2019

RAJYA SABHA REPLIES

INTERM BUDGET SESSION, 2019
[TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY EIGHTH SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA]

[31st January, 2019 to 13th February, 2019]

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 705
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08.02.2019

Desk Side

Salary and perquisites of Judges

705. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in various High Courts, State-wise, including Gujarat and Jharkhand, as well as the Supreme Court of country;

(b) the number of pending cases, both criminal and civil, in High Courts, State-wise and the Supreme Court of the country;

(c) the steps taken by Government in last four years to ease stress and burden of higher judiciary in the country; and

(d) whether Government increased salaries and perquisites of Judges in the country to raise their living standard to bring it at par with judiciary in the developed countries, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a)to(d): A Statement showing the number of vacancies of Judges in various High Courts is at Annexure-I. A statement showing number of pending cases, (both Criminal and Civil) in the High Courts and Supreme Court is at Annexure-II. A statement showing the salaries and perquisites of Judges is at Annexure-III.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process of the Judiciary and Executive involving various Constitutional Authorities. During the year 2015-2018, 18 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court and 384 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts. The Government has also increased the Judges strength of the High Courts from 906 in May, 2014 to 1079 at present.

To address speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases to improve access to justice, the following interventions have been made by the Government during the last 4 years:-

i) Pursuant to the decisions taken in the Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers of the States and Chief Justices of the High Courts in 2015, Arrears Committee has been established in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts to assign top most priority for disposal of cases which are pending for more than five years.

ii) In April,2015, the Government has taken up with all States to improve the working of the judicial system and provide speedy justice in the country.

iii) In September, 2016, May,2017 and August,2018, 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 judiciary and to monitor the status of the vacancies regularly.

Government has taken the following initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

1. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has been established;
2. Improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts;
3. Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery.
4. Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) to fast track special type of cases.

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Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 705 for 08.02.2019 regarding Salary and perquisites of Judges.

(As on 01.02.2019)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength of Judges	Working Strength of Judges	Vacancies
A	Supreme Court of India	31	28	03
B	High Court			
1	Allahabad	160	108	52
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	13	24
3	Bombay	94	70	24
4	Calcutta	72	36	36
5	Chhattisgarh	22	15	07
6	Delhi	60	38	22
7	Gauhati	24	20	04
8	Gujarat	52	28	24
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	08	05
10	Jammu & Kashmir	17	09	08
11	Jharkhand	25	18	07
12	Karnataka	62	31	31
13	Kerala	47	37	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	34	19
15	Madras	75	60	15
16	Manipur	05	03	02
17	Meghalaya	04	03	01
18	Orissa	27	15	12
19	Patna	53	27	26
20	Punjab& Haryana	85	53	32
21	Rajasthan	50	25	25
22	Sikkim	03	03	0
23	Telangana	24	13	11
24	Tripura	04	03	01
25	Uttarakhand	11	09	02
Total		1079	679	400

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 705 for 08.02.2019 regarding Salary and perquisites of Judges.

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Total Pending Cases – Civil, Criminal, Writ
A	**Supreme Court of India**	**58029 (As on 01.02.2019)**
B	**High Courts**	**As on 05.02.2019**
1	**Allahabad High Court**	**727145**
2	**Calcutta High Court**	**20677**
3	**Gauhati High Court**	**41039**
4	**Bombay High Court**	**267809**
5	**Chhattisgarh High Court**	**63312**
6	**Delhi High Court**	**74709**
7	**Gujarat High Court**	**115359**
8	**Himachal Pradesh High Court**	**36711**
9	**Jammu and Kashmir High Court**	**78531**
10	**Jharkhand High Court**	**88229**
11	**High Court of Judicature At Hyderabad**	**363390**
12	**Karnataka High Court**	**239425**
13	**Kerala High Court**	**191336**
14	**Madhya Pradesh**	**334433**
15	**Manipur High Court**	**4786**
16	**Meghalaya High Court**	**1112**
17	**Punjab & Haryana High Court**	**375441**
18	**Rajasthan High Court**	**449816**
19	**Sikkim High Court**	**263**
20	**Tripura High Court**	**2973**
21	**Uttrakhand High Court**	**56392**
22	**Madras High Court**	**401321**
23	**Orissa High Court**	**158523**

Annexure-III

Statement referred to in reply to part (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 705 for 08.02.2019 regarding Salary and perquisites of Judges.

