

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5052

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH JULY, 2019

Performance of Schemes Launched

5052. SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:

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

- (a) the year-wise details of the schemes launched by the Government under the Ministry during the last three years alongwith the details of the targets set and the achievements made under each of the said schemes ;
- (b) the details of the proposals received from the State of Tamil Nadu alongwith the proposals approved by the Union Government under these schemes; and
- (c) the scheme and State-wise details of the funds allocated and utilized for implementation of various schemes of this Ministry during each of the last three years and the current year?

ANSWER

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

(a) Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice has launched the following three programmes in 2017 under the Mission Mode project- National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms:

- (i) Tele-Law Programme
- (ii) Nyaya Bandhu Programme (Pro Bono Legal Services)
- (iii) Nyaya Mitra Programme

The details of these three schemes are as under:

(i) **Tele-Law Programme:** Tele-Law programme aims to connect the needy and disadvantaged section of society including person entitled to legal aid under section 12 of Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987 through the use of video conferencing and telephone facility available in 1800 Common Service Centers in 11 States; namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Aurnachal Pradesh and Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir.

As on 30th June 2019, legal advice has been rendered to 70,423 beneficiaries, that includes 26,582 (Women), SC(5473), 9104(ST) and 15272(OBCS).

A dedicated web portal (www.tele-law.in) has been made available in five languages that include English, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali and Assamese. In February, 2019, Tele-Law mobile application has been launched for enabling seamless connectivity between Para Legal Volunteer(PLV) and the legal advice seeker to pre- register cases for legal advice. In addition to the

above, Tele-Law Dashboard has also been launched to capture real-time data on cases registered and advice enabled.

(ii) **Pro Bono Legal Services:** The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme aims to provide free legal aid through an online database of advocates and eligible litigants. This programme is an attempt to institutionalise dispensation of pro bono legal services across the country by facilitation connection between lawyers and eligible litigants. The nyayaBandhu Mobile Application (App) allows marginalized person (referred to as "Applicant") seeking free legal services, to easily connect with registered Pro Bono advocates. The App is available in Hindi and English.

The service under this programme is available all across the country. So far, 561 lawyers have registered to provide pro bono services and 444 cases have been registered on the web application for this purpose.

(iii) **Nyaya Mitra:** Nyaya Mitra programme was launched in 227 selected districts of 16 states that include Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, J & K, Maharashtra, Gujrat, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Tripura & Nagaland to facilitate district judiciary in reduction of old pending cases, conducting critical analysis of pending cases, identify the cases in Pre-Lokadalats to be referred to the Lokadalats on priority basis etc. During 2017-18, 15 Nyaya Mitra were appointed for 15 districts: Patna (Bihar), Birbhum, Howrah, Cooch Behar, 24 North Paragnas (West Bengal); West Tripura (Tripura); Gaziabad, Kushinagar, Meerut, Gorakhpur, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh); Ganganagar, Jalore, Alwar, Bhilwara (Rajasthan) for a contract period of six months (October 2017 – March 31, 2018). After review four Nyaya Mitras have been reappointed from January 2019 in the State of Rajasthan and West Bengal.

(b) Under the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms - Access to Justice: Tele-Law Scheme is implemented in collaboration with a SPV, CSC e-Gov, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) is voluntary initiative on the part of advocates. For Nyaya Mitra, applications are invited from retired judicial officers/ Government Executive officers. Hence no proposal is invited/received from any state including Tamil Nadu.

(c) A total amount of Rs 2.35 crore was allocated under Tele-Law programme and an amount of Rs 22 Lakh was allocated under Nyaya Mitra in 2017-18. Pro Bono Legal Service was enabled through online portal created by NIC for which no cost had been incurred. The schemes are continuing schemes wherein beneficiaries are provided assistance as per their need. In 2018-2019 Rs. 2.73 crore has been allocated for implementation of Tele Law and amount of Rs. 1.50 crore and 3.93 crore has been allocated for Pro Bono (across India) and Nyaya Mitra Programme (227 Districts) respectively.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5053

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH JULY, 2019.

