

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

*Appointment Dvt*

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2089**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10.12.2021**

**Appointment of District Court Judges**

**2089. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:**

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

- (a) the framework proposed for the appointment of District Court judges under the proposed All India Judicial Services;
- (b) the manner in which the Government proposes to maintain the independence of judiciary in terms of appointments under the said framework; and
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the feasibility of such proposal in terms of fiscal burden and its sharing and number of judicial officers needed to offset the pending caseload?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c): In Government's view, a properly framed All India Judicial Service is important to strengthen overall justice delivery system. This will give an opportunity for induction of suitably qualified fresh legal talent selected through a proper all-India merit selection system as well as address the issue of social inclusion by enabling suitable representation to marginalized and deprived sections of society.

A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. Besides attracting some of the best talent in the country, it may also facilitate inclusion of competent persons from marginalized sections and women in the judiciary. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration.

The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of All India Judicial Service. While some State Governments and High Courts favoured the proposal, some were not in favour of creation of All India Judicial Service while some others wanted changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government.

The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges / judicial officers at all level was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference, which was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> and 04<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously. The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held on 05<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.

: 3 :

The proposal of setting up of an All India Judicial service was again discussed on points of eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, reservations etc in a meeting chaired by Minister of Law and Justice on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the presence of Minister of State for Law and Justice, Attorney General for India, Solicitor General of India, Secretaries of Department of Justice, Legal affairs and Legislative Department. Setting up AIJS was also deliberated in a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee in March, 2017 and the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs on 22.02.2021.

In view of the existing divergence of opinion amongst the stakeholders, the Government is engaged in a consultative process with the stakeholders to arrive at a common ground.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2098  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

VACANT POSITION OF JUDGES IN WEST BENGAL

2098. DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:  
SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:

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

- (a) the number of posts of judges lying vacant in District courts and High courts of West Bengal at present and time since when they are lying vacant, district-wise;
- (b) the steps taken for filling up these vacant positions in such courts during the last three years;
- (c) the number of cases pending in the above district courts during the last five years and the reasons for such backlog, year-wise and district-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is persuading State Governments to fill the vacancies, if so, the details thereof along with the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled; and
- (e) remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure easy and accessible judicial system to the public?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): As per the information received from Calcutta High Court, the number of posts of Judges vacant in the Calcutta High Court as on 06.12.2021 is 33 (thirty three). The number of posts lying vacant in District Courts of West Bengal as on 01.12.2021 are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Cadre	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	District Judges (Entry Level)	255	16
2	Additional District Judge (Fast Track Court)	81	07

3	Civil Judge (Senior Division)/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate	213+1(Suspended)	04
4	Civil Judge (Junior Division)	374	32
5	Total	923+1(Suspended)	59

(b): 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 the 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 due to increase in the strength of Judges.

Twenty Six Judges have been appointed in the Calcutta High Court during 01.01.2018 to 07.12.2021. Year-wise breakup is given as under:-

S. No.	Period	Number of Judges appointed
1	01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018	11
2	01.01.2019 to 31.12.2019	06
3	01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020	01
4	01.01.2021 to 07.12.2021	08

As per the information received from Calcutta High Court, vacancies of Judicial Officers in different rank are filled up adhering to the time schedule prescribed by the Hon'ble Apex court in Malik Mazhar Sultan's case.

(c): The number of cases pending in the district courts of West Bengal during the last five years is at *Annexure*.

(d): The Union Government does not have a role under the Constitution in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District/ subordinate judiciary. The Supreme Court, in its orders of 04<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 in Malik Mazhar case, has devised a

process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary which stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments / High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions. As informed by Calcutta High Court, the time schedule for selection process and appointment of Judges of the Subordinate Judiciary, as prescribed by the Hon'ble Apex Court in Malik Mazhar Sultan's case, is strictly adhered to in the State of West Bengal, barring a very few occasions when such timeframe was deviated under compelling circumstances.

Further, in compliance of the above directions of the Supreme Court, Department of Justice forwarded a copy of the Malik Mazhar judgment to Registrars General of all High Courts for necessary action. Department of Justice is writing from time to time to Registrars General of all High Courts to expedite the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary mandated by Malik Mazhar case.

In September, 2016, Union Minister of Law & Justice wrote to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts to enhance the cadre strength of the District and Subordinate Courts and provide physical infrastructure to the State judiciary. The same was reiterated in May, 2017. The sanctioned strength of judges in District and Subordinate Courts increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 24,485 as on 30.11.2021.

(e): National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration,

which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

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

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 8,709.77 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 20,565 as on 31.10.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,142 as on 31.10.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,841 court halls and 1,807 residential units are under construction. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9000 crores, out of which Central share will be Rs. 5307 crores. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of Lawyer's Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms.

(ii) **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 as on 01.07.2021. WAN connectivity has been provided to 98.7% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District &

Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.11.2021, litigants can access case status of over 19.56 crore cases and 15.72 crore order/judgments 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-Sewa Kendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

Fifteen Virtual Courts have been set up in 11 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to try traffic offences. As on 01.11.2021, these courts have handled more than 99 lakh cases and realized more than Rs.193.15 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,01,77,289 cases while the High Court heard 55,24,021 cases (totalling to 1.57 crore) till 31.10.2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had 1,50,692 hearings since the lockdown period upto 29.10.2021.



(iii) **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 29.11.2021, 44 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 688 new Judges were appointed and 583 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 1098 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
06.12.2021	24,489	19,292

However, 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. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers in the past drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

(v) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2021, 914 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. 160.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 681 FTSCs are presently functional including 381 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 64217 cases as on 31.10.2021. The continuation of the Scheme of FTSC has been approved for another two years (2021-23) at a total outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore, including Rs. 971.70 crore as Central share.

(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.

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**Annexure****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) - 'PENDING CASES' OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2098 FOR ANSWER ON 10.12.2021 REGARDING VACANT POSITION OF JUDGES IN WEST BENGAL.**

<b>Name of the District</b>	<b>Pending Cases at the end of the 2016</b>		
	<b>CIVIL</b>	<b>CRL.</b>	<b>(CIV.+CRL.)</b>
1. BURDWAN	36845	180396	217241
2. BIRBHUM	13877	35415	49292
3. BANKURA	9178	29916	39094
4. PASCHIM MIDNAPUR	25970	78382	104352
5. PURBA MIDNAPUR	23968	112552	136520
6. HOOGHLY	27335	48685	76020
7. HOWRAH	40214	101526	141740
8. PURULIA	9038	19898	28936
9. SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	141202	695474	836676
10. NORTH 24 PARGANAS	68560	131770	200330
11. NADIA	21806	128175	149981
12. MURSHIDABAD	32484	101715	134199
13. UTTAR DINAJPUR	6059	22271	28330
14. DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	4612	17273	21885
15. MALDA	9656	27692	37348
16. JALPAIGURI	9697	42682	52379
17. DARJEELING	5388	10642	16030
18. COOCH BEHAR	2993	44759	47752
19. CMM COURT	0	334874	334874
20. CITY CIVIL COURT	65982	0	65982
21. CITY SESSIONS COURT	0	1296	1296
22. MNL. MAGIS. COURT	0	2676	2676
23. SMALL CAUSES COURT	5820	0	5820
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>560684</b>	<b>2168069</b>	<b>2728753</b>
24. A & N ISLANDS	3507	5260	8767
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>564191</b>	<b>2173329</b>	<b>2737520</b>

<u>Name of the District</u>	Pending Cases at the end of the 2017		
	CIVIL	CRL.	(CIV.+CRL.)
1. BURDWAN	38689	221530	260219
2. BIRBHUM	13956	35068	49024
3. BANKURA	9181	28722	37903
4. PASCHIM MIDNAPUR	24032	81542	105574
5. PURBA MIDNAPUR	22542	114071	136613
6. HOOGHLY	28810	57676	86486
7. HOWRAH	31832	61004	92836
8. PURULIA	6782	16072	22854
9. SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	111280	209965	321245
10. NORTH 24 PARGANAS	62599	129141	191740
11. NADIA	18210	126637	144847
12. MURSHIDABAD	32356	111916	144272
13. UTTAR DINAJPUR	6171	23572	29743
14. DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	4952	17429	22381
15. MALDA	10321	29061	39382
16. JALPAIGURI	9908	49704	59612
17. DARJEELING	5364	17746	23110
18. COOCH BEHAR	3120	47531	50651
19. CMM COURT	0	276362	276362
20. CITY CIVIL COURT	35979	0	35979
21. CITY SESSIONS COURT	0	1427	1427
22. MNL. MAGIS. COURT	0	2955	2955
23. SMALL CAUSES COURT	6039	0	6039
T O T A L	482123	1659131	2141254
24. A & N ISLANDS	3405	5822	9227
GRAND TOTAL	485528	1664953	2150481

<b>Name of the District</b>	<b>Pending Cases at the end of the 2018</b>		
	<b>CIVIL</b>	<b>CRL.</b>	<b>(CIV.+CRL.)</b>
1. PURBA BURDWAN	20878	35314	56192
2. PASCHIM BURDWAN	15470	48926	64396
3. BIRBHUM	13849	36547	50396
4. BANKURA	8919	20042	28961
5. PASCHIM MIDNAPUR	26854	48192	75046
6. PURBA MIDNAPUR	23803	54787	78590
7. HOOGHLY	29110	61700	90810
8. HOWRAH	31255	66595	97850
9. PURULIA	7233	16794	24027
10. SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	112206	220638	332844
11. NORTH 24 PARGANAS	66497	147652	214149
12. NADIA	19419	78901	98320
13. MURSHIDABAD	33189	120436	153625
14. UTTAR DINAJPUR	5980	23671	29651
15. DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	5348	17739	23087
16. MALDA	9930	36144	46074
17. JALPAIGURI	10497	56040	66537
18. DARJEELING	5990	18124	24114
19. KALIMPONG	191	578	769
20. COOCH BEHAR	3388	23551	26939
21. CMM COURT	0	320841	320841
22. CITY CIVIL COURT	37070	0	37070
23. CITY SESSIONS COURT	0	1371	1371
24. MNL. MAGIS. COURT	0	2888	2888
25. SMALL CAUSES COURT	5945	0	5945
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>493021</b>	<b>1457471</b>	<b>1950492</b>
26. A & N ISLANDS	3769	6460	10229
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>496790</b>	<b>1463931</b>	<b>1960721</b>

<b>Name of the District</b>	<b>Pending Cases at the end of the 2019</b>		
	<b>CIVIL</b>	<b>CRL.</b>	<b>(CIV.+CRL.)</b>
1.PURBA BURDWAN	21151	38633	59784
2.PASCHIM BURDWAN	15832	51974	67806
3. BIRBHUM	13987	38581	52568
4. BANKURA	9694	30210	39904
5. PASCHIM MIDNAPUR	26749	55174	81923
6. JHARGRAM	140	111	251
7. PURBA MIDNAPUR	23806	58367	82173
8. HOOGHLY	29491	66840	96331
9. HOWRAH	32280	70465	102745
10. PURULIA	7741	17308	25049
11. SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	115004	227157	342161
12. NORTH 24 PARGANAS	68931	167711	236642
13. NADIA	20939	84329	105268
14. MURSHIDABAD	33746	128659	162405
15. UTTAR DINAJPUR	6383	25791	32174
16. DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	5566	18632	24198
17. MALDA	10220	42443	52663
18. JALPAIGURI	11343	59093	70436
19. DARJEELING	6468	18514	24982
20. KALIMONG	169	662	831
21. COOCH BEHAR	3561	25038	28599
22. CMM COURT	0	314274	314274
23. CITY CIVIL COURT	35846	0	35846
24. CITY SESSIONS COURT	0	1514	1514
25. MNL. MAGIS. COURT	0	2049	2049
26.SMALL CAUSES COURT	6121	0	6121
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>505168</b>	<b>1543529</b>	<b>2048697</b>
27. A & N ISLANDS	3841	5954	9795
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>509009</b>	<b>1549483</b>	<b>2058492</b>