Head	Designation	Old salary under Sixth Central Pay Commission. (Rs. pm)	New Salary according to Seventh Pay Commission (Rs. pm) w.e.f. 1.1.2016
Salary	Chief Justice of India	1,00,000	2,80,000
	Judges of Supreme Court and Chief Justice of High Courts	90,000	2,50,000
	Judge of High Court	80,000	2,25,000
Sumptuary Allowance	Chief Justice of India	20,000	45,000 (w.e.f. 22.9.2017)
	Judges of Supreme Court and Chief Justice of High Courts	15,000	34,000 (w.e.f. 22.9.2017)
	Judge of High Court	12,000	27,000 (w.e.f. 22.9.2017)
*Furnishing Allowance One time payment	Chief Justice of India	5,00,000	10,00,000 (w.e.f. 19.3.2018)
	Judges of Supreme Court and Chief Justice of High Courts	4,00,000	8,00,000 (w.e.f. 19.3.2018)
	Judge of High Court	3,00,000	6,00,000 (w.e.f. 19.3.2018)
Electricity and Water	Chief Justice of India/Judges of Supreme Court	Free	Free
	Chief Justice of High Courts /Judge of High Court	3600 kiloliters of Water and 10,000 units of Power per annum	3600 kiloliters of Water and 10,000 units of Power per annum
Pension (Maximum)	Chief Justice of India	6,00,000 (per annum) + DR	16,80,000 (per annum) + Dearness Relief (DR)
	Judges of Supreme Court and Chief Justice of High Courts	5,40,000 (per annum) + DR	15,00,000 (per annum) + DR
	Judge of High Court	4,80,000 (per annum) + DR	13,50,000 (per annum) + DR
Gratuity (Maximum) One time payment.	Chief Justice of India	10,00,000	20,00,000
	Judges of Supreme Court and Chief Justice of High Courts	10,00,000	20,00,000
	Judge of High Court	10,00,000	20,00,000

Where a Judge does not avail himself of the use of an official residence, he may be paid every month an allowance equivalent to an amount of 24% of the salary which shall be increased at the rate of 27% when Dearness Allowance crosses 25% and 30%, when Dearness Allowance crosses 50%.

New rate of HRA is effective from 1.7.2017.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Desk file

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 706

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08.02.2019

Appointment of women Judges in the courts/tribunals

706. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:

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

(a) the number of women Judges appointed in the Supreme Court and High Courts, court-wise;

(b) the number of women Judges appointed in the tribunals constituted by the Central Government, tribunal-wise;

(c) the number of women Judges appointed in the subordinate judiciary, district-wise; and

(d) whether Government is proposing any scheme to increase the proportion of women Judges in the courts and tribunals and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a): A Statement showing details of Working Strength of Judges and number of women Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts is annexed.

(b): Detail of women Judges in Tribunal are not Centrally maintained as they are being administered by different Ministries / Departments of the Government.

(c): Information on women Judges in Subordinate Judiciary is also not centrally maintained as the subject matter falls within the domain of the High Courts and the State Governments.

(d): Appointment of Judges of the High Court is made under Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India. These Articles do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons including women

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Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 706 for 08.02.2019 regarding Appointment of women Judges in the courts/tribunals.

Sl. No.	Name of the High Courts	Working Strength of Judges	Number of working Women Judges
A	Supreme Court	28	03
B	High Court		
1	Allahabad	108	07
2	Andhra Pradesh	13	03
3	Bombay	70	09
4	Calcutta	36	07
5	Chhattisgarh	15	02
6	Delhi	38	07
7	Gauhati	20	01
8	Gujarat	28	03
9	Himachal Pradesh	08	00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	09	02
11	Jharkhand	18	01
12	Karnataka	31	03
13	Kerala	37	05
14	Madhya Pradesh	34	03
15	Madras	60	11
16	Manipur	03	00
17	Meghalaya	03	00
18	Orissa	15	01
19	Patna	27	02
20	Punjab& Haryana	53	07
21	Rajasthan	25	01
22	Sikkim	03	01
23	Telangana	13	00
24	Tripura	03	00
25	Uttarakhand	09	00