Filling of Posts in Subordinate Judiciary

5053. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:

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

- (a) the number of additional positions of judges created and filled in subordinate judiciary across the country along with the funds provided by the Government for the purpose during the recent years; and**
- (b) the other steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of FTCs in the country?**

ANSWER

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

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

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
18.07.2019	23,228	17,971

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the Rules and Regulations regarding the issues of appointment, promotion, reservations *etc.* of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. Therefore, Central Government has no role in this regard.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to facilitate filling of vacancies in lower judiciary:-

- (i) 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. 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.
 - (ii) The filling up of vacancies is also being monitored by the Supreme Court in a *suo-motu* Writ Petition (Civil) No. 2 of 2018.
 - (iii) A series of meetings were held by Secretary, Department of Justice with Registrars General of all High Courts and Law Secretaries of all State Governments / UTs through Video Conferencing in the month of January, 2018, July, 2018 and November, 2018 to follow up on filling up posts of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts.
 - (iv) The Department of Justice has hosted a web-portal on its website for reporting and monitoring of sanctioned and working strength, and vacancies of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts on monthly basis.
 - (v) In order to facilitate regular filling up of these vacancies in a smooth and time-bound manner, the Department of Justice *vide* its letter dated 28th April, 2017 suggested creation of a Central Selection Mechanism to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *suo motu* converted the Government's suggestions into a Writ Petition on 09th May, 2017 and directed all State Governments (including Union Territories) to file their responses and suggestions by way of affidavits to the Supreme Court Registry.
- (b) : Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) comes within the domain of the State Governments which in consultation with the respective High Courts set up such courts. An amount of Rs.870 crore was released to the State Governments for FTCs during a period of 11 years from 2000-01 to 2010-2011

and Central funding was discontinued beyond 31.03.2011. The Central Government decided to provide funds upto a maximum of Rs.80 crore per annum on a matching basis upto 31.03.2015 from the 13th Finance Commission Award for meeting expenditure on salaries of the 10% additional positions of Judges being created in the subordinate Judiciary following the direction of Supreme Court in the case of Brij Mohan Lal versus Union of India. The State Governments and Chief Justices of the High Courts were requested to utilize these positions for creation of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) also. The 14th Finance Commission (14th FC) endorsed the proposal of the Union of India to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter-alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property / rent disputes pending for more than five years at a cost of Rs.4,144 crore. The 14th FC had urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements. The Union Government has urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the activities mentioned in the 14th Finance Commission recommendations from their State budgets from the Financial Year 2015-16 onwards and to strengthen the existing coordination and monitoring mechanism between the State Governments and the Judiciary for effective implementation of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5110

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH JULY, 2019

Court Language

5110. DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- a) the details of High Courts in the country where regional language other than Hindi or English is used as court language or one of the court languages;
- b) the factors being considered for making regional languages as court language in High Courts in India;
- c) whether the Ministry has received proposals for making Tamil as court language or one of the court languages in the Madras High Court and if so, the details thereof; and
- d) the action taken/being taken by the Ministry to make Tamil as court language or one of the court language in the Madras High Court and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): Proposals were received for use of Bengali, Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati and Kannada in the High Courts of Calcutta, Madras, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Karnataka respectively. The Cabinet Committee in its decision dated 21.05.1965 required that consent of the Hon'ble Chief

Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court. The requests relating to use of Bengali, Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati and Kannada in the High Courts of Calcutta, Madras, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Karnataka accordingly were forwarded to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 18.01.2016 has conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberation, disapproved the proposals, reiterating the previous Resolutions which had unanimously resolved that the proposals could not be accepted.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5177

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24th JULY, 2019

Special Courts for SC/ST

5177. DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:

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

- (a) the total number of special courts set up throughout the country for hearing cases registered under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, as amended in the year 2016, including Karnataka;
- (b) the number of cases disposed of within a period of sixty days along with the number of cases lying pending till date; and
- (c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the atrocities taking place against the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and to provide them speedy justice?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a)-(b): The constitution of Special Courts for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and their functioning/monitoring falls within the domain of the State and Union Territory Governments, who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the High Courts in accordance with Section 14 of the 'The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (PoA) Amendment Act, 2015', the Gazette Notification of which was published on 01.01.2016. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations either establish Exclusive Special Courts for one or more districts or designate for such districts where less number of cases under this Act are recorded, the Court of Session to be a Special Court to try offences under the Act. As per available information, a majority of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have designated District Session Courts as Special Courts.

