its earlier recommendations for splitting the Supreme Court and also stated the difficulties faced by litigants from far off places in the matter of accessing justice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof;
- b) whether the Law Commission in its 229th report has also recommended the restructuring of the Supreme Court by setting up a Constitution Bench at Delhi and Cassation Benches in Delhi, Chennai/Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai and if so, the details thereof; and
- c) whether the Government is considering the recommendations of the Law Commission and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.* 231 due for answer on 10.03.2021 regarding "Law Commission Report"

(a) to (c): According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled "The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look", submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Law Commission opined that this will reduce the distance travelled and the cost borne by the litigants. The recommendations of the Law Commission's 95th and 125th Report are available on Law Commission of India website <https://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/>.

The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai. The recommendations of the Law Commission's 229th Report is available on Law Commission of India website <https://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/>.

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who has informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

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

eloukt

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2603
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10th MARCH, 2021

Enhancing Online Connectivity for Judicial Process

2603. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

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

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

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

eCourt

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2607
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10th MARCH, 2021

E-courts

2607. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

association with the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India. The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II commenced its implementation in 2015. So far 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized and out of 2992 court complexes Wide Area Network connectivity has been provided to 2939 court complexes. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores for eCourts Phase-II, the Government has so far released a sum of Rs. 1548.13 crore for implementation of the project.

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

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

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

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

(e) : Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of Judiciary. Though Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts, the Central Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, through various strategic initiatives like improving the infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges and filling up of vacant positions in High Courts/Supreme Court, policy and legislative measures in areas prone to excessive litigation, repeal of outdated and archaic laws, initiatives to fast track special type of cases and emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution etc.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

Justice-I

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2676

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10TH MARCH, 2021

Leave in courts

2676. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of Judiciary. Though Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts, the Central Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, through various

strategic initiatives like improving the infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges and filling up of vacant positions in High Courts/Supreme Court, policy and legislative measures in areas prone to excessive litigation, repeal of outdated and archaic laws, initiatives to fast track special type of cases and emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution etc.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A2J/LAP

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2683
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10th MARCH, 2021

DISHA PROGRAMME

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOK SABHA

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

PENDING COURT CASES

†2698. SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU:

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

The Government is, however, fully committed to speedy disposal of cases. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

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

(i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 8,294.67 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 20,070 as on 04.03.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,735 as on 04.03.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,846 court halls and 1,842 residential units are under construction.

(ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 (in 2014) to 18,735 as on 22.02.2021, registering an increase of 5,063.

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

- (iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 01.03.2021, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 576 new Judges were appointed and 524 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1080 currently.

Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follows:

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

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

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

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

- (v) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

- (vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.01.2021, 894 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 842 FTSCs including 363 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20 and Rs. 135.26 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 616 FTSCs are functional including 330 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 39653 cases as on 31.01.2021.
- (vii) In addition, to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

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

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

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

eCourt

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2746
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10th MARCH, 2021

Nyay Kaushal

2746. SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

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

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

Annexure

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

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

NM

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. †*303
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 17th MARCH, 2021.**

SHORTAGE OF JUDGES

†*303. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
481	387	94

ANNEXURE-I

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

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

ANNEXURE-II

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

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

A2J/LAP

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *320
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 17th MARCH, 2021.**

Legal Literacy Outreach Programmes

***320.SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:**

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appoint. Divn.

