

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †821

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 26TH JUNE, 2019.

Corruption in Judicial Service

†821. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) whether regular monitoring of the judges of the district courts/high courts are being done to check corruption in judicial service and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of judges of district courts who have been compulsorily retired particularly by Delhi High Court or put a ban on their judicial power during the last three years till date; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to work out any concrete policy to save judicial service from corruption and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The issue of checking corruption in the judiciary is to be addressed by the judiciary itself, as it is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution. Accountability in higher judiciary is maintained through "*in-house procedure*" adopted by the Supreme Court in Full Court meeting held on 7th May, 1997. As per the "*In-house procedure*" Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of the 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. Further, as per Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the control over District Courts and Courts subordinate thereto vests in the High Court.

Complaints and representations regarding allegation of corruption received are dealt with by the Chief Justice of India or to the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, as the case may be, for appropriate action. Similarly, complaints / representations against

member of Subordinate Judiciary received are forwarded to the Registrar General of the concerned High Court, for appropriate action.

(b) As per the information made available by Delhi High Court, no judge of district courts is compulsorily retired during last three years due to corruption charges.

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

(19)

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 856

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 26TH JUNE, 2019.

Land Related Disputes

856. SHRI D.K. SURESH:

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

- (a) whether it is true that a World Bank study states that land related disputes account for two-thirds of all pending court cases in the Country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to deal with the increasing land related disputes and give a relief to common people to settle the disputes within a time-frame; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

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

- (a&b): Land-related disputes are in the nature of civil cases. As per data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 20th June, 2019, civil cases constitute 88.04 lakh cases and criminal cases constitute 222.62 lakh cases out of the total 310.67 lakh cases pending in various District and Subordinate Courts. Further, civil cases constitute 18.73 lakh cases, criminal cases constitute 12.12 lakh cases and writ cases constitute 12.64 lakh cases out of the total 43.50 lakh cases pending in various High Courts. However, NJDG does not separately provide the number of pending land-related disputes. Details of land-related disputes in revenue courts in various States is maintained by the respective States.
- (c) & (d): Land and its management falls under the domain of State Governments. Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is, however, implementing the 'Digital India Land Records Modernisation

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.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1818

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 03RD JULY, 2019.

Time Frame for Disposal of Criminal Cases

1818. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:
DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

- (a) whether Government has any data of the pending cases including criminal cases in the courts across the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government proposes to fix any time limit for disposal of criminal and civil cases in various courts of the country so that people can get time bound justice and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the plan for fast tracking work in judicial courts;
- (d) whether Government proposes to set up any commission or committee for judicial reforms and speedy disposal of pending court cases and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the pendency of court cases?

ANSWER

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

(a) : As per the information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), State / UT-wise details of civil and criminal cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts are given in a Statement attached as **Annexure**.

(b) to (e) : No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

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

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs.6,986.50 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. Out of this, 3,542.20crores (which are 50.70% of the total amount released till date) have been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,101 as on date and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 16,777 as on date under this scheme. In addition, 2,879 court halls and 1,886 residential units are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Scheme beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period i.e. from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated additional outlay of Rs.3,320 crore.
- (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 computerised District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,845 registering an increase of 3,173 during 2014 till date. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. QR Code facility made operational in the software, which enables to check current status of the case. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) provides citizens with online information about case filings, case status and electronic copies of orders and judgments from district and subordinate courts that have already been computerized. Information regarding 11.67 crore cases is available on this portal. 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 computerised courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Information Kiosks have been setup at all computerized court complexes for disseminating judicial information related to cause lists and other case related information to the lawyers and litigants. eCourts Project has been consistently amongst the top 5 Mission Mode Projects of country.
- (iii): Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 24.06.2019, 31 Judges were appointed in

Supreme Court. 454 new Judges were appointed and 366 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 1079 currently. 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
27.06.2019	21,340	17,757

- (iv) Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees: Further, in pursuance of resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (v) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-Institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- (vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, *inter-alia*, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children *etc.*, and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. At present, 581 such Fast Track Courts are functioning across the country. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, twelve (12) Special Courts were set up in eleven (11) States (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been enacted on 11.08.2018 to amend the

Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Annexure

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1818 for reply on 03rd July, 2019 regarding Time Frame for Disposal of Criminal Cases
 Details of Civil and Criminal Cases pending District and Subordinate Courts

Sr. No.	Name of the State / UT	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	301437	245046	546483
2.	Assam	66024	227416	293440
3.	Bihar	384676	2330204	2714880
4.	Chandigarh	18026	28992	47018
5.	Chhattisgarh	56041	204768	260809
6.	Delhi	190219	598144	788363
7.	Diu and Daman	1124	1079	2203
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1397	1695	3092
9.	Goa	13426	10768	24194
10.	Gujarat	428860	1243392	1672252
11.	Haryana	295444	510343	805787
12.	Himachal Pradesh	119649	159644	279293
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	71954	97135	169089
14.	Jharkhand	64516	301604	366120
15.	Karnataka	750997	881187	1632184
16.	Kerala	382997	873082	1256079
17.	Madhya Pradesh	335163	1109192	1444355
18.	Maharashtra	1205140	2495640	3700780
19.	Manipur	5680	4218	9898
20.	Meghalaya	1994	5381	7375
21.	Mizoram	1072	1270	2342
22.	Odisha	256824	927596	1184420
23.	Punjab	268436	355692	624128
24.	Rajasthan	404292	1142758	1547050
25.	Sikkim	515	813	1328
26.	Tamilnadu	654269	500804	1155073
27.	Telengana	236415	298719	535134
28.	Tripura	7453	15615	23068
29.	Uttar Pradesh	1729831	5732842	7462673
30.	Uttarakhand	36155	192286	228441
31.	West Bengal	504374	1766327	2270701
Total		8794400	22263652	31058052

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1823

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 03RD JULY, 2019.

