

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No 3321

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 31ST MARCH, 2022

Lack of judicial infrastructure

3321. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether an assessment of the lack of judicial infrastructure in the country as pointed out by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) recently has been done, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is a need to appoint statutory authorities, as pointed out by the CJI, to properly utilise the funds allocated for creating better judicial infrastructure;
- (c) whether the lack of infrastructure led to increase in pending cases in the Indian judiciary, if so, the current figure of backlog in Indian judiciary; and
- (d) whether there is a need to increase the number of judges in the High Courts as pointed out by the CJI, if so, the current data on sanctioned and vacant positions of judges in the High Courts?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): A proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India for setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) for arrangement of adequate infrastructure for courts, as per which there will be a Governing Body with Chief Justice of India as Patron-in-Chief. The other salient features in the proposal are that NJIAI will act as a Central body in laying down the road map for

planning, creation, development, maintenance and management of functional infrastructure for the Indian Court System, besides, identical structures under all the High Courts. The proposal has been sent to the various State Government/UTs, as they constitute an important stakeholder, for their views on the contours of the proposal to enable taking a considered view on the matter.

The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern between Centre and States. The Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. A sum of Rs. 8758.71 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 5314.40 crore (60.68 %) has been released since 2014-15. The Scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crore including Central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. Besides the construction of Court Halls and Residential Quarters, the Scheme now also covers the construction of Lawyers' Halls, Digital Computer Rooms and Toilet Complexes in the District and Subordinate Courts.

As per the information available, details of number of cases pending in various courts are given below:-

(As on 25.03.2022)

Court	Number of Cases pending
Supreme Court*	70,154
High Courts	58,90,812
District and Subordinate Courts	4,11,09,709

*As on 02.03.2022

The status of sanctioned strength and working strength of judges in High Courts is as under:

(As on 25.03.2022)

High Courts	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
	1104	717	387

Subsequent to the deliberations held in the Conference of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices in 2013 it was inter-alia resolved that the total sanctioned strength of each High Court could be increased. Subsequently the Judge strength of various High Courts was increased. At present, the sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has increased from 906 in 2014 to 1104 in 2022.
