

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

RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. *46
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2022**

PENDING CASES IN HIGH COURTS

***46. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:**

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

- (a) the details of number of cases filed and disposed off during the year 2021 and 2022 till 30th June, 2022 in various High Courts, High Court-wise and year-wise;**
- (b) the details of pending cases in various High Courts, both civil and criminal, as on 30th June, 2022, High Court-wise; and**
- (c) the details of efforts made/being made to bring down the pending cases in various High Courts to provide relief to poor litigants?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *46 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2022 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN HIGH COURTS'.

(a): A Statement showing the details of number of cases filed and disposed off during the year 2021 and 2022 till 30th June, 2022 in various High Courts, High Court-wise and year-wise is at *Annexure-I*.

(b): A Statement showing the details of pending cases in various High Courts, both civil and criminal, as on 30th June, 2022, High Court-wise is at *Annexure-II*.

(c): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. 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.

National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and

arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

The major steps taken during the last eight years under various initiatives are as follows:

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9013.21 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 20,993 as on 30.06.2022 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,502 as on 30.06.2022 under this scheme. In addition, 2,777 court halls and 1,659 residential units are under construction (as per MIS data). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9,000 crore, out of which central share will be Rs. 5,307 crore. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of lawyer's halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

(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 to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.3% of court complexes. 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). As on 04.07.2022, litigants can access case status of over 20.86 crore cases and 18.02 crore order/judgments pertaining to these courts. 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 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID- 19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 500 e-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

Twenty virtual courts have been set up in 16 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam,

Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and West Bengal to try traffic offences. As on 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,28,76,549 cases while the High Court heard 63,76,561 cases (totalling 1.92 crore) till 30.04.2022 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court had 2,61,338 hearings since the lockdown period upto 13.06.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 15.07.2022, 46 judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 769 new judges were appointed and 619 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 1,108 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
15.07.2022	24,631	19,289

However, filling up of vacancies in Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned.

(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. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

(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) Lok Adalats are one of the Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanism u/s 89 of C.P.C. Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 recognizing its efficacy as an expeditious, less costly and speedier system of administration of justice by which Justice Delivery System is strengthened in the country. As per section 19 of the said Act, the Lok Adalat has jurisdiction to take up any case which is pending before any court or any matter of dispute between the parties which has yet not been brought to the court. Lok Adalat take up civil matters and all criminal compoundable matters, whether pending in a court or at the pre-litigation stage.

Lok Adalats are held at National and State levels. National Lok Adalats are held on single day in all the Courts and Tribunals of the country on dates decided by NALSA in the beginning of each calendar year. State Legal Services Authorities also organize Lok Adalats from time to time as per the local circumstances and requirements.

In the period of turbulence caused by the Covid pandemic, Legal Services Authorities appropriately responded by creatively adapting to the new normal and moving Lok Adalat to the virtual platform. E- Lok Adalat is a process to settle disputes, combining technology and alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) mechanisms which offers a faster, transparent and accessible option.

Although, these Lok Adalats take up both pending and pre-litigative matters, the focus is on reducing the pendency in the courts by taking up more matters actually pending in the High courts and also lower courts. Lok Adalats are organised at District and Taluk levels, including Talukas of remote and far flung areas also. To promote Lok Adalat, a provision is made to refund/reimburse court fee paid by party (ies). Parties can appear and put up their case without any representative.

(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 from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.5.2022, 892 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs /

MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 842 FTSCs including 363 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20, Rs. 160 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 and Rs. 134.557 crore has been released during the financial year 2021-22 for the scheme. 728 FTSC are functional 408 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 1,02,344 cases as on 30.6.2022.

(vii) In addition, to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

Annexure-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 46 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2022 REGARDING
PENDENCY OF CASES IN COURTS**

Statement showing the details of number of cases filed and disposed off, High Court-wise, during the year 2021 and 2022 till 30th June, 2022.

Sl.No.	Name of High Courts	2021		2022 (as on 30.06.2022)	
		Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
1.	Allahabad	281948	243392	162461	151864
2.	Bombay	85646	57835	56447	41610
3.	Calcutta	50012	52466	34061	39267
4.	Gauhati	12717	9359	8389	6788
5.	Telangana	57295	40334	38567	37233
6.	Andhra Pradesh	50087	31860	29408	17099
7.	Chhattisgarh	35974	30809	21816	15699
8.	Delhi	37896	27490	24398	20231
9.	Gujarat	70251	58412	39244	34559
10.	Himachal Pradesh	38250	30054	20931	16176
11.	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	12773	23617	6759	7423
12.	Jharkhand	40566	40637	20972	22839
13.	Karnataka	86669	89989	50166	39673
14.	Kerala	70982	57003	35689*	25330*
15.	Madhya Pradesh	128158	103415	70525	62595
16.	Manipur	1520	1151	832	932
17.	Meghalaya	786	649	421	661
18.	Punjab and Haryana	119327	87310	63780	59575
19.	Rajasthan	166493	124930	94275	73758
20.	Sikkim	157	217	73	74
21.	Tripura	2193	2800	1168	1400
22.	Uttarakhand	17743	14703	9437	7965
23.	Madras	133766	146244	79319	88229
24.	Orissa	129061	105638	53212	60123
25.	Patna	107431	60822	49374	52816
Total		1737701	1441136	936035	858589

Source High Courts

*31.05.2022

Annexure-II**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 46 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2022 REGARDING
'PENDING CASES IN HIGH COURTS'.**

Statement showing the details of pending cases in various High Courts, both civil and criminal, as on 30th June, 2022.

Sl.No.	Name of High Court	Civil	Criminal	Total
1.	Allahabad	564504	464681	1029185
2.	Bombay	489593	100892	590485
3.	Calcutta	185958	30451	216409
4.	Gauhati	45991	10987	56978
5.	Telangana	223062	35922	258984
6.	Andhra Pradesh	200956	33838	234794
7.	Chhattisgarh	55686	31407	87093
8.	Delhi	76703	28653	105356
9.	Gujarat	103494	55018	158512
10.	Himachal Pradesh	75863	11187	87050
11.	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	38582	7333	45915
12.	Jharkhand	40609	46040	86649
13.	Karnataka	251951	44559	296510
14.	Kerala	167865	42368	210233
15.	Madhya Pradesh	262297	160497	422794
16.	Manipur	4261	464	4725
17.	Meghalaya	1138	131	1269
18.	Punjab and Haryana	285149	167632	452781
19.	Rajasthan	438202	159452	597654
20.	Sikkim	136	41	177
21.	Tripura	1391	128	1519
22.	Uttarakhand	24768	18052	42820
23.	Madras	511754	54445	566199
24.	Orissa	140499	49186	189685
25.	Patna	114451	108047	222498
	Total	4304863	1661411	5966274

Source: National Judicial Data Grid.