Disposal of Court Cases

†1823. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) the time taken in the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts of India in disposal of civil and criminal cases compared to the average time taken in America, England, Japan, France and other European countries;
- (b) whether courts in the country take longer time in disposal of cases in comparison to those in the developed countries of the world; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Courts in various countries operate in different environment on account of difference in availability of infrastructure facilities, use of technology, number of judicial officers per million of population (judge-population ratio), docket ratio (population case filing ratio), provisions of substantive laws and procedures in courts etc. However, a comparison of time taken for disposal of cases in India *vis-à-vis* other developed countries may not be a valid comparison. The assessment in this regard has to be made by the respective courts.

The Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency and has, in conjunction with the judiciary, taken many corrective steps. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and

Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court. The major achievements during the last five years under various initiatives to make the functioning of judiciary more efficient are as follows:

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs.6,986.50 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. Out of this, 3,542.20 crores (which are 50.70% of the total amount released till date) have been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,101 as on date and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 16,777 as on date under this scheme. In addition, 2,879 court halls and 1,886 residential units are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Scheme beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated additional outlay of Rs.3,320 crore.

- (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 computerised District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,845 registering an increase of 3,173 during 2014 till date. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. QR Code facility made operational in the software, which enables to check current status of the case. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) provides citizens with online information about case filings, case status and electronic copies of orders and judgments from district and subordinate courts that have already been computerized. Information regarding 11.67 crore cases is available on this portal. 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 computerised courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Information Kiosks have been setup at all computerized court complexes for disseminating judicial information related to cause lists and other case related

information to the lawyers and litigants. eCourts Project has been consistently amongst the top 5 Mission Mode Projects of country.

- (iii): Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 24.06.2019, 31 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 454 new Judges were appointed and 366 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 1079 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has been increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
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- (v) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-Institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- (vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, *inter-alia*, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children *etc.*, and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. At present, 581 such Fast

Track Courts are functioning across the country. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, twelve (12) Special Courts were set up in eleven (11) States (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been enacted on 11.08.2018 to amend the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Jus-II

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1827

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 03rd JULY, 2019

Family Courts

1827. DR. HEENA GAVIT:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:

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

- (a) the total number of family courts in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the present condition and role of family courts in dealing with the increasing family/domestic violence in the country;
- (c) the number of cases disposed of by these courts during the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (d) whether there is any fixed time limit to dispose of cases related to domestic/family violence in these courts, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Union Government has received applications from various State Governments for setting up of such courts; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon by the Union Government, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): The total number of Family Courts in the country, State/UT-wise is as per **Annexure-I**.

(b)-(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. The number of cases disposed of by these courts during the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise as obtained from High Courts is as per **Annexure-II**.

(d): No time limit has been fixed for disposal of cases as per the Family Courts Act, 1984. However as per Section 12(5) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the Magistrate shall endeavor to dispose of every application made under Sub Section (1), within a period of sixty days from the date of its first hearing.

Disposal of cases is primarily the responsibility of the judiciary. In the Chief Ministers' and Chief Justices' Conference 2015, directions had been issued to all the High Courts to regularly monitor and take necessary steps for early disposal of such cases. The Government has adopted a coordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

(e)-(f): Setting up of subordinate courts, which includes Family Courts, is in the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

e-court

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eCourts

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1875
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 3rd JULY, 2019**

e-Courts Mission Mode Project

**1875. DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
DR. HEENA GAVIT:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement the e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-I and II for communication and information technology enablement of district and subordinate courts across the country in association with the Supreme Court of India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the allocation of funds released/utilized since the inception of the project;
- (c) whether the Government has set any target for computerization of district and subordinate courts and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has achieved the said target and if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has created the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for district & subordinate courts;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and along with the objective for setting up of such grid; and
- (g) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to fully computerize the district and subordinate courts in the country in a time bound manner?

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

(a) to (g): Yes. The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts across the country in association with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India. The steps being taken by the Government to promote the use of technology in the working of the courts through computerisation of district and subordinate courts are as under:

- (i) The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-I was implemented during 2011 - 2015. At the end of Phase-I, out of the total target of computerisation of 14,249 district and subordinate courts, sites for all 14,249 courts (100%) were made ready for computerisation, out of which LAN was installed at 13,643 courts, hardware was provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise was completed in all the High Courts. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System and more than 4,000 court staff have been trained as System Administrators in Case Information System (CIS).
- (ii) The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II is being implemented for a period of four years (2015-19) or until the project is completed, whichever is later. The target set out under the project is computerization of 16,845 courts, which has been completed. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores for this Phase, the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1248 crore as on date to various organizations involved in the implementation of the project. This includes a sum of Rs. 955.86 crore released to all High Courts, out of which as sum of Rs.696.23 crore has been utilized.