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

J43-I

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 708

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8th FEBRUARY, 2019

Cooling off period for Judges after retirement

708 . SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to prescribe a cooling off period of 5 years after the retirement of Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court with a view to secure the independence of institutions recognised in the Constitution through special protection of SC/HC Judges and Election Commissioners;
(b) if so, the details thereof and by when; and
(c) if not, the other reforms Government proposes to bring forward in this direction as Government is a major litigant in courts but holds the power to offer post-retirement position to Judges?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE & CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): There is no proposal to prescribe a cooling off period of 5 years after the retirement of Judges of High Court & Supreme Courts. Various legislations enacted by the Parliament in the country have provisions for appointment of sitting/retired judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts as Chairpersons and Members of the Commissions, Tribunals and Authorities.

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

eCourts

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 709
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8th FEBRUARY, 2019

e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-II

709. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-II;
(b) whether Government recently launched mobile application based e-services for courts;
(c) if so, the details of the services shared through this application; and
(d) the number of applicants using this applications, State-wise and court-wise?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW & JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project with the aim of computerisation and connecting district and subordinate courts across the country, in association with the eCommittee of the, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The details are as follows: (i) 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. (ii) The target set out under the project is 20,000 courts. Against the financial outlay

of Rs.1,670 crores in the second phase, Rs.1,087 crores have been released, including Rs.931.3 crores to High Courts. Rs.632.3 crore have been utilised by the High Courts.

(iii) As per information received from eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, 16845 courts have been computerized till date. The High Court wise details of such district and subordinate courts are as **Annexure- I.**

(b) to (d) : Yes, Sir. The Government launched mobile application based e-services for district and subordinate courts. e-Courts Services 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. All the court case information services which are available on ecourts services for District Courts and High Courts are made available through mobile app. Additionally portfolio management tools are provided in mobile app. Portfolio Management tools include saving cases of one's interest and generating case list for selected date. It also provides search facility on different parameters within the data of saved cases. For agewise segregation different background colours are used. Cases can be sorted on the strength of location or date of listing. Calendar tool gives ready assistance showing number of saved cases listed on selected date. Mobile app has feature of scan QR code which can be used for searching case history and current update. The number of downloads of the eCourts Services mobile app have crossed 14.9 lakhs.

Second Mobile application called JUSTIS has been created for use of Judicial Officers. The Judicial Officer can see the cases of his court only. It can be used for case management by the Judicial Officers. This app has been created with compatibility for Android. The Judicial Officer can login the application after providing their code and Mobile Number. The app will display the case information after verification of the OTP sent to their respective mobile number. If a Judicial Officer is transferred, the application automatically will show the cases of the court, where he has been transferred.

ANNEXURE-I

S. No.	Name of the High Court	Number of computerised district and subordinate courts
1.	Allahabad	2,072
2.	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	1,078
3.	Bombay	2,079
4.	Calcutta	811
5.	Chhattisgarh	357
6.	Delhi	427
7.	Gauhati	496
8.	Gujarat	1,108
9.	Himachal Pradesh	119
10.	Jammu And Kashmir	218
11.	Jharkhand	351
12.	Karnataka	897
13.	Kerala	486
14.	Madras	1,032
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1,293
16.	Manipur	37
17.	Meghalaya	39
18.	Orissa	534
19.	Patna	1,025
20.	Punjab And Haryana	1,018
21.	Rajasthan	1,094
22.	Sikkim	19
23.	Uttarakhand	186
24.	Tripura	69
	Total	16,845

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 710
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08th FEBRUARY, 2019

Pendency in various High Courts

710. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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

(a) whether more than ten lakh cases have been lying pending in various High Courts for more than ten years, as on date;
(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
(c) the reasons for the said cases lying pending for more than ten years;
(d) the reaction of Government thereto; and
(e) whether there is any proposal of Government to establish benches of High Courts, particularly, Allahabad High Court, in Western UP so that large number of cases pending in that Court may be solved in a time-bound manner, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Data on pendency of cases in the High Courts is maintained by the respective High Courts. As per information available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as on date, 8.48 lakh cases are pending in various High Courts for more than ten years. High Court-wise details of cases pending for more than ten years are given in a statement at ***Annexure.***

(c) & (d): Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. The time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of the case (civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake-holders *viz.* bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable rules of procedure. 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, however, fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution.