<u>Name of the District</u>	Pending Cases at the end of the 2020		
	CIVIL	CRL.	(CIV.+CRL.)
Bankura	10627	31050	41677
Birbhum	15524	41525	57049
C.M.M.C.	0	325919	325919
City Civil Court	37613	0	37613
City Sessions Court	0	1756	1756
Cooch Behar	4150	26914	31064
Dakshin Dinajpur	6124	19587	25711
Darjeeling	6844	19619	26463
Hooghly	31915	70906	102821
Howrah	34892	73107	107999
Jalpaiguri	12502	62510	75012
Jhargram	2983	9760	12743
Kalimpong	214	810	1024
Malda	11426	45425	56851
Mnl. Magistrate Ct.	0	1864	1864
Murshidabad	36361	136728	173089
Nadia	23824	89738	113562
North 24 Parganas	73710	176669	250379
P. S. C. Court	6228	0	6228
Paschim Burdwan	17866	55414	73280
Paschim Medinipur	26115	50975	77090
Purba Burdwan	23228	41509	64737
Purba Medinipur	26042	63647	89689
Purulia	8588	18844	27432
South 24 Parganas	122777	232355	355132
Uttar Dinajpur	7402	27202	34604
<b>Total</b>	<b>546955</b>	<b>1623833</b>	<b>2170788</b>
A & N ISLANDS	4207	5632	9839
<b>Total (W.B.+ A &amp; N)</b>	<b>551162</b>	<b>1629465</b>	<b>2180627</b>

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2102  
TO BE ANSWERED ON – 10/12/2021

A2J/LAP

**ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

†2102. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:  
SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether any efforts are being made by the Ministry to ensure easy, accessible and affordable Judicial system for the people belonging to socially and economically backward classes; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) and (b) The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 provides free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunities.

For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. During the period from April, 2021 to September, 2021, 3.10 lakhs persons have been provided with free legal services and 75.41 lakhs cases (pending in courts and disputes at pre-litigation stage) have been settled through Lok Adalats.

In addition, the Government has launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Legal Services) programme to link the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under



Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987 with the pro-bono lawyers. 3583 pro bono advocates have been registered under the programme and 1436 cases have been registered by the beneficiaries. Tele-law programme, being run by the Government provides legal advice to public including persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987, at pre-litigation stage by the Panel Lawyers through the Common Service Centre (CSC) at the Panchayats. Tele-law has served more than 12.5 lakh beneficiaries till date.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2115  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**Maintenance awarded to Women.**

**2115.SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the cases of maintenance awarded by the courts in the country not being paid to the aggrieved party;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the total number of such cases in various courts and pending cases thereof?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a to c) As per data reflected on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 07.12.2021, there are 6,31,228 marriage petitions pending in various courts of the country. However, the data relating to the cases of maintenance awarded by the courts but not being paid to the aggrieved party is not centrally maintained.

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

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**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2120  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**POCSO CASES**

**2120. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:  
SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that thousands of cases are pending due to lack of judicial courts across the country, if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue;**
- (b) the number of courts allocated and those presently functional, State-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government has proposed to set up fast track courts for prosecuting rape and POCSO cases across the country, if so, the number of such courts along with the number of under trial cases thereunder;**
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the number of these courts, if so, the details of new courts set up so far and if not, the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise; and**
- (e) whether the Government has proposed to increase the number of public prosecutors for law enforcement agencies, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a): The number of cases pending with various courts in the country is as under:-**

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pendency as on
1	Supreme Court of India	70,038 (08.11.2021)*
2	High Courts	56,45,617 (06.12.2021)**
3	District & Subordinate Courts	4,09,34,646 (06.12.2021)**

Source: \*Website of Supreme Court of India.

\*\*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

Disposal of cases pending in various courts is within the domain of judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

(b): A statement showing the list of District and Subordinate Court Complexes as available at National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is at ***Annexure***.

(c) to (e): The Department of Justice is implementing a scheme for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 Exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. This Centrally Sponsored Scheme started in October, 2019 which has been extended for further two years up to 31.03.2023 at a total cost of Rs. 1572.86 crore with Central share of Rs.971.70

crore. As per information provided by the High Courts for the month of October 2021, a total of 681 FTSCs including 381 exclusive POCSO courts are functional in 27 States/UTs across the country. Upto October 2021, these courts have disposed of 64217 cases, while 181689 cases are still pending.

Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and its functioning comes within the domain of the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. The appointment of Public Prosecutors for conducting the criminal trials under the provisions of IPC and other special laws is done by the State Governments. However, Department of Legal Affairs in September 2019 requested the Chief Secretaries of all the States to ensure that special courts being setup to handle POCSO-related cases have adequate number of Special Public Prosecutors who are appointed under section 24(8) of Cr.PC with due regard to their qualifications as well as the orientation towards child rights.

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**Annexure****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2120 FOR ANSWER ON 10.12.2021 REGARDING POCSO CASES.**

Sr No	States/UTs	Total Districts	Total Court Complexes
1	Andaman and Nicobar	1	4
2	Andhra Pradesh	13	187
3	Assam	30	71
4	Bihar	37	79
5	Chandigarh	1	2
6	Chhattisgarh	23	89
7	Delhi	11	12
8	Diu and Daman	2	2
9	DNH at Silvasa	1	2
10	Goa	2	16
11	Gujarat	32	332
12	Haryana	21	58
13	Himachal Pradesh	11	50
14	Jammu and Kashmir	20	81
15	Jharkhand	24	24
16	Karnataka	30	205
17	Kerala	15	165
18	Ladakh	2	3
19	Madhya Pradesh	50	225
20	Maharashtra	40	478
21	Manipur	9	20
22	Meghalaya	9	10
23	Mizoram	3	9
24	Nagaland	4	5
25	Odisha	30	122
26	Puducherry	4	0
27	Punjab	22	68
28	Rajasthan	36	311
29	Sikkim	4	9
30	Tamil Nadu	32	265
31	Telangana	10	110
32	Tripura	8	24
33	Uttar Pradesh	74	170
34	Uttarakhand	13	61
35	West Bengal	22	89
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>646</b>	<b>3358</b>

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

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

NM

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2133  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**JUDGES PER MILLION OF POPULATION**

**2133. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:  
SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:  
SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:**

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

- (a) the number of Judges per million of population in the country, State/UT-wise including Uttar Pradesh;**
- (b) the number of Judges per million as suggested by the Apex Court;**
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to comply with the order passed by the Supreme Court including the funds required for the purpose;**
- (d) whether it is a fact that problems are being faced in timely disposal of cases due to lack of adequate number of Fast Track Courts and also due to a large number of vacancies in such courts;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the vacancies in these courts are likely to be filled; and**
- (f) whether the Government is contemplating to raise the posts of Judges in context of the suggestion of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a):** The judge to population ratio (Judge / per million population) with respect to sanctioned strength of judges is 21.03 as on 31.10.2021. In order to calculate the

judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Department uses the criterion of using the population as per Census 2011 and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the particular year. The data pertaining to number of judges per million of population, State/UT-wise is not maintained.

(b) & (c): In the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh*, the Supreme Court in August 2014, asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS Committee) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission in its 245<sup>th</sup> Report (2014) and to furnish its recommendations in this regard. The Law Commission had not considered the judge population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in the country. The Law Commission found that in the absence of complete and scientific approach to data collection across various High Courts in the country, the “*Rate of Disposal*” method, to calculate the number of additional judges required to clear the backlog of cases as well as to ensure that new backlog is not created, is more pragmatic and useful.

NCMS Committee submitted its report to the Supreme Court in March, 2016. The report, inter-alia, observes that in the long term, the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of “Judicial Hours” required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, the Committee has proposed a “weighted” disposal approach i.e. disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions.

As per the direction of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 07.07.2021, it had been directed that the relevant copy of the NCMS final report be



circulated to all High Courts by the Supreme Court Registry for necessary action. The report has been circulated to all High Courts for taking further action. The augmentation of judge strength and judicial infrastructure is a continuous and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional authorities.

(d) to (f): Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are several other factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and its functioning comes within the domain of the State governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. In order to provide speedy justice, the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission had endorsed the proposal of Union of India including the proposal for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for dealing with specific natured cases of heinous crimes, civil cases pertaining to women, children, senior citizens, other vulnerable sections of society etc and property related cases pending above 5 years. As per data provided by the High Courts up to October, 2021, total 914 Fast Track Courts are functional in 23 States/UTs.

The Department of Justice is implementing a scheme for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 Exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. This Centrally Sponsored Scheme started in October, 2019 for 1 year period. It has now been extended for further two years up to 31.03.2023 at a total cost of Rs. 1572.86 crore with Central share of Rs.971.70 crore. As per information provided by the High Courts for the month of October 2021, a total of 681 FTSCs including 381 exclusive POCSO courts are functional in 27 States/UTs across the country.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2148**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 10/12/2021

A2J/LJP

**SAMTA NYAY KENDRAS**

2148. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the 'Samta Nyay Kendra', recently inaugurated as a centre for providing legal awareness, training and services to the transgender community;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is considering to open more such centres for transgenders and general public as well to make legal awareness more common place, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the alternate measures taken by the Government to increase the legal awareness in the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. Under the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), UT Chandigarh in association with Chandigarh State Aids Control Society and Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP), has opened a Legal Services Clinic, exclusively to provide legal services to transgender community, which is named as 'Samta Nyay Kendra'.

The objective of this Kendra is to provide counselling and help to transgender persons to redress their legal grievances and Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers are deputed on need-based assignments by the DLSA. The effort is to provide legal services through the Para Legal Volunteers from within members of the transgender community in an inclusive atmosphere. The

said Kendra is also spreading legal awareness regarding various rights and entitlements of the transgender persons.

Five such exclusive Legal Services Clinics have also been set up at locations having predominant transgender community in five districts of Tamil Nadu namely Namakkal, Tiruvallur, Tirunelveli, Madurai and Thanjavur. Further, 12,467 Legal Services Clinics are functioning throughout the country which are manned by Para-Legal Volunteers and Panel Lawyers. In these clinics, disadvantaged people are provided help to get their legal problems solved. Besides legal advice, other services such as drafting of various applications, petitions, etc. are also provided in such clinics.

In addition, Government implemented Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness programme in North Eastern States and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh from 2012 till 2021. Under this programme, legal literacy/legal awareness and legal aid clinics were held in collaboration with State Legal Services Authorities, State Institute of Rural Development, State Women Commissions, State Resource Centres, etc. 4390 Legal Awareness / Legal Literacy programs have been conducted reaching out to 4.8 lakh beneficiaries including 158 Legal Aid Clinics. This programme has been expanded to Pan India level from 2021.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AJL/LJP

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2150  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 10/12/2021

**e-LOK ADALATS**

2150. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

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

- (a) whether e-Lok Adalats were organized during 2020 in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra; and
- (c) the funds allocated for such Adalats during the current financial year?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Legal Services Authorities under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) moved Lok Adalat to the virtual platform known as E-Lok Adalat. The first E-Lok Adalat was held in Madhya Pradesh on 27.06.2020. The detail of E-Lok Adalats organized during the year 2020 in various States/UTs including Maharashtra is at Annexure – A.
- (c) Allocation of funds to State/UT State Legal Services Authorities is made for all activities including expenses to be incurred in organization of Lok Adalat and E-Lok Adalat. Separate fund is not allocated for organization of Lok Adalat and E-Lok Adalat. During the current financial year, Rs. 100 crore has been allocated to NALSA at BE stage for conduct of their various activities including for Lok Adalats.

