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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2549**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 04<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019.**

**Pending Cases in Punjab and Haryana High Court**

**2549. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:**

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

- (a) the number of pending cases at present in Punjab and Haryana High Court along with the number of those cases which are pending for the last 15 years;
- (b) whether the pendency of legal cases has deprived the people of Haryana of getting justice;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the number of serving judges in Haryana during each of the last three years;
- (e) whether a need has been felt to increase the number of courts; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard so far?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a): As per data available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the total number of pending cases in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana as on 29.11.2019 is 5,15,498. The total number of cases pending for over 15 years is not available on the NJDG. However, the total number of cases pending for over 10 years and upto 20 years in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana as on 29.11.2019 is 72,895.

(b) and (c): Disposal of cases in 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, 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.

However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases to improve access to justice in line with the mandate under Article 39A of the Constitution. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, established by the Union Government in 2011, has adopted many strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases.

(d): The Punjab and Haryana High Court is a combined High Court for the States of Punjab and Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The number of Judges serving in the Punjab and Haryana High Court during the last 3 years is given below:-

Year	2017 (As on 01.01.2017)	2018 (As on 01.01.2018)	2019 (As on 27.11.2019)
Number of Judges Working	47	50	56

(e): The District and Subordinate Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the High Court concerned.

(f): Does not arise in view of (e) above.

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2575**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**Linking of Courts through Video Conferencing**

**2575. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:**  
**SHRI PINAKI MISRA:**

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

- (a) the State-wise number of prisons and courts that have been linked via video conferencing across the country;
- (b) whether any amendment has been made to permit the use of video conferencing during trial hearings;
- (c) if so, the details of implementation of this amendment;
- (d) the number of prisoners being produced via video conferencing for remand hearing and trial hearings across the country; and
- (e) the details of the nodal agency in charge of monitoring and documenting the use of video-conferencing at the district/ State/national level?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) : Under the eCourts Mission Mode Project, video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails. State/UT wise information is placed in the Annexure.



(b) and (c): An amendment was made in section 167 (2) (b) of Code of Criminal Procedure to extend further detention of the accused in judicial custody through the medium of electronic video linkage.

As per the said section, no Magistrate shall authorise detention of the accused in custody of the police under this section unless the accused is produced before him in person for the first time and subsequently every time till the accused remains in the custody of the police, but the Magistrate may extend further detention in judicial custody on production of the accused either in person or through the medium of electronic video linkage.

(d) and ((e) : The nodal agency in charge of monitoring and documenting the use of video conferencing varies from State to State. In some States, the documentation is recorded in the proceedings of case records. In some States, Nodal Officers under eCourts project at District Level and Central Project Coordinator (CPC) of High Court at State Level do the monitoring and documenting of use of video conferencing. In some other States, the remote end District Jails are also maintaining the records of such under trial prisoners in which judicial proceedings are conducted through video conferencing. Therefore, the details of number of prisoners being produced via video conferencing for remand hearing and trial hearings across the country are not maintained centrally but by the respective nodal agency.

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S. No	High Court	State/UT	Total Court Complexes	Total Jails
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	150	65
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	212	111
3	Bombay	D & N Haveli	1	1
		Daman & Diu	2	2
		Goa	17	2
		Maharashtra	466	138
4	Calcutta	A & N Islands	4	4
		West Bengal	84	53
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	90	28
6	Delhi	Delhi	6	10
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	14	2
		Assam	68	29
		Mizoram	8	7
		Nagaland	11	11
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	327	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	43	12
10	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	86	14
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	28	27
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	200	97
13	Kerala	Kerala	156	33
		Lakshadweep	3	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	203	122
15	Madras	Puducherry	4	2
		Tamil Nadu	263	117
16	Manipur	Manipur	17	2
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	6	4
18	Orissa	Odisha	141	88
19	Patna	Bihar	76	56
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	1	1
		Haryana	53	19
		Punjab	64	24
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	238	95
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	4	2
23	Telangana	Telangana	129	44
24	Tripura	Tripura	13	13
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	52	10
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3240</b>	<b>1272</b>



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

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**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2588  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 04<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**All India Judicial Services**

**†2588. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:  
SHRI HANS RAJ HANS:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has made progress in consultative process among States and Chief Justice of High Courts on constitution of All India Judicial Service ( AIJS) so far to make recruitment process through efficient, uniform and regular and also to address shortage of Judges in lower Judiciary;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made on the subject; and**
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to expedite creation of AIJS?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (c): 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 levels was included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference, which was held on 3rd and 4th April, 2015. 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.

Further, views of States and High Courts were sought on a comprehensive proposal formulated for constitution of All India Judicial Service (AIJS) which was approved by the Committee of Secretaries. While two High Courts have concurred with the proposal approved by Committee of Secretaries for formation of AIJS, twelve High Courts have not favoured the proposal of formation of AIJS. Six High Courts have suggested changes in age at induction level, qualifications, training and quota of vacancies to be filled through AIJS. Most High Courts want administrative control over Subordinate Judiciary to remain with the respective High Courts.