(e) High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No. 379 of 2000 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court alongwith the consent of the Governor of the concerned State. The State Government has to provide necessary infrastructural facilities to establish a Bench of the High Court away from its principal seat and to bear the entire expenditure of the High Court and its Bench. The Chief Justice of the High Court is required to look after the day-to-day administration of the High Court and its Bench and depute Judges from the Principal Seat to Bench from time-to-time. It is, therefore, necessary that both the State Government and the High Court consider the matter from all angles and arrive at a consensus. At present, no proposal complete in all aspects, is pending for consideration by the Central Government including that from the Allahabad High Court.

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Annexure

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 710 for reply on 08.02.2019 regarding Pendency in various High Courts

Cases pending in High Courts for more than 10 years

Sr. No.	High Court Name	Cases pending for more than ten years.
1.	Allahabad High Court	273035
2.	Calcutta High Court	8569
3.	Gauhati High Court	346
4.	High Court of Bombay	71346
5.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	6273
6.	High Court of Delhi	7909
7.	High Court of Gujarat	13539
8.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	1355
9.	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	7479
10.	High Court of Jharkhand	15207
11.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	46821
12.	High Court of Karnataka	5850
13.	High Court of Kerala	17259
14.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	63760
15.	High Court of Manipur	554
16.	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	58841
17.	High Court of Rajasthan	76409
20.	High Court of Uttarakhand	22381
21.	Madras High Court	99867
22.	Orissa High Court	30430
23.	Patna High Court	21525
Total cases pending for more than 10 years		**848755**

Source: NJDG Data.

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Desk Side

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 711

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08.02.2019

Bench of the Orissa High Court in western part of Odisha

711. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA:

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

a) whether the State Government of Odisha has written to the Central Government several times proposing for establishment of a Bench of the Orissa High Court in western part of Odisha, pledging to provide all infrastructural requirements as would be necessary for a High Court Bench; and

b) whether concurrence of the Orissa High Court is mandatory for establishment of High Court Bench, if so, whether the Central Government has sought approval of the Orissa High Court and the response thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No.379 of 2000 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government and the Chief

Justice of the concerned High Court along with the consent of the Governor of the concerned State. The State Government has to provide necessary infrastructural facilities to establish a Bench of the High Court away from its principal seat and to bear the entire expenditure of the High Court and its Bench. The Chief Justice of the High Court is required to look after the day-to-day administration of the High Court and its Bench and depute Judges from the Principal Seat to Bench from time-to-time. It is, therefore, necessary that both the State Government and the High Court consider the matter from all angles and arrive at a consensus.

The State Government of Odisha has requested for setting up of Orissa High Court Bench in Western and Southern region of Odisha. In this regard, the Central Government has requested the High Court of Orissa to provide its views which have not been received.

The Central Government has also apprised the State Government of Odisha in the matter on various occasions, the last being vide letter dated 12.01.2019.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 712

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8th FEBRUARY, 2019

Provision of court proceedings and judgements in regional languages

+712. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

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

(a) whether proceedings and judgments of High Courts and lower courts are provided in regional languages (Indian languages) to the concerned parties;

(b) if so, the details of courts providing this facility, State-wise, if not, the steps being taken in this regard by Government in the public interest; and

(c) whether any fee is charged for providing judgments and other proceedings in regional Indian languages like Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Odiya, etc.?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE & CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a): Use of Hindi has been authorized in the proceedings as well as in the Decree, Judgments in the High Courts of the States of Rajasthan,

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Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(b) & (c): 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. Therefore the aforesaid requests were forwarded to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. The 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.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. Use of regional language in lower courts is a subject matter of concerned State/High Court.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †713
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08th FEBRUARY, 2019

IT- enabled plan for expeditious disposal of pending cases

†713. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has contemplated to implement any IT-enabled plan for expeditious disposal of pending cases in lower and higher courts of the country;
(b) whether any study has been conducted on the merit of this plan after implementing it on pilot basis in any part of country; and
(c) the number of pending cases disposed of during last three years along with the number of cases pending at present and by when it is planned to dispose them of?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : 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 Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The steps being taken by the Government to promote the use of technology in the working of the 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). Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding jails.