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Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2150 for answering on 10.12.2021 raised by Shri Rajan Vichare, MP - e-Lok Adalats

Statement showing details of E- Lok Adalats organized during the year 2020

S. No.	Name of the State Authority	Date of Organization of E-Lok Adalat	Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts		Total	
			Taken Up	Disposed	Taken Up	Disposed	Taken Up	Disposed
1	Madhya Pradesh	27.06.2020	0	0	94	91	94	91
2	Chhattisgarh	11.07.2020	0	0	5067	2270	5067	2270
3	Madhya Pradesh	25.07.2020	2529	148	14893	2085	17422	2233
4	Delhi	08.08.2020	0	0	8112	5838	8112	5838
5	Rajasthan	22.08.2020	17724	4395	54366	29151	72090	33546
6	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	22.08.2020	502	395	5255	3878	5757	4273
7	West Bengal	22.08.2020	0	0	120	59	120	59
8	Madhya Pradesh	08.08.2020 & 29.08.2020	694	52	6122	1841	6816	1893
9	Manipur	02.09.2020	0	0	12	7	12	7
10	Odisha	12.09.2020	3870	171	16910	2061	20780	2232
11	Uttarakhand	12.09.2020	398	217	5067	1787	5465	2004
12	Haryana	18.09.2020	3755	3625	9412	4913	13167	8538
13	West Bengal	19.09.2020	5577	1363	6890	5911	12467	7274
14	Karnataka	19.09.2020	12613	7383	218752	108555	231365	115938
15	Delhi	20.09.2020	0	0	14856	13491	14856	13491
16	Gujarat	26.09.2020	881	803	16169	10142	17050	10945
17	Madhya Pradesh	26.09.2020	130	77	6445	1326	6575	1403
18	Arunachal Pradesh	26.09.2020	78	13	24	11	102	24
19	Jharkhand	26.09.2020	9700	9700	1648	1019	11348	10719
20	Manipur	29.09.2020	20	14	0	0	20	14
21	Himachal Pradesh	19.09.2020, 26.09.2020 & 30.09.2020	130	59	416	244	546	303
22	Madhya Pradesh	23 & 31.10.2020	254	32	5860	1696	6114	1728
23	Jharkhand	17.10.2020	19389	19389	8716	6940	28105	26329
24	Uttar Pradesh	01.11.2020	0	0	5423	2763	5423	2763
25	Telangana	07.11.2020	809	807	10419	9116	11228	9923
26	Uttarakhand	07.11.2020	0	0	3161	469	3161	469
27	Madhya Pradesh	07.11.2020	0	0	830	188	830	188

S. No.	Name of the State Authority	Date of Organization of E-Lok Adalat	Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts		Total	
			Taken Up	Disposed	Taken Up	Disposed	Taken Up	Disposed
28	Jharkhand	26.11.2020	36000	35115	96	18	36096	35133
29	Madhya Pradesh	28.11.2020	54	3	1378	569	1432	572
30	West Bengal	28.11.2020	1389	89	2195	1121	3584	1210
31	Andhra Pradesh	12.12.2020	213	37	7053	5640	7266	5677
32	Bihar	12.12.2020	57903	17296	7727	2387	65630	19683
33	Chandigarh	12.12.2020	0	0	70	12	70	12
34	Chhattisgarh	12.12.2020	566	55	4244	2473	4810	2528
35	Delhi	12.12.2020	0	0	14785	12956	14785	12956
36	Gujarat	12.12.2020	9607	1580	21569	10803	31176	12383
37	Haryana	12.12.2020	0	0	153	72	153	72
38	Jharkhand	12.12.2020	41887	17206	12489	7504	54376	24710
39	Madhya Pradesh	12.12.2020	0	0	970	589	970	589
40	<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>12.12.2020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>653</b>
41	Manipur	12.12.2020	132	79	37	17	169	96
42	Punjab	12.12.2020	3226	417	4495	2826	7721	3243
43	Rajasthan	12.12.2020	19001	2043	3499	523	22500	2566
44	Sikkim	12.12.2020	11	11	0	0	11	11
45	Telangana	12.12.2020	6	6	63	25	69	31
46	Uttarakhand	12.12.2020	3000	128	341	106	3341	234
47	West Bengal	12.12.2020	2036	100	164	86	2200	186
48	Karnataka	19.12.2020	1837	250	27026	18840	28863	19090
49	Odisha	19.12.2020	6840	305	3589	892	10429	1197
	<b>Total</b>		<b>262761</b>	<b>123363</b>	<b>537636</b>	<b>283964</b>	<b>800397</b>	<b>407327</b>

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

AM

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2156  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**SPEEDY DISPOSAL OF PENDING CASES**

**†2156. SHRI BALAK NATH:  
SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to speed up the disposal of pending court cases;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to stipulate any time limit for the disposal of pending cases across the country, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government is formulating any policy to ensure judicial independence and autonomy in the country; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are several other factors which may lead to delay in disposal



of cases. These, *inter-alia*, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

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

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

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 8,709.77 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 20,565 as on 31.10.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,142 as on 31.10.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,841 court halls and 1,807 residential units are under construction. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9000 crores, out of which Central share

will be Rs. 5307 crores. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of Lawyer's Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms.

**(ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 as on 01.07.2021. WAN connectivity has been provided to 98.7% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.11.2021, litigants can access case status of over 19.56 crore cases and 15.72 crore order/judgments 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-Sewa Kendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

Fifteen Virtual Courts have been set up in 11 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to try traffic offences. As on 01.11.2021, these courts have handled more than 99 lakh cases and realized more than Rs.193.15 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,01,77,289 cases while the High Court heard 55,24,021 cases (totalling to 1.57 crore) till 31.10.2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had 1,50,692 hearings since the lockdown period upto 29.10.2021.

(iii) **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 29.11.2021, 44 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 688 new Judges were appointed and 583 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 1098 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
06.12.2021	24,489	19,292

However, 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. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers in the past drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

(v) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)**: Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases**: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2021, 914 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. 160.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 681 FTSCs are presently functional including 381 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 64217 cases as on 31.10.2021. The continuation of the Scheme of FTSC has been approved for another two years (2021-23) at a total outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore, including Rs. 971.70 crore as Central share.

(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.

(d) & (e): Independence of judiciary is one of the basic features of the Constitution of India as laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of S.P. Gupta vs Union of India. The Constitution has several provisions that ensure the independence and autonomy of the judiciary like security of tenure; that judicial conduct of a judge of the Supreme Court and the High Courts cannot be discussed in the Parliament and the State Legislature respectively except in case of their removal and that too on the ground of proven misbehavior and incapacity; the power of Supreme Court and High Court to punish for contempt of itself etc. Moreover the Directive Principles of State Policy lays down that the State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State.

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

**LOK SABHA**

*Appointment DVM*

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2157**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10.12.2021**

**Incidents of Violence in High Courts**

**2157. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:**

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

- (a) the details of the violence/altercations/conflicts in High courts and District courts during the last four years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the infrastructure installed for surveillance and security purposes in High courts and District courts, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the security provided to High court and District court judges, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to enhance security at the courts for the protection of the judges?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (d): As per the information made available by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), 'Police' and 'Public order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies. Further, maintenance of order in the Court's premises as well as safety and security of Judges is

:2:

also the responsibility of State Governments /UT Administrations. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain data regarding violence/altercations/conflicts in High courts and District courts.

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

*e Courts*

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2174**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**Common Video Conferencing Platform**

2174. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that various District Courts across the country are presently using a variety of platforms to conduct hearings through video conferencing, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Ministry plans to bring about uniformity in the same by introducing common video-conferencing platform that can be made available to the States to facilitate ease of access to justice in all the District Courts of the country, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**  
**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a): Yes Sir. District courts across the country are using different platforms to conduct hearings through video-conferencing (VC). The details are at Annexure.
- (b): Introduction of a common VC platform in the courts is desirable from the point of view of uniformity as well as data security protocol subject to the platform having the capacity to optimally function. Presently a common solution of VC platform named BHARAT VC managed by NIC is only available for government departments.



## Annexure

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2174 for 10/12/2021 regarding Common Video Conferencing Platform. The High Court-wise list of Video Conference applications used in District Courts:

S. No	High Court	Video Conferencing applications used in District Courts
1	Allahabad	Jitsi Meet
2	Andhra Pradesh	Blue Jeans
3	Bombay	Zoom, Cisco WebEx, Jitsi Meet, Google Meet, Whats APP
4	Calcutta	Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, Whats APP
5	Chhattisgarh	Vidyo Connect, Jitsi Meet, Google Meet
6	Delhi	Cisco WebEx
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	Jitsi Meet
8	Gauhati - Assam	Vidyo Connect, Jitsi Meet, Google Meet
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	Vidyo Connect, Cisco WebEx, Jitsi Meet, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	Jitsi Meet, Google Meet
11	Gujarat	Zoom
12	Himachal Pradesh	Vidyo Connect, Zoom, Cisco WebEx, Jitsi Meet, Google Meet
13	Common High Court for UT of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	Zoom, Jitsi Meet, Whats APP
14	Jharkhand	Vidyo Connect, Cisco WebEx, Jitsi Meet, Google Meet, Whats APP
15	Karnataka	Vidyo Connect, Zoom, Jitsi Meet, Microsoft Teams
16	Kerala	Google Meet, WhatsApp, People link application for remand extension provided by Prisons Department, Government of Kerala, Google Duo
17	Madhya Pradesh	Cisco WebEx, Jitsi Meet
18	Madras	Microsoft Teams
19	Manipur	Cisco WebEx, Jitsi Meet
20	Meghalaya	Vidyo Connect, Jitsi Meet, WhatsApp, Bharat VC
21	Orissa	Vidyo Connect, Jitsi Meet, Google Meet, WhatsApp, Skype
22	Patna	Microsoft Teams
23	Punjab and Haryana	Vidyo or Vidyo Connect
24	Rajasthan	Microsoft Teams
25	Sikkim	Vidyo Connect, Jitsi Meet
26	Telangana	Cisco WebEx, Jitsi Meet
27	Tripura	Vidyo Connect, Zoom, Google Meet
28	Uttarakhand	Vidyo Connect, Jitsi Meet, Google Meet

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

eCourts

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2195**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**Video Conferencing in Criminal Cases**

2195. SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to understand why video conferencing in criminal cases has neither shortened trials nor reduced the number of people awaiting trial and need to address uneven digital access for the purpose;
- (b) if so, the details of the remedial steps taken by the Government keeping in view the fact that while mobile phones are widely owned and used, access to the internet remains limited to urban users and lawyers in semi urban and rural districts find online hearings challenging, mostly due to connectivity issues and an unfamiliarity with this way of working; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**  
**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) : No Sir.

(b) & (c): During the Covid lockdown period physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. The initial technical glitches were gradually tackled and video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts. A variety of platforms are being used to conduct hearings through video conferencing such as Vidyo Connect, Jitsi Meet, Zoom, Cisco WebEx, Google Meet, WhatsApp, Microsoft Teams etc. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,01,77,289 cases while the High Court heard 55,24,021 cases (totalling to 1.57 core) till 31.10.2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court of India held 1,50,692 hearings during this period upto 29. 10.2021, making it the world leader.