As per information received from the High Courts, total number of Special Courts set up throughout the country along with number of cases *disposed of within a* period of sixty days and the number of cases lying pending in such Courts till date, State/UT-wise is provided as per Annexure

(c): In order to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against the members of the SCs and the STs and to deliver speedy justice to members of SCs and STs, The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Amendment Act, 2015(No. 1 of 2016) and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018 were enacted. The provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities){PoA}Rules, 1995 are implemented by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and admissible Central assistance is provided to them mainly for strengthening of the enforcement and judicial machinery.

ANNEXURE

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Special Courts set up as per the provisions of The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (PoA) Amendment Act, 2015 (as on 31.03.2019)	Number of cases disposed off in Special Courts within a period of sixty days	Number of cases pending in Special Courts of the State/UT
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	-	3698 as on 31.03.2019
2.	Mizoram	02	-	0 as on 31.03.2019
3.	Nagaland	08	-	0 as on 31.03.2019
4.	Bihar	37	-	46951 as on 30.06.2019
5.	Chhattisgarh	23	90	975 as on 31.03.2019
6.	Delhi	11	-	271 as on 31.03.2019
7.	Goa	02	0*	27 as on 31.03.2019
8.	Maharashtra	170	5*	6435 as on 31.03.2019
9.	Gujarat	63	154**	4462 as on 15.07.2019
10.	Haryana	21	47	982 as on 30.06.2019
11.	Punjab	22	14	267 as on 30.06.2019
12.	Chandigarh	01	0	02 as on 30.06.2019
13.	Jharkhand	24	-	1952 as on 31.03.2019
14.	Karnataka	32	02***	5373 as on 01.07.2019
15.	Kerala & Lakshadweep	14	-	2174 as on 31.03.2019
16.	Madhya Pradesh	50	-	18042 as on 30.06.2019
17.	Odisha	94	-	11495 as on 31.03.2019
18.	Rajasthan	35	-	10773 as on 31.03.2019
19.	Sikkim	04	-	03 as on 31.03.2019
20.	Tamil Nadu	06	-	1356 as on 31.03.2019
21.	Tripura	05	-	03 as on 31.03.2019

22.	Uttar Pradesh	40	-	70266 as on 31.03.2019
23.	Uttarakhand	13	-	251 as on 31.03.2019
24.	Telangana	10	-	3115 as on 31.03.2019
25.	Daman & Diu	01	0	01 as on 31.03.2019
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01	-	06 as on 31.03.2019

*cases disposed off within a period of two months from the date of filing of the Charge Sheet till 31.01.2019

** cases disposed off within a period of 15.05.2019 to 15.07.2019

*** cases disposed off within a period of sixty days from the date of charge sheet as during the year 2018

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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JP Desk

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5197

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH JULY, 2019.

Infrastructure in Courts

5197. DR. HEENA GAVIT:

SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:

SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE

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

- (a) whether the standard of infrastructure of courts in the country is very poor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to check the standard of infrastructure of the courts in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the quantum of funds allocated for this scheme since its inception;
- (f) the number of residential accommodations that have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme; and
- (g) the other steps taken by the Government to improve the basic infrastructure in courts all over the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g): It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to provide Judicial Infrastructure / Court Rooms for High Courts and District / Subordinate Courts. The Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in order to augment the resources of State Governments, in association with the States / UT Governments. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court halls and court complexes and residential accommodations of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. As on date, Rs. 6,986 crore have been

sanctioned since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. Out of this, Rs. 3,542 crore (50.70%) have been sanctioned to the States and UTs since April, 2014. 19,179 court halls and 16,852 residential accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme as on date against the working strength of 17,971 Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts of the country. In addition, 2,818 court halls and 1,856 residential units are under construction.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary was evaluated by third party. The Evaluating Agency namely National Productivity Council, New Delhi, has concluded as under:

- 1) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has immensely contributed towards improving judicial infrastructure;
- 2) It has helped in improving the quality of overall justice delivery system at the subordinate courts in the country; and
- 3) It has also been instrumental in reducing the pendency of cases and for the partial establishment of the elements of model courts and e-Courts at the District level.