- (iii) As per information received from eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, 16845 courts have been computerized. The High Court wise details of such district and subordinate courts are as **Annexure I**.
- (iv) National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for District & Subordinate Courts is created as an online platform under the Project provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of 16,845 computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 11.73 crore cases and more than 9.23 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts. The portal also provides online information to litigants such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgments. Approximately 3000 Court Complexes replicate live data of filing, registration, scrutiny, objections, case status, cause list, judgment and orders. Litigant centric information can be obtained through the website of the eCourts portal by accessing using the URL: <https://ecourts.gov.in>. Case information is thus available speedily to the petitioners and respondents.

NJDG works as a monitoring tool to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases. The NJDG covers all categories of cases. It helps to provide timely inputs for making policy decisions to reduce delay and arrears in the system, facilitate better monitoring of court performance and systemic bottlenecks, and, thus, facilitate better resource management.

World Bank praised the National Judicial Data Grid in the Ease of Doing Business Report for 2018, that it made possible to generate case management reports, thereby making it easier to enforce contracts.

High Court NJDG has also been made operational, wherein High Courts have also joined the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) through web services.

- (v) ECourts mobile app with the facility of QR Code was launched on 22.07.2017 for use of litigants and lawyers. Services under different captions viz. Search by CNR, Case Status, Cause List and My Cases are available on this application, which is available on both Google Play and Apple Store. The number of downloads have crossed 20 lakhs.

- (vi) Furthermore, the facility of providing case information services through SMS has also been implemented and the process of disseminating system-generated SMSs is operational. The case details can also be obtained by sending unique CNR number (Case Number Record) to a mobile number through SMS. Cause lists, judgements, case status etc. can be received in the litigants' mailbox on registration of email address. Information Kiosks have been setup at all computerized court complexes for disseminating judicial information related to cause lists and other case related information to the lawyers and litigants.
- (vii) The eFiling application was launched on 14th August, 2018 and is made available at efiling.ecourts.gov.in where online registration of lawyers and litigants can be done. e-filing application has been developed and is integrated with Case Information Software (CIS 3.0), which is the standard application software across all district and subordinate courts of the country. Integration with CIS 1.0 software of High Courts is also complete. e-filing module with e-payment of court fees is ready for courts in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana. In other states, except for e-payment, the e-filing module is ready for launch in all the courts that have shifted to CIS 1.0 and CIS 3.0.
- (viii) One of the important eCourts project components is establishment of Wide Area Network (WAN) connecting all District and Subordinate court complexes, spread across the country. The eCommittee of Supreme Court of India gave approval to award the eCourts' WAN project to BSNL. Work order to the tune of Rs. 169 crores has been awarded to BSNL for establishing Wide Area Network (WAN) connecting 2992 district and subordinate court complexes across the country, including 547 court complexes with no connectivity. National Informatics Centre has operationalised an online monitoring tool for tracking real-time progress and monitoring of pan - Indian WAN project against the set baselines. Out of 2992 court complexes, 2295 have been connected through eCourts WAN as on 28.6.2019.
- (ix) During the Phase II, till date, 228.33 crore electronic transactions have been recorded for eCourts through eTaal portal. The eCourts

transactions have thus emerged as one of the topmost accessed services of the Government of India.

- (x) The eCourts Project equips the Judiciary to use ICT enabled tools to improve court and case management. The availability of online database enables judiciary to plan court administration. It leads to making the justice delivery system across the country more transparent, more accessible and affordable. Availability of case data online imparts transparency to the functioning of courts and facilitates easy access of such data to lawyers and litigants. Thus, ICT enablement of courts increases efficiency of justice delivery system through organised and easy access to case information, and transparency is the eventual outcome.

- (xi) Other steps taken by the Government towards full computerization of courts includes efforts of scanning and digitisation of court records. Central Government has accepted the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission which included scanning and digitisation of court records of all High Courts, district and subordinate courts. The 14th Finance Commission has urged the state governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the 14th Finance Commission in the tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements.

ANNEXURE-I

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Number of computerized district and subordinate courts
1	Allahabad	2072
2	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	1078
3	Bombay	2079
4	Calcutta	811
5	Chattisgarh	357
6	Delhi	427
7	Gauhati	496
8	Gujarat	1108
9	Himachal Pradesh	119
10	Jammu & Kashmir	218
11	Jharkhand	351
12	Karnataka	897
13	Kerala	486
14	Madras	1032
15	Madhya Pradesh	1293
16	Manipur	37
17	Meghalaya	39
18	Orissa	534
19	Patna	1025
20	Punjab & Haryana	1018
21	Rajasthan	1094
22	Sikkim	19
23	Uttarakhand	186
24	Tripura	69
	Total	16845