To further improve the video-conferencing facilities, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including Taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available to High Courts. Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been acquired. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds have been released to High Courts for procurement of 1732 Document Visualizers.

To bridge the ICT access divide amongst stake-holders in the court eco-system, funds have been released for setting up 235 eSewa Kendras at all High Courts and one District Court in every state. A Nyay Kaushal Centre has been started in Nagpur to provide all e-facilities along with VC facilities. Mobile e-Courts vehicles for video conferencing for speedy disposal of cases equipped with Wi-Fi and computers were started in Telangana and Uttarakhand. The Wide Area Network (WAN) Project under

eCourts project aimed at connecting all District and Subordinate court complexes was geared up across the country by using available alternative technologies like OFC, RF, VSAT. So far, 2956 sites have been commissioned out of 2992 sites with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed (completing 98.7% sites). This forms the backbone for the eCourts project for ensuring data connectivity in courts across the length and breadth of the country.

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

eCourts

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2221  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

e-Courts

2221. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has established e-Courts in Jabalpur, Guwahati, Jodhpur and Raipur;
- (b) if so, the status of such e-courts;
- (c) whether they are functioning efficiently, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any plans of establishing such e-Courts in other cities/States including that of Odisha; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c) : The Districts and Taluka Courts of Jabalpur, Guwahati, Jodhpur and Raipur have been computerized under the eCourts Project and linked to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As per the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) status of cases in Jabalpur, Guwahati, Jodhpur and Raipur districts are as follows:

<b>Cases as per NJDG as on 03.12.2021</b>				
<b>Sr No</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Civil Cases</b>	<b>Criminal Cases</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E=C+D</b>
1	Jabalpur	38759	93864	132623
2	Jodhpur	5646	20094	25740
3	Jodhpur Metro	25720	76475	102195
4	Raipur	12562	61715	74277
5	Kamrup	3687	8708	12395
6	Kamrup Metro	22880	44156	67036

(d) to (e) : Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country including Odisha for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts including those located in Odisha have increased to 18,735 as on 01.12.2021. WAN connectivity has been provided to 98.7% of court complexes. 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 03.12.2021, litigants can access case status of over 19.76 crore cases and 15.99 crore orders/ 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. An e-filing system introduced in the year 2018 has been upgraded to version 3.0 with advanced and user friendly features. 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-Sewa Kendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgements/orders, court/case related information and eFiling facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for filing in various court complexes.

Fifteen Virtual Courts have been set up in 11 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to try traffic offences. As on 03.12.2021, these courts have handled more than 1.07 crore cases and realised more than Rs.201.96 crore in fines. The Virtual Court in Odisha was started in August 2021.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,01,77,289 cases while the High Court heard 55,24,021 cases (totalling to 1.57 core) till 31.10.2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court heard 1,50,692 hearings since the lockdown period upto 29.10.2021. The High Court of Orissa has heard 2,18,073 cases from

23.03.2020 to 31.10.2021 while the District Courts in Odisha have heard 1,81,653 cases from 01.03.2020 to 31.10.2021 (totalling to 3,99,726).

Live streaming of cases is functional from 02.08.2021 in High Court of Orissa. The High Court's e-Services Mobile App to help lawyers and litigants in availing cases and Court related information from the convenience of their smartphones was launched on 02.08.2021. Besides providing Case Status, Cause List, New Cases Filed, Judgment/Orders, Defect Status, Certified Copy Status, the Mobile App also features a live Display Board for all Benches and a Digital Notice Board of the Court. The 'Free Text Search' facility conceptualized by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India for searching judgments and orders of the High Court has been integrated with the High Court's Mobile App for convenient access.

The High Court of Orissa has launched a Software Module called the Order Communication Portal (OCP) to facilitate secure and instantaneous communication of High Court's orders and judgments to Subordinate Courts in a paperless environment, thereby saving resources and time consumed in traditional methods of correspondence.

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**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2226**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

277<sup>th</sup> Law Commission Report

*Coordination Sec.*

**2226. SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI:**

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

- a) whether all the State and UTs have responded to the recommendations of the 277<sup>th</sup> Law Commission Report as requested by the Government;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) if not, whether the Government has sent subsequent reminders to the States, if so, the details thereof;
- d) whether the recommendations of the Law Commission have been accepted by the Government, if so, the details thereof; and
- e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE**  
**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (e): Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that it had circulated the 277<sup>th</sup> report of the Law Commission to the States/ UTs for their comments on 16.10.2018, as the subject falls in the concurrent list. Till date 14 States have given their comments. The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 146<sup>th</sup> Report dated 23.06.2010, had recommended that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System of the country. Earlier, the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 111<sup>th</sup> and 128<sup>th</sup> Report had also stressed upon the need to reform and rationalise the criminal law of the country by introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bring about piece meal amendments in respective Acts. The Government agrees with the recommendations of the Department related- Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

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

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**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2265  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**PENDING CASES**

**†2265. SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:**

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

- (a) whether lakhs of cases are pending for years across all the courts of the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the number of fast track courts constituted, at all levels, so far;**
- (d) the number of cases in which final verdicts have been pronounced during the last three years;**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to constitute fast track courts for the farmers at village level; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a) & (b):** The number of cases pending with various courts in the country is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pendency as on
1	Supreme Court of India	70,038 (08.11.2021)*
2	High Courts	56,45,617 (06.12.2021)**
3	District & Subordinate Courts	4,09,34,646 (06.12.2021)**

Source

\*Website of Supreme Court of India.

\*\*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

(c): Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and its functioning comes within the domain of the State governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. In order to provide speedy justice, the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission had endorsed the proposal of Union of India including the proposal for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for dealing with specific natured cases of heinous crimes, civil cases pertaining to women, children, senior citizens, other vulnerable sections of society etc and property related cases pending above 5 years. As per data provided by the High Courts up to October, 2021, total 914 Fast Track Courts are functional in 23 States/UTs.

(d): As per the information provided by High Courts, the cases disposed of by Fast Track Courts during the last three years are as follows:-

Sl No.	Year	Number of cases disposed of
1	2019	4,79,426
2	2020	2,39,956
3	2021 (January to October)	3,18,491

(e) & (f): Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and its functioning comes within the domain of the State governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. As per information available, there are no Fast Track Courts for the farmers at village level.

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

**LOK SABHA**

*Appointment J vs*

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2274**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10.12.2021**

**Judicial Accountability**

**2274. SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to bring a law for judicial accountability of higher judiciary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement a regular performance evaluation system for judges; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (b): No, Sir. Accountability in higher judiciary is maintained through "in-house mechanism". The Supreme Court of India, in its full Court meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1997, adopted two Resolutions namely (i) "The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" which lays down certain judicial standards and principles to be observed and followed by the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts (ii) "In-House Procedure" for taking suitable remedial measure against Judges who do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life including those included in the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life.

As per the established “in-house mechanism” for the higher judiciary, the Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justices of the High Courts. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of High Court Judges. The complaints/representations received are forwarded to the Chief Justice of India or to the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, as the case may be, for appropriate action. Administrative control over the members of the subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court.

(c) to (d) : No, Sir. Judiciary being an independent organ under the Indian Constitution is capable of handling its internal matters. The Government is committed to the independence of Judiciary and does not and should not intervene in its functioning.

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

**LOK SABHA**

*JR Desk*

**STARRED QUESTION No \*289**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**Gram Nyayalayas**

**\*289. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:**

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

- (a) the present status of establishment of permanent Gram Nyayalayas across the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for new judicial officers to serve in these Gram Nyayalayas to ensure speedy and accessible justice to underprivileged citizens;
- (c) if so, the details and the present status thereof including allocation of resources to the Gram Nyayalayas in this regard, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to minimize the difficulties faced by rural population in getting justice from subordinate/High Courts as they are residing in remote areas far away from the courts ?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) of  
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*289 FOR ANSWER ON  
17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021.**

(a) to (d) : To provide access to justice to the citizen at their door steps, the Central Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. It provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level. The State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. Department of Justice has not issued any directives to make it mandatory for new judicial officer to serve in these Gram Nyayalayas, as appointment of Nyayadhikari in Gram Nyayalayas falls within the domain of the State Government.

As per information made available by State Governments / High Courts, 476 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified so far by 15 States. Out of these 256 are operational in 10 States at present. State-wise details of the Gram Nyayalayas notified, operationalised by the State Governments and status of fund release by this Department is as under:

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Gram Nyayalayas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas Functional	Fund released (Amount in Rs.lakh)
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89	2456.40
2	Rajasthan	45	45	1240.98
3	Kerala	30	30	828.00
4	Maharashtra	36	23	660.80
5	Odisha	23	19	337.40
6	Uttar Pradesh	113	43	1323.20
7	Karnataka	2	2	25.20

8	Haryana	2	2	25.20
9	Punjab	9	2	25.20
10	Jharkhand	6	1	75.60
11	Goa	2	0	25.20
12	Andhra Pradesh	42	0	436.82
13	Telangana	55	0	693.00
14	Jammu & Kashmir	20	0	0.00
15	Ladakh	2	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>476</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>8153.00</b>

The Gram Nyayalayas scheme has been evaluated from time to time. The third party evaluation of the Scheme was done through NITI Aayog recently, which recommended continuance of the scheme. The Government has extended the above scheme for a further period of five years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, with a budgetary outlay of Rs.50 crores.

The Central Government has been encouraging the States to set up Gram Nyayalayas by providing financial assistance. As per the scheme, the Central Government provides one-time assistance to States towards non-recurring expenses for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. The Central Government also provides assistance towards recurring expenses for operating these Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya per year for the first three years.

The Central Government has been regularly following up with the State Governments and the High Courts for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in the respective States. During the current year, 05 (five) meetings have been held



with the Registrar Generals of High Courts and Law / Home / Finance Secretaries of State Governments to expeditiously set up Gram Nyayalayas and appoint Nyayadhikaris to enable rural population to get justice at the village level.

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

**LOK SABHA**

*Appointment DUT*

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*291**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17.12.2021**

**Regional Benches of Supreme Court**

**\*291. SHRI ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE:  
SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:**

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set up Benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the progress made so far in this regard; and
- (c) whether Bengaluru is considered as a suitable option to set up a Bench of Supreme Court in South India and if so, the progress made in regard thereto?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(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. 291 due for answer on 17.12.2021 regarding "Regional Benches of Supreme Court"**

(a) to (c) : Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that 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 125<sup>th</sup> Report titled "The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look", submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95<sup>th</sup> 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 Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229<sup>th</sup> 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 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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**LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*297**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

*Justice II*

**Family Courts**

**\*297. SHRI RAVI KISHAN:**

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

- (a) the number of family courts functioning at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases filed in these courts during the last three years;
- (c) the number of cases disposed of by such courts and pending, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for expediting the disposal of such cases in the country ?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*297 FOR THE 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021 REGARDING 'FAMILY COURTS'

(a): As per information made available by High Courts, presently 732 Family Courts are functional across the country. The State/UT wise details of functional family courts is placed at **Annexure-I**.

(b): The number of cases filed in family courts as per information given by High Courts is given at **Annexure-II**.

(c): The number of cases disposed of by family courts and cases pending as per information given by High Courts is given at **Annexure- III**.