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3459

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17.03.2021

Setting up a Bench of High Court

†3459. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

At present no complete proposal has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to establish a Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3489

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

Lok Adalats

A2J/LAP

†3489. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (upto Dec.20)	
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22	432	1	75	2	290	1	90
2	Andhra Pradesh	9652	16212	9860	13731	8493	11400	1915	21413
3 ²	Arunachal Pradesh	6	48	3	26	47	118	6	25
4	Assam	748	109151	576	58278	419	33084	3	1
5	Bihar	784	2283	1041	1361	931	1256	76	0
6	Chandigarh	12	43	12	88	17	28	4	0
7	Chhattisgarh	1035	11448	629	5687	610	1667	195	2270
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	10	1	5	0	0	0	0
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	55	3685	69	4393	52	16340	185	19857
11	Goa	41	623	8	132	5	81	0	0
12	Gujarat	6254	19074	5555	18562	4542	20611	1208	13028
13	Haryana	58876	149528	69880	143703	66040	124952	17935	26594
14	Himachal Pradesh	1311	52899	2088	75180	1865	68651	83	3105
15	Jammu and Kashmir	133	4485	107	10611	145	16774	111	4276
16	Jharkhand	690	7906	870	12468	743	14341	231	74234
17	Karnataka	11307	114272	8898	89616	3890	45165	1547	119701
18	Kerala	2206	27038	2356	31732	1972	21408	501	1661
19	Lakshadweep	12	13	11	198	2	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1897	7877	1541	3561	1166	10675	1010	9661
21	Maharashtra	65	1117	47	798	592	7932	6	96

		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)
22	Manipur	0	0	2	28	0	0	1	21
23	Meghalaya	1	10	73	166	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	95	526	85	477	112	552	21	67
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	612	267324	361	82717	101	45210	239	4628
27	Puducherry	58	1111	56	1011	49	699	12	150
28	Punjab	1100	6980	1034	79266	803	4242	0	0
29	Rajasthan	4470	73277	4185	10673	3689	6522	238	33838
30	Sikkim	120	677	110	729	120	560	90	133
31	Tamil Nadu	3364	19024	3259	17144	2181	16621	379	7398
32	Telangana	2533	14435	1956	13032	1862	12352	828	19915
33	Tripura	165	73882	116	57069	35	7353	9	714
34	Uttar Pradesh	204	9569	280	41576	197	3916	162	61725
35	Uttarakhand	45	16858	41	7808	72	27258	110	2473
36	West Bengal	1821	916855	1650	315654	1307	25698	260	9839
	Grand Total	109695	1928682	116711	1047655	102056	545751	27316	436913

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3507
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2021

PENDING CASES IN SUPREME COURT

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures.

The Government is, however, fully committed to speedy disposal of cases. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointment DVN

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3525

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17.03.2021

New Bench of Bombay High Court

3525. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

LOK SABHA

JR Desk

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

Development of Infrastructural Facilities

+3526. SHRI MAHABALI SINGH:

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

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

A N S W E R

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

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

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

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

(In Rs. crore)

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

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

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

eCourt

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

E-filing in Courts

3535. SHRI B. B. PATIL:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

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

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

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

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

eCourts

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

e-Courts

3539. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointt - DUN

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3568

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17.03.2021

Reservation in appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges

3568. SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

LOK SABHA

ALJ/LAP

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3601

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

Nyaya Mitra

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

Jus. I

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3638

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

Amending Contempt of Courts Act

3638. Shri RAVIKUMAR D.

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

...2/-

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

NM

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

Establishment of Court in Rajasthan

†3644. SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:

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

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

A N S W E R

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annexure

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

LOK SABHA

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

PENDING CASES IN GUJARAT HIGH COURT

†4649. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

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

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

ANSWER

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

- (a): As per the information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 1,47,763 cases are pending in the Gujarat High Court, out of which 17,417 cases are pending for ten years or more, as on 18.03.2021.
- (b): The sanctioned and working strength of Judges in the Gujarat High Court is 52 and 30 respectively as on 18.03.2021. The details of vacancies since 01.12.2018 is as follows:-

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

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

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

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

eCourt

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

e-Court Project

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A2J/LAP

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4801

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

National Legal Service Day

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

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jus. II

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4808**

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

Fast Track Courts

+4808. SHRI LALLU SINGH:

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

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

A N S W E R

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Jus. I

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4826

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

Use of Local Language in High Court

+4826. Shrimati Poonamben Maadam

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

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

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

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