(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. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1,670 crores in the second phase, Rs.931.31 crores have been released to High Courts and Rs.632.30 crore have been utilised by the High Courts.

(iii) Computerisation of 16,845 district and subordinate courts has been completed, through provisioning of computer hardware, Local Area Network (LAN), and installation of standard application software in district and subordinate courts. The details of computerised district and subordinate courts under various High Courts are at ***Annexure-I.***

(iv) During the Phase II, till date, 172 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.

(b) : The evaluation of eCourts Project Phase I (2010 – 2015) to assess ICT deployment was completed.

(c) : As per the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), State / UT-wise details of cases disposed of in District and Subordinate Courts during three years (2014, 2015 and 2016) are given in ***Annexure - II.*** Data for the years 2017 and 2018 is not available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid.

As per the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), State / UT-wise details of cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 05.02.2019 are given in ***Annexure – III.***

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. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts.

The Government is, however, fully committed to speedy disposal of cases. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court. The major achievements during the last four 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.6,670.12 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.3,225.82 crores (which are 48.36% 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 18,796 as on date and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 16,652 as on date under this scheme. In addition, 2,925 court halls and 1,756 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 to 2018. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. QR Code facility has been made operational in the software, which enables checking of 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 10.97 crore cases including more than three crore pending cases and more than 8.24 crore orders / judgments are 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 set up 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 the country.

(iii) : Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:

From 01.01.2014 to 31.12.2018, 27 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 446 new Judges were appointed and 379 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has also 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
31.12.2018	22,833	17,701

(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 24 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) Nyaya Mitra Scheme: In order to reduce cases pending in courts for over 10 years, the Government launched the Nyaya Mitra Scheme in April 2017. Under the Scheme, retired judicial officers are engaged and designated as '*Nyaya Mitra*' to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years. In the first Phase, 15 Nyaya Mitra have been engaged in 15 Districts of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura.

(vi) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been enacted on 20th August, 2018 whereby mandatory pre-Institution mediation mechanism has been introduced for settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 has been made to expedite the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 passed by the Lok Sabha on 10.08.2018 seeks to set up Arbitration Council of India (ACI) to *inter-alia* grade arbitral institutions, accredit arbitrators and impart training and award certificate in the ADR field.

(vii) 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 form 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. At present, 731 such Fast Track Courts are functioning across the country. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, twelve (12) Special Courts have been 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 Offices Act, 2012.

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Annexure – I

Statement referred to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 713 for reply on 08.02.2019

Details of computerised district and subordinate courts

S. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of computerised 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 And 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 And Haryana	1018
21.	Rajasthan	1094
22.	Sikkim	19
23.	Uttarakhand	186
24.	Tripura	69
	Total	16845

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Annexure - II

Statement referred to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 713 for reply on 08.02.2019

Details of number of cases disposed in District and Subordinate Courts during 3 years (2014, 2015 and 2016).