(d): Disposal of pending cases in courts including family courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of cases by the respective courts. However, the Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. Accordingly, several initiatives have been taken to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

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

**Annexure-I****State/UT-wise Status of Functional Family Courts (As on 31.10.2021)**

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	No of Functional Courts
1	Andhra Pradesh	16
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	7
5	Bihar	37
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	26
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Delhi	21
10	Diu & Daman	0
11	Goa	0
12	Gujarat	33
13	Haryana	31
14	Himachal Pradesh	3
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0
16	Jharkhand	24
17	Karnataka	39
18	Kerala	28
19	Ladakh	0
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	33
22	Maharashtra	40
23	Manipur	4
24	Meghalaya	0
25	Mizoram	0
26	Nagaland	2
27	Odisha	26
28	Puducherry	2
29	Punjab	32
30	Rajasthan	47
31	Sikkim	4
32	Tamil Nadu	39
33	Telangana	20
34	Tripura	9
35	Uttar Pradesh	189
36	Uttarakhand	18
37	West Bengal	2
	Total	732

**Annexure-II****State/UT wise status of number of cases filed in the Family Courts**

(As on 31.10.2021)

S.No.	State/UT	Cases Filed during the year 2019	Cases Filed during the year 2020	Cases Filed during the year 2021 (Up to October, 2021)
1	Andhra Pradesh	7421	3343	5880
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	0	4688
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4	Assam	5574	2732	2227
5	Bihar	24377	11969	13298
6	Chandigarh	0	0	535
7	Chhattisgarh	15069	5346	10194
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
9	Delhi	37978	19256	22108
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	6522
12	Gujarat	27529	14041	15696
13	Haryana	59033	29646	26914
14	Himachal Pradesh	14745	7324	1828
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	1995
16	Jharkhand	12052	6215	11293
17	Karnataka	25114	16618	25885
18	Kerala	60338	43022	36877
19	Ladakh	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	37948	15950	21629
22	Maharashtra	29993	19554	25071
23	Manipur	887	342	9153
24	Meghalaya	0	0	108
25	Mizoram	0	0	1033
26	Nagaland	147	82	3571
27	Odisha	13345	8038	7252
28	Puducherry	751	668	598
29	Punjab	70374	23630	61741
30	Rajasthan	39935	21518	17703

31	Sikkim	277	179	179
32	Tamil Nadu	21660	16316	14474
33	Telangana	9252	5733	7494
34	Tripura	2893	1512	12823
35	Uttar Pradesh	305487	190709	117233
36	Uttarakhand	11238	9508	7865
37	West Bengal	721	298	905
	<b>Total</b>	<b>834138</b>	<b>473549</b>	<b>494817</b>



**Annexure-III****State/UT wise status of number of cases disposed and pending in the Family Courts**

S.NO.	State/UT	Cases disposed of during the year of 2019	Cases disposed of during the year of 2020	Cases disposed of during the year of 2021 (Up to October, 2021)	Cases pending as on 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2021
1	Andhra Pradesh	4827	2286	1360	10069
2	Andman Nicobar	0	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	7364	1574	2801	9688
5	Bihar	15336	5729	6671	67954
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	9236	3737	7745	17758
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0		0
9	Delhi	17638	5691	19027	38268
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	13754	8918	17736	35977
13	Haryana	14909	18187	25112	63459
14	Himachal Pradesh	5570	7331	2447	5138
15	Jammu & Kashmir	47	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	6836	3537	4126	19184
17	Karnataka	11645	8988	17645	40169
18	Kerala	25309	23067	35149	113706
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	15596	9922	15350	36308
22	Maharashtra	65302	11774	21199	64907
23	Manipur	466	311	150	973
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	146	0	0	0

26	Nagaland	41	88	130	146
27	Odisha	4754	4159	5806	44460
28	Puducherry	471	374	659	1512
29	Punjab	10249	14811	31433	82135
30	Rajasthan	16941	15731	19965	48904
31	Sikkim	173	128	216	268
32	Tamil Nadu	14478	8840	9138	32984
33	Telangana	9857	3451	9106	18144
34	Tripura	1801	1026	2203	3349
35	Uttar Pradesh	266775	112214	134574	406686
36	Uttarakhand	4379	3588	8751	16359
37	West Bengal	8484	229	96	1166
	<b>Total</b>	<b>552384</b>	<b>275691</b>	<b>398595</b>	<b>1179671</b>

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

**LOK SABHA**

*Appointment DVN*

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3231**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17.12.2021**

**High Court Benches**

**†3231. SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA:  
SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:  
PROF. SOUGATA RAY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to setup new High Court benches in the country, if so, the details thereof and the requests received in this regard from various States;
- (b) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from the Government of Odisha for setting up new High Court bench in undivided district of Koraput;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal;
- (d) whether the Government has taken necessary steps to set up the said High Court bench, if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (e): High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No.379 of 2000 and after due

consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural facilities and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day today administration of the High Court. The proposal to be complete should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

The State Government of Odisha has requested for setting up of Orissa High Court Bench in Western and Southern region of Odisha. The Central Government has requested the State Government of Odisha to work out details of proposed Bench including its location in consultation with High Court of Orissa. However, no response has been received yet.

At present, no complete proposal regarding setting up of Bench(es) of Orissa High Court is pending with the Government.

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

LOK SABHA

A2J/LAP

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3235

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**Tele-Law Scheme**

3235 SHRI ANURAG SHARMA :

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched Tele-Law scheme particularly in Uttar Pradesh (UP), if so, the details thereof along with its main features;
- (b) whether the government plans to extend this scheme throughout the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to spread awareness and convey in simple language the legal procedure for ease of access to the poor and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of the Tele-Law Paralegal volunteers who have associated with the scheme State/UT-wise including UP?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE,  
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

- (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. Tele-Law programme was launched in 2017 in 11 States covering 170 districts through 1800 Common Service Centers (CSCs) including Uttar Pradesh. Tele-Law programme aims to provide legal advice at the pre-litigation stage to the beneficiary by connecting them with Panel Lawyers via video conferencing and telephone facilities which are available at the CSCs at Panchayat level. This service

is free for persons entitled under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 and for others by paying Rs.30/- per consultation. Tele-Law is presently operational in 669 districts across 36 States/UTs covering 75,000 Gram Panchayat through CSCs. Presently, it covers 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh covering 12,952 CSCs. 50,000 additional CSC/Gram Panchayat will be covered each year with an aim to reach out to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayat by the year 2026. Tele-Law has served more than 12.5 lakh beneficiaries till date which includes 2.07 lakh beneficiaries in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (c) 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 79,000 Legal Awareness Camps have been organized by Legal Service Authorities from April, 2021 to September 2021 which were attended by more than 48.80 lakh citizens. Recently, a six-week long Pan India Legal Awareness and outreach campaign was also carried out as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration by NALSA in order to reach each and every village/Urban area of the country. This campaign intended to maximize the outreach of Legal Services Authorities spreading awareness regarding the availability of free legal services to the masses. Door-to-Door visits were organized in 17.98 lakh villages reaching out to 83.67 cr citizens.

In addition, the Government implemented the programme of "Access to Justice in North Eastern States and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh" from 2012 to 2021. 4390 Legal Awareness/ Legal Literacy programmes were conducted reaching out to more than 4.8 lakh beneficiaries. 8.3 lakh copies of simplified IEC materials

were disseminated on 69 laws in 26 languages/ dialects for easy understanding and comprehension of the common citizens.

(d) State-wise information of Para Legal Volunteers under Tele-Law including the State of Uttar Pradesh is at Annexure A.

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**ANNEXURE - A**

**Statement as referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3235 for answering on 17.12.2021 raised by Shri Anurag Sharma, MP – Tele-Law Scheme.**

**Statement containing the information of State-wise break up of Para Legal Volunteers**

<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>State's/UTs</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Andaman And Nicobar	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1119
3	Arunachal Pradesh	4
4	Assam	2116
5	Bihar	4090
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	2734
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	0
9	Delhi	0
10	Goa	0
11	Gujarat	1710
12	Haryana	2639
13	Himachal Pradesh	586
14	Jammu & Kashmir	966
15	Jharkhand	2799
16	Karnataka	590
17	Kerala	408
18	Ladakh	13
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	3980
21	Maharashtra	2595
22	Manipur	106
23	Meghalaya	210
24	Mizoram	112
25	Nagaland	114
26	Odisha	1798
27	Puducherry	8
28	Punjab	1097
29	Rajasthan	815
30	Sikkim	32
31	Tamil Nadu	579
32	Telangana	676
33	Tripura	268
34	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>7616</b>
35	Uttarakhand	898
36	West Bengal	981
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41,659</b>



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AJY LAP

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3239

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**Tele-Law on Wheels**

3239 SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently launched 'Tele-Law on Wheels' campaign to empower people through pre-litigation advice for rightfully claiming their entitlements and for timely redressal of their difficulties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of States/UTs likely to be covered under the said campaign along with number of likely beneficiaries thereunder; and
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to launch the Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile App and if so, the details thereof along with number of Lawyers empanelled to offer legal advice and consultation for the purpose?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government launched the "Tele-Law on Wheels" campaign from 8th to 14th November, 2021 during which Special Tele-Law branded Mobile vans travelled 30-40 kilometres every day providing information on Tele-Law through distribution of leaflets, broadcast of Tele-Law radio jingle and videos for encouraging those in need to seek legal advice and consultation through tele and

video conferencing facilities by visiting their nearest Common Service Centers (CSCs) offering Tele-Law services. The Tele-Law on Wheels campaign was rolled out in 16 States and UTs. In remaining States/UTs 4,250 awareness and community mobilization sessions were conducted. During one week, the campaign reached out to 52,000 participants and benefitted 17,000 beneficiaries with pre-litigation advice and consultation. The Tele-Law on Wheels is one of the various initiatives undertaken to promote and encourage accessibility to pre-litigation advice under the Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached programme and has presently, benefitted 12.5 lakh beneficiaries with pre-litigation advice covering 669 districts in 36 States/UTs in the country.

(d) The Government has launched the Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile App on 13.11.2021. The Mobile Application enables the beneficiary to access pre-litigation advice and consultation directly from the Panel Lawyer, free of cost. The Application is available in six languages which are: English, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi. The Application is available in Android version and can be downloaded from Google Play Store. So far, 124 Panel Lawyers are empanelled under Tele-Law.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A2J/LAP

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LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3248  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

Nyaya Mitra Scheme

3248. DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:  
DR. HEENA GAVIT:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:  
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:  
SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has initiated Nyaya Mitra Scheme in the country including Maharashtra, if so, the details and the aims and objectives thereof indicating the number and particulars of cases disposed off under the said scheme, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any step to extend the scheme to other States of the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the timeline, if any, set for this purpose;
- (d) whether the scheme has achieved the objective for which it was set up and if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the States where it has been implemented; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to provide free legal advice to the marginalized people?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Nyaya Mitra aims to facilitate expeditious disposal of decade old pending cases in High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Since April 2017, a total number of 27 Nyaya Mitras were engaged in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Odisha and Maharashtra who assisted the courts concerned in disposal of 2019 old cases. The State-wise details of case disposal by Nyaya Mitra is at Annexure-A. No fresh Nyaya Mitra could be engaged during the year 2020-2021

due to closure of courts and social distancing protocols caused by Covid pandemic. 80 Nyaya Mitras will be engaged across the country from 2021-2026. Nyaya Mitras who were engaged have helped in disposal of 2019 old cases, which include civil cases such as matrimonial cases, accident claim cases and also criminal cases.

- (e) The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 provides free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunities.

For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. During the period from April, 2021 to September, 2021, 3.10 lakhs persons have been provided with free legal services and 75.41 lakhs cases (pending in courts and disputes at pre-litigation stage) have been settled through Lok Adalats.