The Central Government has also been administering a Central Sector Scheme of eCourt Mission Mode Project (Phase-II), (2015-19) under which funds are made available to various organizations involved in the implementation of the project and High Courts with the aim for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of district and subordinate courts, across the country in association with eCommittee of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. So far, out of total outlay of Rs. 1,670 crore, the Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,248 crore as on date to various organizations involved in the implementation of the project. This includes a sum of Rs. 955.86 crore sanctioned to High Courts. Number of computerised District and Subordinate courts in the country, by the end of first phase of eCourts Project (2014) increased from 13,672 to 16,845 registering an increase of 3,173.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Desk Side
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5205

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24.07.2019
Strength of Judges in High Courts

5205. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

- (a) whether there is a gap in sanctioned and actual strength of Judges in each High Court of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Judge-Population ratio has deteriorated in such Courts during each of the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the pendency of cases in such courts has been increased due to gap in sanctioned and actual strength of Judges and if so, the details thereof, Court-wise; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a) : A Statement showing the sanctioned strength and working strength of Judges in various High Courts is given at Annexure.
- (b) to (d): In 245th Report (2014), the Law Commission observed that filing of cases per capita varies substantially across geographic units as filings are associated with economic and social conditions of the population. As such the Law Commission did not consider 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. In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS Committee) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission and to furnish its recommendations in this regard. 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 02.01.2017, the Department of Justice has forwarded a copy of interim report of the NCMS Committee to all the State Governments and High Courts to enable them to take follow up action to determine the required strength of district and subordinate judiciary.

The pendency of cases in Higher Judiciary is not only due to shortage of Judges, but also due to various factors such as (i) increasing number of state and central legislation, (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 revision/appeals, (vi) frequent adjournments, (vii) indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction (viii) lack of adequate arrangements to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing, (ix) long duration of vacation period of Court, and (x) assigning work of administrative nature to the Judges, etc.

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of High Court and State Government concerned. 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. In August, 2018, in the context ~~186~~ 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.

A series of meetings were held with Registrars General of all High Courts and Law Secretaries of all State Governments / UTs through Video Conferencing in the month of January, 2018, July, 2018 and November, 2018 to follow up on filling up posts of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts. The Department of Justice has hosted a web-portal on its website for reporting and monitoring of sanctioned and working strength, and vacancies of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts on monthly basis.

In order to facilitate regular filling up of these vacancies in a smooth and time-bound manner, the Department of Justice vide its letter dated 28th April, 2017 suggested creation of a Central Selection Mechanism to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *suo motu* converted the Government's suggestions into a Writ Petition on 09th May, 2017 and directed all State Governments (including Union Territories) to file their responses and suggestions by way of affidavits to the Supreme Court Registry.

Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to part(a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5205 for 24.07.2019 regarding 'Strength of Judges in High Courts'.

(As on 01.07.2019)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
1	Allahabad	160	105
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	13
3	Bombay	94	66
4	Calcutta	72	42
5	Chhattisgarh	22	15
6	Delhi	60	39
7	Gauhati	24	19
8	Gujarat	52	28
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	10
10	Jammu & Kashmir	17	09
11	Jharkhand	25	19
12	Karnataka	62	32
13	Kerala	47	34
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	33
15	Madras	75	58
16	Manipur	05	04
17	Meghalaya	04	02
18	Orissa	27	14
19	Patna	53	30
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	50
21	Rajasthan	50	24
22	Sikkim	03	03
23	Telangana	24	11
24	Tripura	04	03
25	Uttarakhand	11	10
Total		1079	673

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5219

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24th JULY, 2019

Legal Awareness

†5219. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the awareness level of legal knowledge (especially about fundamental rights and human rights) of the people across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the legal awareness of the citizens of the country through any special drive or through television channels or any other media; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and initiative taken/being taken in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) carries out mandate of legal awareness among the people across the country. Legal Services Programmes are devised by them keeping in view the specific needs of the

concerned area. While devising the programmes, inputs are taken from PLVs/VLEs working at the grass root level.