While two State Governments have supported creation of AIJS, seven State Governments have not favoured the formation of AIJS. Five State Governments have requested for some changes in the proposal.

The comprehensive proposal formulated for constitution of AIJS which was approved by the Committee of Secretaries along with views received from High Courts and States was included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 5th April, 2015. Keeping in view the divergence of opinion among the States and High Courts on constitution of AIJS, the Government has undertaken further consultation to arrive at a common ground.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Appointment  
Division*

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2658

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 04.012.2019

**Shifting of High Court**

2658. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:

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

- a) whether there is a popular demand from the public of Kurnool city of Andhra Pradesh for setting up a High Court and if so, the details thereof;
- b) whether the Government is planning to shift High Court from Vijayawada to Kurnool and if so, the details thereof; and
- c) if not, the criteria for selection of place of High Court?

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (c): Article 214 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a High Court for each State. In pursuance of Article 214 of the Constitution and order dated 29.10.2018 issued by Supreme Court in the matter of Union of India Vs. T. Dhangopal Rao and ors [SLP (Civil) Dy. No. 29890 of 2018], a separate High Court for State of Andhra Pradesh namely High Court of Andhra Pradesh with the principal seat at Amravati has been established



under Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014 w.e.f. 01.01.2019 in consultation with State Government of Andhra Pradesh and the then common High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Representation has been received from an organization for setting up High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Kurnool city. However, the matter of setting up / shifting of High Court and selection of place of High Court is under the domain of State Government and Chief Justice of concerned High Court.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Appointment  
Division*

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2665**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 04.12.2019**

**High Court Bench in Rajasthan**

†2665. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- a) the number of benches which are working in the High Court of Rajasthan;
- b) whether any proposal of the State Government for commencement of a bench of Rajasthan High Court at Udaipur is pending before the Union Government and if so, the details thereof;
- c) the year-wise details of the average number of cases settled in Rajasthan; and
- d) the number of cases pending for more than twenty years in Rajasthan and the reasons for not settling them?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a): There is permanent Bench of Rajasthan High Court in Jaipur.



(b): No sir.

(c): As per the Data available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), total number of cases disposed in the District and Subordinate Courts of Rajasthan as on 28.11.2019 is 43,17,760.

(d): Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of judiciary. The total number of cases pending for more than 20 years in Rajasthan High Court is 7795 and in the District and Subordinate Courts is 3330. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, *inter-alia*, include availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2666

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 04<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019.

Pending Court Cases

2666. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:  
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending at Bihar (Patna) High Court at present and the number of cases that are 15 years old;
- (b) whether the people are denied time bound justice due to the pending cases in Bihar;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the year-wise details of the judges working at Bihar (Patna) High Court during the last three years;
- (e) the action taken by the Government so far to overcome the inadequate number of courts; and
- (f) the outcome of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a): As per data available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the total number of pending cases in Patna High Court as on 29.11.2019 is 1,68,123. The total number of cases pending for over 15 years is not available on the NJDG. However, the total number of cases pending for over 10 years and upto 20 years in Patna High Court as on 29.11.2019 is 15,075.

(b) and (c): Disposal of cases in 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, 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.

However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases to improve access to justice in line with the mandate under Article 39A of the Constitution. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, established by the Union Government in 2011, has adopted many strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases.

(d): The year-wise details of the Judges working in the Patna High Court during the last 3 years is given below:-

Year	2017 (As on 01.01.2017)	2018 ( As on 01.01.2018)	2019 (As on 27.11.2019)
Number of Judges Working	31	33	27

(e): The District and Subordinate Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the High Court concerned.

(f): Does not arise in view of (e) above.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2725

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 04<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019

Pending Court Cases

†2725. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending in courts all over India, State/UT-wise along with the reasons for such pendency;
- (b) whether the Government has taken/introduced any structural changes to reduce the pendency of cases;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has developed any fast-track mechanism for quick disposal of cases; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): As per the data made available on the website of the Supreme Court, the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court as on 01.11.2019 is 59,867. As per the data available on the National Judicial data Grid (NJDG), the number of cases pending as on 28.11.2019 in the High Courts in the country, High Court-wise, is given in Annexure I and the number of cases pending as on 28.11.2019 in the District and Subordinate Courts in the country, State/UT-wise, is given in Annexure II.

(b) and (c): Disposal of cases in 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, 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.

However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, established by the Union Government in 2011, has adopted many strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases. The major steps taken during the last five years under various initiatives are as follows:

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 7,453.10 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, Rs.4,008.80 crores (which is 53.79% 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 19,425 as on 28.11.2019 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,151 as on 28.11.2019 under this scheme. In addition, 2,814 court halls and 1,843 residential units are under construction.
- (ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,845 registering an increase of 3,173 during 2014 till date. 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). Currently, case status information in respect of over 12.23 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 10.26 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts is available on NJDG. 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.