In addition, the Government has launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Legal Services) programme to link the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987 with the pro-bono lawyers. 3603 pro bono advocates have been registered under the programme and 1448 cases have been registered by the beneficiaries. Tele-law programme, being run by the Government across 669 districts in 36 States/UTs provides legal advice to public including persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987, at pre-litigation stage by the Panel Lawyers through 75,000 Common Service Centre (CSC) at the Panchayats. Tele-law has enabled advice to more than 12.5 lakh beneficiaries till date.

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**Annexure-A**

<b>Statement as referred to in reply to Part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3248 for 17.12.2021 raised by Dr. Sujay Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Dr. Heena Gavit, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Shri Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane, Shri Unmesh Bhaiyasaheb Patil</b>		
<b>A State-wise Statement containing number of cases disposed off by Nyaya Mitra</b>		
<b>S.No</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>No. of cases disposed off</b>
1	Bihar	44
2	Maharashtra	313
3	Odisha	169
4	Rajasthan	1360
5	Uttar Pradesh	111
6	West Bengal	22
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2019</b>

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Admn.

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO .3257

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**Online Gaming Industry**

**3257. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has passed any legislation to control and regulate the online gaming industry in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any legislation or rule and regulations passed by the Government addresses the impact of such games on the mental health of children and adolescents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to pass any new legislation to address this issue; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (f):- No, Sir. As informed by Ministry of Education, to overcome the downsides of online gaming and to curb the mental and physical stress caused to the children, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India has issued an advisory to the state authorities of all States/UTs containing Do's and Don'ts for parents and teachers on children's safe online gaming. The Advisory is available

at: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1780177>

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A25/LJP

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3264  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**GOVERNMENT COUNSELS**

3264. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

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

- (a) the procedure laid down by the Government for appointing Government Counsel for providing legal assistance to the people;
- (b) the number of Government Counsels in the country at present;
- (c) whether the posts of Government Counsels are vacant or there is a need to appoint more Government Counsels, if so, the details thereof ;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up a centre to solve cases with mutual consent along with providing free of cost legal assistance in every district or tehsil for dispensation of justice to all; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 provides for criteria and procedure for empanelment of panel lawyers for providing legal assistance to the eligible sections of the population. The selection of panel lawyers is made by the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution in consultation with the Attorney General for India [for the Supreme Court], Advocate General [for the High Court], District Attorney or Government Pleader [for District and Taluka level] and the Monitoring and

Mentoring Committee of the Institution. However the Executive Chairman or Chairman of Legal Services Institution can also suo motu empanel a Legal practitioner.

- (b) A total number of 50,168 lawyers have been empanelled in Legal Services Institutions at State & District level across the country for providing legal assistance to the people who are eligible to receive such assistance.
- (c) There are no specific number of posts for appointment of panel lawyers for providing legal assistance as panel lawyers are not on regular roll of Legal Services Authorities. The number of lawyers empanelled depends upon the number of legal aid cases, legal service activities and other ancillary works. As of now, the required number of panel lawyers is already available with the Legal Services Institutions.
- (d) and (e) Legal Services Institutions have set up Mediation Centers for mutual settlement of disputes (pending as well as at pre-litigation stage). Mediation has emerged as a popular and useful method for settlement of disputes. As on 31.10.2021, 572 Mediation Centers have been set up throughout the country. During the year 2020-21, more than 28,000 cases have been settled through mediation amicably. During 2021-22, more than 21,000 cases have been settled till October 2021.

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

**LOK SABHA**

MM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3267  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN JUDICIARY**

**†3267. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:**

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

- (a) whether the cases has been in the court/judicial system for longer than the normal time due to shortage of manpower in the judiciary in proportion to the population of the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the number of the vacancies at various levels of the judiciary and the steps taken by the Government to fill up those vacancies during the last five years?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) & (b): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are several other factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central

Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

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

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

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 8,709.77 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 20,565 as on 31.10.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,142 as on 31.10.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,841 court halls and 1,807 residential units are under construction. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9000 crores, out of which Central share will be Rs. 5307 crores. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of Lawyer's Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms.

**(ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 as on 01.07.2021. WAN connectivity has been provided to 98.7% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.11.2021, litigants can access case status of over 19.56 crore cases and 15.72 crore order/judgments 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-Sewa Kendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

Fifteen Virtual Courts have been set up in 11 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to try traffic offences. As on 01.11.2021, these

courts have handled more than 99 lakh cases and realized more than Rs.193.15 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,01,77,289 cases while the High Court heard 55,24,021 cases (totalling to 1.57 crore) till 31.10.2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had 1,50,692 hearings since the lockdown period upto 29.10.2021.

(iii) **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 14.12.2021, 44 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 690 new Judges were appointed and 583 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 1098 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
13.12.2021	24,489	19,356

However, 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. In the past, Minister of Law &

Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers in the past drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

(v) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2021, 914 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. 160.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 681 FTSCs are presently

functional including 381 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 64217 cases as on 31.10.2021. The continuation of the Scheme of FTSC has been approved for another two years (2021-23) at a total outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore, including Rs. 971.70 crore as Central share.

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

(c): The sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position in the Supreme Court & High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts is attached at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure – II* respectively.

As per procedure prescribed in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), for appointment of Judges in the Higher Judiciary, prepared in 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 appointments of Judges of the High Court vests with the Chief Justice of the High Court. The Government considers only those names which are recommended by the High Court Collegium and the Supreme Court Collegium.

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

From 01.05.2014 to 14.12.2021, 44 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 690 new Judges were appointed and 583 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts.

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 Governments, in consultation with the High Court, frames the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement 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.

The Union Government does not have a role under the Constitution in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District/ subordinate judiciary. The Supreme Court, in its orders of 04<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 in Malik Mazhar case, has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary which stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments / High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions.

Further, in compliance of the above directions of the Supreme Court, Department of Justice forwarded a copy of the Malik Mazhar judgement to Registrars General of all High Courts for necessary action. Department of Justice is writing from time to time to Registrars General of all High Courts to expedite the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary mandated by Malik Mazhar case.

In September, 2016, Union Minister of Law & Justice wrote to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts to enhance the cadre strength of the District and Subordinate Courts and provide physical infrastructure to the State judiciary. The same was reiterated in May, 2017. The sanctioned strength of judges in District and Subordinate Courts increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 24,485 as on 30.11.2021. In August, 2018, in the context of increasing pendency of cases, the Union Minister of Law & Justice has written to all Chief Justices of High Courts to monitor the status of the vacancies regularly and to ensure proper coordination with the State Public Service Commission to fill up vacant posts as per time schedule prescribed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case. The filling up of vacancies is also being monitored by the Supreme Court in a *suo-motu* Writ Petition (Civil) No. 2 of 2018.

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**Annexure – I****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3267 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2021 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN JUDICIARY.**

Latest Vacancy Report As on 13-12-2021.

S. NO.	Name of High Court	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>High Court</b>			
1	Allahabad	160	94	66
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	20	17
3	Bombay	94	60	34
4	Calcutta	72	39	33
5	Chhattisgarh	22	13	09
6	Delhi	60	30	30
7	Gauhati	24	24	00
8	Gujarat	52	32	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	09	04
10	J & K and Ladakh	17	13	04
11	Jharkhand	25	20	05
12	Karnataka	62	45	17
13	Kerala	47	40	07
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	30	23
15	Madras	75	60	15
16	Manipur	05	05	00
17	Meghalaya	04	03	01
18	Orissa	27	18	09
19	Patna	53	26	27
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	50	35
21	Rajasthan	50	28	22
22	Sikkim	03	03	00
23	Telangana	42	19	23
24	Tripura	05	05	00
25	Uttarakhand	11	08	03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1098</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>404</b>

**Annexure - II****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3267 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2021 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN JUDICIARY.**

Latest Vacancy Report As on 13-12-2021

S. No	States & UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	-13
2	Andhra Pradesh	607	492	115
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	32	9
4	Assam	467	436	31
5	Bihar	1953	1399	554
6	Chandigarh	30	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	482	409	73
8	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
10	Delhi	862	689	173
11	Goa	50	40	10
12	Gujarat	1523	1126	397
13	Haryana	772	482	290
14	Himachal Pradesh	175	164	11
15	Jammu and Kashmir	300	241	59
16	Jharkhand	675	523	152
17	Karnataka	1363	1077	286
18	Kerala	569	490	79
19	Ladakh	17	9	8
20	Lakshadweep	3	3	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1555	466
22	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
23	Manipur	59	42	17
24	Meghalaya	97	49	48
25	Mizoram	65	42	23
26	Nagaland	34	24	10
27	Odisha	976	788	188
28	Puducherry	26	11	15
29	Punjab	692	607	85
30	Rajasthan	1548	1274	274
31	Sikkim	28	20	8
32	Tamil Nadu	1315	1087	228
33	Telangana	474	425	49
34	Tripura	121	97	24
35	Uttar Pradesh	3634	2545	1089
36	Uttarakhand	299	271	28
37	West Bengal	1014	918	96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>24489</b>	<b>19356</b>	<b>5133</b>

Source: - MIS portal of DoJ

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

**LOK SABHA**

*Appointment DUT*

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3268**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17.12.2021**

**Collegium Recommendation for Appointment of Judges**

**3268. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is withholding any names recommended by the Collegium for appointment of judges at Supreme Court and High Courts, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Collegium has reiterated any of its recommendation in last three years, if so, the details thereof and the respective actions taken by the Centre on such re-iteration;
- (c) whether the Collegium has asked any justification from the Government for withholding recommended names, if so, the details of such a query and the response by the Government; and
- (d) whether the Government is planning to formulate a new memorandum of procedure for appointment of judges, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

(a) to (d) : 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 initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. All the names recommended by High Court Collegium are sent with the views of the Government to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Government however appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by SCC.

During the period 14.12.2018 to 13.12.2021 SCC has reiterated 32 proposals, out of which Government has appointed 9 recommendees as High Court Judges and 23 proposals are under various stages of processing with the Government.

The Supreme Court while hearing WP(C) 13 of 2015 in NJAC matter issued detailed Order on 16.12.2015 on supplementing the MoP. In para 10 of the ibid Order, it was laid down that Government of India may finalize the Memorandum of Procedure by supplementing it in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The Chief Justice of India will take a decision based on the unanimous view of the Collegium comprising of four senior most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The supplementation of Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) is under finalization by the Government in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium. The Department of Justice has conveyed the stand of the Government vide letter dated 11.07.2017 of Secretary (Justice) to Secretary General, Supreme Court of India.

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

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**LOK SABHA**

*Justice-I*

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3286  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**Fast Track and Special Courts**

**3286. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:**

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

- (a) the total number of fast track and special courts set up under special statutes in the country;
- (b) the details of the average time taken by these courts from the time of filing of case to rendering a verdict;
- (c) whether the fast track and special courts have reduced the burden on the judiciary; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a to d): Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and its functioning comes within the domain of the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. As per information received from the High Courts, 914 FTCs are functional in 23 States/UTs as on October, 2021 dealing with cases of heinous crimes, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizens, HIV/AIDS etc and property related cases pending for more than 5 years as recommended by 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. Special courts are set up in the country on specific matters by the concerned Ministry /Department which administer these special statutes. In pursuance to the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's Order dated 01.11.2017 and 14.12.2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) 699/2016 [Ashwini Kumar Upadhyaya Vs Union of India & Anr] case, 12 Special Courts were set up in 11 States [NCT of Delhi-02, Andhra Pradesh-01, Telangana-1, Karnataka-1, Kerala-1,

Tamil Nadu-1, Maharashtra-1, Madhya Pradesh-1, Uttar Pradesh-1, Bihar-1 and West Bengal-1] for expeditious trial and disposal of criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs. 10 such Special Courts are presently functional except Special Court of Kerala and Bihar. The Government of India is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme since October 2019 for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. The Scheme which started in Oct 2019, has been extended up to 31.03.2023. 681 FTSCs including 381 e-POCSO Courts are presently functional in 27 States/UTs.