Sl. No	Name of the State / UT	Disposal of cases 2014	Disposal of cases 2015	Disposal of cases 2016
1	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	6,47,130	6,58,713	6,03,017
2	Arunachal Pradesh	7,615	3,588	4,384
3	Assam	2,76,138	2,72,538	2,51,119
4	Bihar	3,05,583	2,92,678	3,44,683
5	Chhattisgarh	1,76,144	1,95,174	1,95,495
6	Goa	30,625	34,765	34,130
7	Gujarat	11,32,433	10,93,664	15,86,926
8	Haryana	5,87,385	5,42,440	5,93,132
9	Himachal Pradesh	4,09,732	1,94,803	2,17,568
10	Jammu & Kashmir	2,97,507	87,687	98,638
11	Jharkhand	1,10,068	1,18,845	1,04,284
12	Karnataka	13,67,041	12,09,127	10,79,586
13	Kerala	13,55,926	13,38,443	11,93,996
14	Madhya Pradesh	11,13,382	10,73,584	7,84,077
15	Maharashtra	15,36,322	16,49,187	22,81,027
16	Manipur	14,257	7,395	6,588
17	Meghalaya	11,691	9,215	11,396
18	Mizoram	10,747	10,355	10,906
19	Nagaland	3,047	4,826	4,215
20	Odisha	4,70,085	4,08,261	4,69,571
21	Punjab	5,49,300	5,78,681	6,05,324
22	Rajasthan	11,32,028	13,71,762	8,16,129
23	Sikkim	2,008	1,725	2,142
24	Tamil Nadu	16,45,329	11,51,349	@10,43,172
25	Tripura	1,93,003	1,92,081	67,385
26	Uttar Pradesh	31,82,318	33,13,424	36,18,460
27	Uttarakhand	2,20,660	2,00,947	1,75,464
28	West Bengal and A & N Island	10,89,309	10,99,743	10,59,641
29	Chandigarh	1,80,616	1,45,990	1,43,520
30	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	2,771	3,323	3,810
31	Delhi	9,30,732	6,12,553	6,18,618
32	Lakshadweep	95	280	269
33	Puducherry	28,631	20,409	@
	Total	**1,90,19,658**	**1,78,97,555**	**1,80,28,672**

@Figures of Tamilnadu and Puducherry are combined in respect of the year 2016

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Annexure – III

Statement referred to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 713 for reply on 08.02.2019

Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 05.02.2019.

S No.	State	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	537926
2.	Assam	293822
3.	Bihar	2599079
4.	Chandigarh	44574
5.	Chhattisgarh	266468
6.	Delhi	735176
7.	Diu and Daman	2145
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3417
9.	Goa	50564
10.	Gujarat	1668347
11.	Haryana	748455
12.	Himachal Pradesh	263166
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	166268
14.	Jharkhand	363556
15.	Karnataka	1293002
16.	Kerala	1172371
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1407753
18.	Maharashtra	3601493
19.	Manipur	9966
20.	Meghalaya	7102
21.	Mizoram	3774
22.	Orissa	1156687
23.	Punjab	607063
24.	Rajasthan	1523301
25.	Sikkim	1302
26.	Tamil Nadu	1119914
27.	Telangana	523202
28.	Tripura	22973
29.	Uttar Pradesh	7151897
30.	Uttarakhand	237666
31.	West Bengal	2224014
	Total Pending Cases	**29806443**

Source: National Judicial Data Grid.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 718

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8th FEBRUARY, 2019

Vacancies in Courts

718. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

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

(a) Whether over 10,000 posts LDA, Copyist, Typist, Law Clerks, Private Secretary, Stenographer, Judicial Assistant, Research Assistant are vacant in different High Courts of the country;

(b) whether nearly 450 posts of Judges are still vacated cumulatively in the Supreme Court and all 24 High Courts of the country thereto;

(c) whether in four High Courts, there are acting Chief Justice;

(d) if so, the details of category-wise vacancies and proposal to fill up all vacancies in time-bound mechanism; and

(e) the details of referral of supreme Court Collegium and State's recommendations therein and action taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE & CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a): Information relating to vacancies in non-judicial staff in High Courts and subordinate judiciary is not maintained in the Union Government as the

matter comes under the purview of the High Courts and respective State Governments.

(b) to (e): A statement showing Approved strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India as on 01.02.2019 is attached. The High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Calcutta, Gujarat and Karnataka are presently having Acting Chief Justices.

The proposals received from the various High Courts for appointment as Judges of the High Court are examined and acted upon in accordance with the Memorandum of Procedure. Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process, between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. Hence, the time frame for filling up of the vacancies cannot be indicated precisely. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges (to the Supreme Court).

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Desk Side

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 759

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08.02.2019

Establishment of High Courts or their Benches in State Capitals

759. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN:

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

a) the States which do not have a High Court in the State Capital; and
b) whether there is a proposal before Government to establish High Courts or their Benches in State capitals where there is none?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a): The States of Kerala, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Madhya Pradesh do not have a Principal seat or Bench of High Court in the respective State capitals.

(b): No Sir. There is no such proposal.

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