(d) and (e): Legal Awareness is an important mandate of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Legal Services Authorities have been using the electronic and print media, such as Doordarshan/All India Radio/Community Radio/Films/Theatre, Street Plays, Puppet shows etc. for effective legal awareness/legal literacy programmes for the common people in the country. They have also been organising legal awareness programmes/legal literacy classes for weaker and marginalised sections of the society and also for students in the schools & colleges to spread legal awareness. In these camps/classes people are made aware about various laws and they are given legal assistance, if required.

Department of Justice conducted publicity and outreach campaign in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Delhi by way of display of approximately 3000 hoardings at Public Utility places, Bus shelters, Retail outlets of Public Sector Petroleum companies, Auto hood wraps, Bus panels etc.

Under the Access to Justice scheme in the nine North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir, various activities to create Capacity building and legal awareness of grassroot functionaries like Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), Preraks of Sakshar Bharat Mission, College/school students, elected representatives has been undertaken by in collaboration with Institutions including the Women Commission, National Literacy Mission Authority – State Resource Centers, State Institute of Rural Development, State Legal Services Authority, Department of Law, Universities etc.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5239

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH JULY, 2019.

Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals

5239. SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR :

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

- (a) the details about the total number of pending cases regarding compensation for accident victims;
- (b) whether the Government is providing any assistance to State Governments for setting up of Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals so as to have fast disposal of such cases; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) : Data / Information on pendency of cases in High Courts and District / Subordinate Courts are available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). NJDG does not maintain separate data / information on number of pending cases regarding compensation for accident victims.

(b) & (c): Section 165 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, *inter-alia*, provides that State Government may, in consultation with respective High Courts, constitute one or more Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals for such areas, as may be specified in the notification for the purpose of adjudicating claims for compensation in respect of accidents involving death or bodily injury to persons arising out of use of motor vehicles, or damages to any property of a third party so arising, or both. Such courts are presently functioning in the States.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5248

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24th JULY, 2019

Family Courts

5248. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of space, buildings, staff and other facilities in Family Courts of the country and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) the details of the vacant posts, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to appoint staff against vacant posts and to improve working conditions of the staff?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a)-(c): The role and functions of Family Courts are governed by the Family Courts Act, 1984. Family Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the concerned High Courts from their own resources with a view to promote conciliation and to secure speedy settlement of family disputes. Accordingly steps to appoint staff against vacant posts and to improve working conditions of the staff are to be taken by the State Governments in consultation with the concerned High Courts. However the details of the vacant posts in Family Courts, State-wise as received from the High Courts is as per Annexure.

ANNEXURE

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Family Courts functional (as on 31.03.2019)	Total number of vacant posts in the Family Courts of the State/UT
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	44
2.	Assam	05	-
3.	Nagaland	02	-
4.	Bihar	39	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	21	-
6.	Delhi	21	-
7.	Maharashtra	33	-
8.	Gujarat	37	-
9.	Haryana	22	10
10.	Punjab	16	15
11.	Himachal Pradesh	03	-
12.	Jharkhand	19	-
13.	Karnataka	32	453
14.	Kerala & Lakshadweep	28	-
15.	Madhya Pradesh	58	01
16.	Manipur	07	07
17.	Odisha	25	79
18.	Rajasthan	39	-
19.	Sikkim	04	-
20.	Tamil Nadu	30	-
21.	Puducherry	02	-
22.	Tripura	04	35
23.	Uttar Pradesh	108	-
24.	Uttarakhand	16	115
25.	West Bengal	03	17
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	-	03
27.	Telangana	16	-
	Total	604	779