These FTCs have disposed more than 31.92 lakh cases from 2015 till Oct 2021. The FTSCs have disposed 64,217 cases as on 31.10.2021. The above case disposal figures shows how FTCs and FTSCs have helped in swift disposal of pending cases. The issue of setting up of FTSCs and their early operationalization has been taken up with concerned States/UTs at various level from time to time. Minister of Law & Justice has addressed letters to Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts in this regard. In addition, regular review meetings with officials of the States/UTs and High Court functionaries are being held from time to time for operationalization of remaining FTSCs so as to further reduce the burden on judiciary. However, the details of the average time taken by these courts from the time of filing of case to rendering a verdict being dynamic in nature is not centrally maintained.

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

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*Justice-II*

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3292  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**Fast Track Courts for Undertrial Prisoners**

**3292. SHRI B.B. PATIL:**

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 ?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)**

(a): There is no proposal to form a fast track court to provide justice to the undertrial prisoners in various jails of the country at present.

(b) to (d): In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3295

*Appointment JMH*

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17.12.2021

**Vacant Posts of Judges**

†3295. **SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:**  
**SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:**  
**SHRI TALARI RANGAIAH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the vacant posts of Judges in High Court and other courts in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the said vacant posts of Judges;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed a plan to fill up such vacancies in a stipulated time period, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether delay is being caused in disposal of cases due to posts of Judges lying vacant, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to fix any time limit to dispose of these cases at the earliest; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c) : 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 initiation of proposal



for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal to fill up of vacancy of a High Court Judge six months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. However, this timeline is often not adhered to by the High Courts.

As on 14.12.2021, there is 01 post of Judge vacant in the Supreme Court of India and 404 posts of Judges are vacant in the High Courts. Recommendations received in respect of 167 vacancies for appointment as Judges in various High Courts are at various stages of processing between the SCC and Government while recommendations for 237 vacancies are yet to be received from the respective High Courts Collegiums. While filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process requiring consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities, vacancies keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. Government is committed to filling up of vacancy expeditiously in time-bound manner. A Statement showing details of vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 14.12.2021 is at **Annexure**.

As per constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of Judges in Subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the concerned High Courts and State Governments.

(d) to (f) : Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency.

It may be mentioned that the pendency of cases in courts is not only due to shortage of judges in High Courts but also due to various other factors like (i) increase in number of state and central legislations, (ii) accumulation of first appeals, (iii) continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, (iv) appeals against orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, (v) number of revisions/appeals, (vi) frequent adjournments, (vii) indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction, (viii) lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, tracking and bunching of cases for hearing, (ix) vacation period of Courts, (x) assigning work of administrative nature to the Judges, etc.

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**Annexure**

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.†3295 due for answer on 17.12.2021 regarding “Vacant Posts of Judges”

(As on 14.12.2021)

	Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>High Courts</b>			
1	Allahabad	160	94	66
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	20	17
3	Bombay	94	60	34
4	Calcutta	72	39	33
5	Chhattisgarh	22	13	09
6	Delhi	60	30	30
7	Gauhati	24	24	0
8	Gujarat	52	32	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	09	04
10	J & K and Ladakh	17	13	04
11	Jharkhand	25	20	05
12	Karnataka	62	45	17
13	Kerala	47	40	07
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	30	23
15	Madras	75	60	15
16	Manipur	05	05	0
17	Meghalaya	04	03	01
18	Orissa	27	18	09
19	Patna	53	26	27
20	Punjab& Haryana	85	50	35
21	Rajasthan	50	28	22
22	Sikkim	03	03	0
23	Telangana	42	19	23
24	Tripura	05	05	0
25	Uttarakhand	11	08	03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1098</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>404</b>

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

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**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3302  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**CASES PENDING IN RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT**

**†3302. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:**

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

- (a) the details of such cases which have been lying pending in the Rajasthan High Court for the last five years or more;**
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed the reasons for pendency of cases for years along with the measures taken to improve the said estimation;**
- (c) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued any directions for establishment of Gram Nyayalaya in villages; and**
- (d) if so, the number of such Gram Nyayalayas set up in Rajasthan under the target fixed and the number of remaining Gram Nyayalaya's to be set up?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a):** The statement of pending cases in the Rajasthan High Court for the last five years or more is as under:-

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Civil</b>	<b>Criminal</b>	<b>Total</b>
3 to 5 Years	57830	17504	75334
5 to 10 Years	67004	19516	86520
10 to 20 Years	49821	23972	73793
20 to 30 Years	4426	6580	11006
Above 30 Years	117	407	524
<b>Total</b>	<b>179198</b>	<b>67979</b>	<b>247177</b>

**(b):** Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No

time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are several other factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

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

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

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 8,709.77 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 20,565 as on 31.10.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,142 as on 31.10.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,841 court halls and 1,807 residential units are under construction. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9000 crores, out of which Central share will be Rs. 5307 crores. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of Lawyer's Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms.

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**(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 29.11.2021, 44 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 688 new Judges were appointed and 583 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 1098 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
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However, 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. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers in the past drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

(v) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2021, 914 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. 160.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 681 FTSCs are presently functional including 381 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 64217 cases as on 31.10.2021. The continuation of the Scheme of FTSC has been approved for another two years (2021-23) at a total outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore, including Rs. 971.70 crore as Central share.

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

(c): To provide access to justice to the citizen at their door steps, the Central Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. It provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level. The State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. However, the Act does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of National Federation of Societies for Fast Justice & Anr. versus Union of India & Ors. (W.P. (Civil) No.1067/2019) vide its order dated 29.01.2020 had directed to consider the proposal for increasing the recurring grant to Gram Nyayalayas.

The Gram Nyayalaya Scheme has been extended by the Central Government for further 5 (five) years up to 2025-26 with a total budget outlay of Rs.50 crore.

(d): As per information made available by State Government and High Court of Rajasthan, 45 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified and operationalised in Rajasthan.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A2J/LJP

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3329  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**ACCESS OF POOR PEOPLE TO JUSTICE**

†3329. SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the remark made by the retiring Supreme Court Justice stating that legal system in India favours the rich and powerful;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to increase access to justice for poor people of the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has received any representation in this regard, if so, the details thereof and the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) to (c) The Government has undertaken several measures to make available affordable, quality and speedy justice to the common man. The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 provides free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunities. The Government has not received any representation in this regard.

For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. During the period from April, 2021 to

September, 2021, 3.10 lakhs persons have been provided with free legal services and 75.41 lakhs cases (pending in courts and disputes at pre-litigation stage) have been settled through Lok Adalats. Legal Aid Clinics have also been set up in jails, observation homes, juvenile justice boards which are manned by panel lawyers and para legal volunteers of legal services authorities. Further to enable equitable access to justice, National Legal Services Authorities (NALSA) has also launched Legal Services Mobile App on Android and iOS version to enable easy access to legal aid to common citizens.

In addition, the Government has launched two important legal empowerment initiatives which includes Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Legal Services) programme to link the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987 with the pro-bono lawyers. 3583 pro bono advocates have been registered under the programme and 1436 cases have been registered by the beneficiaries. The other initiative is the Tele-law programme, being run by the Government which provides legal advice to public including persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987, at pre-litigation stage by the Panel Lawyers through the Common Service Centre (CSC) at the Panchayats. Tele-law has served more than 12.5 lakh beneficiaries till date.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3348  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

PENDING CASES IN HIGH COURTS AND SUBORDINATE COURTS

3348. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending in various High Court and subordinate courts across the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that the High Courts are functioning at half of sanctioned strength, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government proposes to ensure that recruitment for vacant posts of judges of High Court as well as in all subordinate courts of Kerala is completed as per the requirement?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a): The number of cases pending in various High Court and subordinate courts across the country, State/UT-wise is at *Annexure -I* and *Annexure - II* respectively.
- (b): Against the sanctioned strength of 1098 Judges in High Courts, 694 Judges are working leaving 404 vacancies. The sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position in respect of High Courts is at *Annexure-III*.
- (c): As per procedure prescribed in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), for appointment of Judges in the Higher Judiciary, prepared in 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 appointments of

Judges of the High Court vests with the Chief Justice of the High Court. The Government considers only those names which are recommended by the High Court Collegium and the Supreme Court Collegium.

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

From 01.05.2014 to 14.12.2021, 44 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 690 new Judges were appointed and 583 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. 120 Judges have been appointed in High Courts during the period 01.01.2021 till date. 167 proposals are pending/under process with the Supreme Court Collegium and Government. There are 237 vacancies for which recommendations have not been received from High Courts.

During the period 01.01.2021 till date, 12 Judges have been appointed in the Kerala High Court and 03 proposals are at different stages of consideration.

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 Governments, in consultation with the High Court, frames the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement 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.

The Union Government does not have a role under the Constitution in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District/ subordinate judiciary. The Supreme Court, in its orders of 04th January, 2007 in Malik Mazhar case, has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary which stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments / High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions.

Further, in compliance of the above directions of the Supreme Court, Department of Justice forwarded a copy of the Malik Mazhar judgement to Registrars General of all High Courts for necessary action. Department of Justice is writing from time to time to Registrars General of all High Courts to expedite the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary mandated by Malik Mazhar case.

In September, 2016, Union Minister of Law & Justice wrote to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts to enhance the cadre strength of the District and Subordinate Courts and provide physical infrastructure to the State judiciary. The same was reiterated in May, 2017. The sanctioned strength of judges in District and Subordinate Courts increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 24,485 as on 30.11.2021. In August, 2018, in the context of increasing pendency of cases, the Union Minister of Law & Justice has written to all Chief Justices of High Courts to monitor the status of the vacancies regularly and to ensure proper coordination with the State Public Service Commission to fill up vacant posts as per time schedule prescribed by the

Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case. The filling up of vacancies is also being monitored by the Supreme Court in a suo-motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 2 of 2018.