- (iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 28.11.2019, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 489 new Judges were appointed and 427 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 increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
28.11.2019	23,564	18,125

- (iv) Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees: In pursuance of resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (v) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.



(d) and (e): 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 30.09.2019, 704 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, family and matrimonial disputes, etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases under Rape and POCSO Act.

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**Annexure - I****Number of cases pending as on 28.11.2019 in the High Courts, High Court-wise –  
As per NJDG**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of High Courts</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
1.	Allahabad High Court	7,30,588
2.	Calcutta High Court	22,013
3.	Gauhati High Court	44,911
4.	High Court for the State of Telangana	2,17,606
5.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	1,92,809
6.	High Court of Bombay	2,67,809
7.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	67,734
8.	High Court of Delhi	80,206
9.	High Court of Gujarat	1,25,707
10.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	43,339
11.	High Court of Jammu & Kashmir	74,811
12.	High Court of Jharkhand	84,163
13.	High Court of Karnataka	2,46,194
14.	High Court of Kerala	1,96,578
15.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	3,56,968
16.	High Court of Manipur	3,708
17.	High Court of Meghalaya	1,043
18.	High Court of Punjab & Haryana	5,15,498
19.	High Court of Rajasthan	4,58,393
20.	High Court of Sikkim	244
21.	High Court of Tripura	2,671
22.	High Court of Uttarakhand	38,999
23.	Madras High Court	4,01,632
24.	Orissa High Court	1,49,138
25.	Patna High Court	1,68,123
<b>Total</b>		<b>44,90,885</b>



**Annexure - II****Number of cases pending as on 28.11.2019 in the District and Subordinate Courts in the country, State/UT-wise – As per NJDG**

Sl. No.	Name of States / UTs	Number of Cases
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	----
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5,62,307
3.	Telangana	5,57,563
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	----
5.	Assam	2,93,412
6.	Bihar	28,48,083
7.	Chandigarh	47,482
8.	Chhattisgarh	2,76,762
9.	D & N Haveli	3,091
10.	Daman & Diu	2,203
11.	Delhi	8,42,322
12.	Goa	46,660
13.	Gujarat	16,22,306
14.	Haryana	8,57,145
15.	Himachal Pradesh	2,90,574
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,74,858
17.	Jharkhand	3,85,148
18.	Karnataka	15,59,675
19.	Kerala	12,74,349
20.	Lakshadweep	----
21.	Madhya Pradesh	14,28,784
22.	Maharashtra	37,73,505
23.	Manipur	9,883
24.	Meghalaya	8,847
25.	Mizoram	2,560
26.	Nagaland	----
27.	Orissa	12,22,774
28.	Punjab	6,34,550
29.	Rajasthan	16,67,743
30.	Sikkim	1,205
31.	Tamil Nadu	11,61,512
32.	Puducherry	----
33.	Tripura	24,326
34.	Uttar Pradesh	75,52,697
35.	Uttarakhand	1,98,638
36.	West Bengal	22,80,074
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,16,11,038</b>

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



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2728

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 04<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019.

Pending Court Cases

2728. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:

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

(a) the extent to which reduction in the number of pending cases in various courts of the country, especially in Bihar has come down during the last three years; and

(b) the measures taken /proposed to be taken at present for disposal of all kinds of court cases within stipulated time?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) As per data available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the total number of pending cases during the last three years and the current year in all High Courts, Patna High Court, all District and Subordinate Courts of the country, and District and Subordinate Courts in the State of Bihar, is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Number of Cases pending cases as on 31.12.2016	Number of Cases pending as on 31.12.2017	Number of Cases pending as on 20.12.2018	Number of Cases pending as on 28.11.2019
1.	All High Courts	40,15,147	34,27,462	49,79,033	44,89,758
2.	Patna High Court	1,34,459	1,45,056	1,49,920	1,68,123
3.	All District and Subordinate Courts of the country	2,74,97,436	2,61,24,130	2,92,11,615	3,16,15,186
4.	District and Subordinate Courts in Bihar	21,28,325	16,58,292	24,68,897	28,48,083



(b) Disposal of cases in 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, 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.

However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases to improve access to justice in line with the mandate under Article 39A of the Constitution. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, established by the Union Government in 2011, has adopted many strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases. The major steps taken during the last five years under various initiatives are as follows:

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 7,453.10 crores has been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. Out of this, Rs.4,008.80 crores (which is 53.79% of the total amount released till date) has 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 19,425 as on 28.11.2019 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,151 as on 28.11.2019 under this scheme. In addition, 2,814 court halls and 1,843 residential units are under construction.
- (ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,845 registering an increase of 3,173 during 2014 till date.



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). Currently, case status information in respect of over 12.23 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 10.26 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts is available on NJDG. 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

- (iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 28.11.2019, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 489 new Judges were appointed and 427 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 increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
28.11.2019	23,564	18,125

- (iv) Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees: In pursuance of resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (v) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment



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

- (vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: As on 30.09.2019, 704 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, family and matrimonial disputes, etc. Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases under Rape and POCSO Act.

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