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**Annexure - I****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3348 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2021 REGARDING PENDING CASES IN HIGH COURTS AND SUBORDINATE COURTS.**

Sl. No	Name of High Courts	Pending Cases (Civil)	Pending Cases (Criminal)	Number of Cases pending in High Courts as on 13.12.2021
1.	Allahabad High Court	417768	383245	801013
2.	Calcutta High Court	190162	35447	225609
3.	Gauhati High Court	44445	10761	55206
4.	High Court for the State of Telangana	218659	35464	254123
5.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	188963	32825	221788
6.	High Court of Bombay	470084	93726	563810
7.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	51000	29474	80474
8.	High Court of Delhi	74213	26880	101093
9.	High Court of Gujarat	101465	50665	152130
10.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	71342	9992	81334
11.	High Court of Jammu & Kashmir	41457	6670	48127
12.	High Court of Jharkhand	41942	45198	87140
13.	High Court of Karnataka	232110	40858	272968
14.	High Court of Kerala	170016	43160	213176
15.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	256719	156748	413467
16.	High Court of Manipur	4303	474	4777
17.	High Court of Meghalaya	1408	204	1612
18.	High Court of Punjab & Haryana	283253	164658	447911
19.	High Court of Rajasthan	422805	151647	574452
20.	High Court of Sikkim	155	33	188
21.	High Court of Tripura	1517	204	1721
22.	High Court of Uttarakhand	24185	17406	41591
23.	Madras High Court	520418	58153	578571
24.	Orissa High Court	139829	51752	191581
25.	Patna High Court	112806	113973	226779
<b>Total</b>		<b>4081024</b>	<b>1559617</b>	<b>5640641</b>

Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

**Annexure- II****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3348 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2021 REGARDING PENDING CASES IN HIGH COURTS AND SUBORDINATE COURTS.**

Sl. No	Name of States/UTs	Pending Cases (Civil)	Pending Cases (Criminal)	Total Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 13.12.2021
1.	Andhra Pradesh	413386	358955	772341
2.	Telangana	328829	475421	804250
3.	Assam	86566	327950	414516
4.	Bihar	473790	2897386	3371176
5.	Chandigarh	22723	45341	68064
6.	Chhattisgarh	68945	301892	370837
7.	D & N Haveli	1740	1920	3660
8.	Daman & Diu	1389	1466	2855
9.	Delhi	241300	850632	1091932
10.	Goa	25750	35535	61285
11.	Gujarat	459288	1499829	1959117
12.	Haryana	429063	839183	1268246
13.	Himachal Pradesh	153640	294670	448310
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	95828	147198	243026
15.	Jharkhand	89167	405426	494593
16.	Karnataka	876561	1119919	1996480
17.	Kerala	517243	1436017	1953260
18.	Ladakh	398	426	824
19.	Madhya Pradesh	377780	1463105	1840885
20.	Maharashtra	1477536	3366054	4843590
21.	Manipur	8430	4430	12860
22.	Meghalaya	4210	9881	14091
23.	Mizoram	2202	3742	5944
24.	Nagaland	489	2109	2598
25.	Odisha	303368	1212366	1515734
26.	Punjab	391687	525185	916872
27.	Rajasthan	515566	1496159	2011725
28.	Sikkim	674	1193	1867
29.	Tamil Nadu	759650	606749	1366399
30.	Puducherry	15381	19720	35101
31.	Tripura	9151	30134	39285
32.	Uttar Pradesh	1908209	7951414	9859623
33.	Uttarakhand	44417	256002	300419
34.	West Bengal	604073	1976528	2580601
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10708429</b>	<b>29963937</b>	<b>40672366</b>

\*Note: Data on District and Subordinate Courts in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are not available on the web-portal of NJDG

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3348 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2021 REGARDING PENDING CASES IN HIGH COURTS AND SUBORDINATE COURTS.**

S. No.	Name of High Court	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court of India</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>High Court</b>			
1.	Allahabad	160	94	66
2.	Andhra Pradesh	37	20	17
3.	Bombay	94	60	34
4.	Calcutta	72	39	33
5.	Chhattisgarh	22	13	9
6.	Delhi	60	30	30
7.	Gauhati	24	24	0
8.	Gujarat	52	32	20
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13	9	4
10.	J & K and Ladakh	17	13	4
11.	Jharkhand	25	20	5
12.	Karnataka	62	45	17
13.	Kerala	47	40	7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53	30	23
15.	Madras	75	60	15
16.	Manipur	05	5	0
17.	Meghalaya	04	3	1
18.	Orissa	27	18	9
19.	Patna	53	26	27
20.	Punjab & Haryana	85	50	35
21.	Rajasthan	50	28	22
22.	Sikkim	03	3	0
23.	Telangana	42	19	23
24.	Tripura	05	5	0
25.	Uttarakhand	11	8	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1098</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>404</b>

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

NM

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3361  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**LONG HEARING DATES FOR CASES**

**†3361. SHRI PRATAPRAO PATIL CHIKHLIKAR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to dispose off the cases in a fixed time;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the courts giving unnecessary long hearing dates for the cases; and**
- (d) the details thereof?**

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (d): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are several other factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21

of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

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

After announcement of nation-wide lockdown from 25th March, 2020, directions have been issued from time to time by the respective High Courts to the Subordinate Courts under their administrative jurisdiction for hearing of urgent civil and criminal matters in virtual or physical mode depending on local conditions. Most High Courts have further advised district and subordinate courts that where there is no shut down/lockdown, they may, as far as possible, resume normal functioning by virtual/physical mode and take up all kind of cases, including those pertaining to under-trial prisoners, trial of civil cases, matrimonial disputes, child custody matters, recording of evidence and other old matters.

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. 8,709.77 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 20,565 as on 31.10.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,142 as on 31.10.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,841 court halls and 1,807 residential units are under construction. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9000 crores, out of which Central share will be Rs. 5307 crores. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of Lawyer's Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms.

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(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. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers in the past drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

(v) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2021, 914 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. 160.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 681 FTSCs are presently functional including 381 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 64217 cases as on 31.10.2021. The continuation of the Scheme of FTSC has been approved for another two years (2021-23) at a total outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore, including Rs. 971.70 crore as Central share.

**(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.

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

*eCourts*

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3378**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**Digitisation of Court Orders**

**3378. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D. :**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry to digitize the delivery of court orders including bail orders of High Courts and Supreme Court to the prison authorities;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any disciplinary action against jail authorities who have willfully delayed the release of prisoners, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State/UTwise; and
- (c) the details of central and district prisons with internet facility and CCTV camera, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) : In pursuance of Supreme Court judgments dated 16.07.2021 and 23.09.2021 in suo moto Writ Petition No. 4/2021, the FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) system has been taken up for implementation for enabling transmission of e-authenticated copies of the interim orders, stay orders, bail orders and record of proceedings to the duty-holders for compliance and due execution, through a secured electronic communication channel. For High Courts and District Courts, to digitize

delivery of court orders including bail orders, the integration of e-prisons software and case information software through Application Programme Interface (API) is being taken up.

(b) : The management and administration of prisons fall exclusively in the domain of the State Governments and hence details of disciplinary action against jail authorities is not centrally maintained.

(c) : As per information furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the State/UT wise status of CCTV cameras installed in prisons is provided at Annexure. However NCRB does not maintain separate data on availability of internet facility in central and district prisons.

Annexure

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.3378 for 17/12/2021 regarding Digitisation of Court Orders. The State/UT wise status of number of CCTVs installed in prisons as on 31.12.2019:

Sl.NO	State/Union Territory	Number of CCTVs
1	Andhra Pradesh	258
2	Arunachal Pradesh	58
3	Assam	200
4	Bihar	1044
5	Chhattisgarh	1612
6	Goa	17
7	Gujarat	2314
8	Haryana	552
9	Himachal Pradesh	366
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1005
11	Jharkhand	1274
12	Karnataka	928
13	Kerala	826
14	Madhya Pradesh	592
15	Maharashtra	1580
16	Manipur	36
17	Meghalaya	74
18	Mizoram	0
19	Nagaland	11
20	Odisha	1520
21	Punjab	879
22	Rajasthan	1529
23	Sikkim	2
24	Tamil Nadu	67
25	Telangana	1061
26	Tripura	139
27	Uttar Pradesh	2757
28	Uttarakhand	77
29	West Bengal#	280
30	A & N Islands	8
31	Chandigarh	157
32	D & N Haveli	25
33	Daman & Diu	70
34	Delhi	1130
35	Lakshadweep	0
36	Puducherry	8
	<b>Total (All-INDIA)</b>	<b>22456</b>

# Due to non-receipt of data from West Bengal for the year 2018 & 2019, data furnished for 2017 has been used.

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

**LOK SABHA**

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3395  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**SPEEDY DISPOSAL OF CASES IN RURAL AREAS**

**3395. SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the maximum cases in rural areas pertain to land disputes; and**  
**(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of such cases ?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) & (b): Record of various cases in High Courts, District & Subordinate Courts is maintained on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). NJDG, however, does not maintain any separate category of land dispute cases in the rural areas. Moreover, land and its management is the responsibility of the respective State Governments and figures in List II – State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Department of Land Resources, under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is, however, implementing the “Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme” that, *inter alia*, provides for digitization of Records of Right, cadastral maps, computerization of registration and integration of registration with the revenue offices, ultimately resulting in minimization of land disputes, to some extent. Further, State Governments and High Courts have been requested to enable

linking of land records with eCourts project. The Department of Land Resources has also taken up a project on pilot basis in the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra to integrate land records information with Case Information System (CIS) of eCourts project.

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

**LOK SABHA**

*Appointment DVM*

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3422**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17.12.2021**

**High Court Bench in Western Uttar Pradesh**

**†3422. SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to setup a High Court Bench in Western Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has invited the delegation of lawyers of Western Uttar Pradesh for talksin this regard and sought suggestions from them; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c): High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No.379 of 2000 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural facilities and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day to

dayadministration of the High Court. The proposal to be complete should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

At present, no complete proposal regarding setting up of Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh is pending with the Government.

(d) to (e): No Sir, However, A combined delegation of Advocates of Bar Associations of Meerut, Moradabad, GautamBudh Nagar and Muzaffarnagar met Minister of Law and Justice on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 and requested for a High Court Bench in Western Uttar Pradesh.

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

NM

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3428  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**SPEEDY JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN**

**†3428. SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA:**

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

**(a) whether the Government proposes to fix any time-limit to ensure speedy justice in increasing cases of heinous crimes such as rapes, harassment, etc. against women; and**

**(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) & (b): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are several other factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of all cases including cases involving offences against women in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The 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 31.10.2021, 914 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. 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. 160.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 681 FTSCs are presently functional including 381 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 64217 cases as on 31.10.2021. The continuation of the Scheme of FTSC has been approved for another two years (2021-23) at a total outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore, including Rs. 971.70 crore as Central share.

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

**LOK SABHA**

*JR Desk*

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No 3429**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**Scheme for Development of Judicial Infrastructure**

**3429. SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:**

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

- (a) whether the Government agrees with the view that a sound judiciary is essential for enforcing laws and creating trust in the economy, and also that the issues of pendency, delays and backlogs can be tackled to a large extent by strengthening the physical, digital, and human infrastructure of the courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the initiatives have been taken/being taken by the Government to review the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary and remove roadblocks delaying the upgrade of judicial infrastructure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) & (b): Disposal of cases pending in various courts is within the domain of judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, *inter-alia*, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

(c) to (e): The primary responsibility of development of Infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of

Infrastructure Facilities in district and subordinate courts by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern. The Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. Till date the Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 8709.77 crore under the Scheme to States/UTs. The scheme has been extended from time to time. Under this scheme funds are released by the Central Government for construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. The Government has extended the above scheme for a further period of five years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, with a total budgetary outlay of Rs.9000 crores, including Central share of Rs.5307 crores. The scheme components have been expanded, to also cover the construction of toilets, digital computer rooms and Lawyers' Hall in the district and subordinate courts and Rs. 47.00 crore have been approved for the construction of Toilet complexes in the District and Subordinate Courts.

As per information made available by the High Courts, 20,595 Court Halls and 18,078 Residential Units are available in the District and Subordinate Courts as on 01.12.2021. Moreover, 2846 Court Halls and 1,775 Residential Units are under construction.

To improve the digital infrastructure of the courts, the Government is also implementing the eCourts Mission Mode Project. Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and

subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 as on 01.07.2021. WAN connectivity has been provided to 98.7% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.11.2021, litigants can access case status of over 19.56 crore cases and 15.72 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-Sewa Kendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgements/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

Fifteen Virtual Courts have been set up in 11 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to try traffic offences. As on 01.11.2021, these courts have handled more than 99 lakh cases and realised more than Rs.193.15 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,01,77,289 cases while the High Court heard 55,24,021 cases (totalling to 1.57 crore) till 31.10.2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had 1,50,692 hearings since the lockdown period upto 29.10.2021.

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