

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1394
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2022**

Establishment of e-courts and increase in the number of judges

1394. **Shri Naresh Bansal:**

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) whether establishment of e-courts has helped to increase the disposal of pending cases;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has a proposal to increase the number of judges in various courts of the country, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a)& (b): 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. Disposal of 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. However, the Union

Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases.

As part of the National eGovernance Plan, Department of Justice, in coordination with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India is implementing the eCourts project. The e-Court Integrated Mission Mode Project was launched with the objective of improving access to justice using technology. eCourts project has helped in providing assistance in disposal of speedy justice by implementing following initiatives:

- 18735 District and Subordinate Courts computerized under eCourts phase-II so far. (High Court and State wise breakup is given in Annexure – I)
- Under WAN project connectivity provided to 2972 out of total 2992 sites (99.3%) with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth. (High Court wise breakup is given in Annexure – II)
- NJDG developed with elastic search technology allowing access to 20.86 Cr cases and more than 18.02 cr orders and judgments. Delay reasons added and open APIs introduced.
- Using Video Conferencing, the District Courts heard 1,28,76,549 cases while the High Courts heard 63,76,561 cases (totalling 1.92 cr) till 30.04.2022. The Supreme Court held 2,61,338 hearings till 13.06.2022 making it the world leader. (High Court wise breakup is given in Annexure – III)
- Live streaming of court cases started in Gujarat, Karnataka, Orissa, Jharkhand, Patna and Madhya Pradesh High Courts.
- Citizen centric services provided through 7 platforms viz. SMS push & pull, e-mail, eCourts services portal, Judicial service Centers, Info kiosks, eCourts mobile app (total 79.65 lakh downloads till 30th April 2022) and JustIS app for judges (17,369 downloads till 4th July 2022).

- 20 Virtual Courts set up in 16 States/UTs to try traffic challan cases which have heard more than 1.69 Cr cases and realized more than Rs. 271 Cr in fines till 04.07.2022. (State wise breakup is given in Annexure – IV)
- eFiling system version 3.0 rolled out with advanced features like e-Vakalatnama, e-signing, video recording of oath etc. Integrated with e payments module.
- To bridge the digital divide, 500 eSewa Kendras rolled out with intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling.
- Judgment Search Portal has been started for providing certified copies of judgments free of cost.
- National Service and tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been developed for process serving and issue of summons. Currently functional in 28 States/ UTs. (State wise breakup is given in Annexure – V)
- 32 Justice Clocks have been established in 21 High Courts to disseminate court related information. (High Court wise breakup is given in Annexure – VI)
- A new website launched for the Department of Justice that meets Hon'ble PM's vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Nyaya. The goal of this new website is to provide citizens a one stop platform for all digital initiatives of the Department.
- Trainings and awareness programmes have been conducted covering nearly 3,60,993 stakeholders

(c): While deliberation on the review in Judge strength of a High Court, the opinion of the State Government as well as the concerned High Court needs to

be taken into consideration as the State Government has to provide necessary infrastructural facilities in the High Court and the enhanced expenditure in form of pay, perks, accommodation, Judges chamber and support staff resulting from increase in the Judge strength. The Chief Justice of the High Court is required to look after the day-to-day administration of the High Court and to depute Judges from the High Court and constitute Division bench of the High Court from time to time. At present there is no complete proposal pending with the Government to enhance the Judge Strength of a High Court.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. Hence, in so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States.

The Union Government does not have a role under the Constitution in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District/ subordinate judiciary. The Supreme Court, in its orders of 04th January, 2007 in Malik Mazhar case, has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary which stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments / High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions.

Further, in compliance of the above directions of the Supreme Court, Department of Justice forwarded a copy of the Malik Mazhar judgement to Registrars General of all High Courts for necessary action. Department of Justice is writing from time to time to Registrars General of all High Courts to expedite the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary mandated by Malik Mazhar case.

Annexure – I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1394 for 28/07/2022 regarding Establishment of e-courts and increase in the number of judges. The High Court and state wise details of District and subordinate Courts computerized under eCourts phase-II are as under:

Sr. No	High Court	State	Courts
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	2222
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	617
3	Bombay	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
3		Daman and Diu	2
3		Goa	39
3		Maharashtra	2157
4	Calcutta	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	14
4		West Bengal	827
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	434
6	Delhi	Delhi	681
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	28
7		Assam	408
7		Mizoram	69
7		Nagaland	37
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	1268
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	162
10	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	218
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	447
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	1031
13	Kerala	Kerala	484
13		Lakshadweep	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	1363
15	Madras	Puducherry	24
		Tamil Nadu	1124
16	Manipur	Manipur	38
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	42
18	Orissa	Odisha	686
19	Patna	Bihar	1142
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	30
20		Haryana	500
20		Punjab	541
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	1240
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	23
23	Telangana	Telangana	476
24	Tripura	Tripura	84
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	271
	Total		18735

Annexure – II

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1394 for 28/07/2022 regarding Establishment of e-courts and increase in the number of judges. The High Court wise details of WAN project connectivity provided are as under (As on 25/07/2022):

S. No	High Court	No. of WAN connected Sites
1.	Allahabad	168
2.	Andhra Pradesh	188
3.	Bombay	464
4.	Calcutta	98
5.	Chhattisgarh	90
6.	Delhi	7
7.	Gauhati	98
8.	Himachal Pradesh	43
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	28
10.	Jharkhand	79
11.	Karnataka	195
12.	Kerala	168
13.	Madhya Pradesh	205
14.	Madras	254
15.	Manipur	15
16.	Meghalaya	11
17.	Orissa	154
18.	Patna	77
19.	Punjab and Haryana	120
20.	Rajasthan	327
21.	Sikkim	10
22.	Telangana	105
23.	Tripura	16
24.	Uttarakhand	52
	Total	2972

Annexure – III

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1394 for 28/07/2022 regarding Establishment of e-Courts and increase in the number of judges. The High Court wise details of Video Conferencing hearings done by the High Courts and District Courts are as under:

S. No	High Court	Total Number of cases dealt on video conferencing in High Court and Bench			Total Number of cases dealt on video conferencing in District Courts			Total
		From Date	To Date	Total Cases	From Date	To Date	Total Cases	
1	Allahabad	22-3-2020	31-03-2022	240838	22-3-2020	31-03-2022	2879359	3120197
2	Andhra Pradesh	26-3-2020	30-04-2022	53536	26-3-2020	30-04-2022	684471	738007
3	Bombay	1-2-2022	30-04-2022	17151	1-2-2022	30-04-2022	20407	37558
4	Calcutta	22-3-2020	31-03-2022	128000	22-3-2020	31-03-2022	71422	199422
5	Chhattisgarh	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	102893	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	31201	134094
6	Delhi	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	317209	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	2996145	3313354
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	22-3-2020	01-03-2022	2291	22-3-2020	04-01-2022	8128	10419
8	Gauhati - Assam	23-3-2020	30-04-2011	165318	26-3-2020	30-04-2022	276809	442127
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	23-3-2020	30-04-2022	3963	23-3-2020	30-04-2022	13268	17231
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	77	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	107	184
11	Gujarat	23-3-2020	31-03-2022	33721	23-3-2020	31-03-2022	186447	220168
12	Himachal Pradesh	22-3-2020	01-05-2022	91952	22-3-2020	01-05-2022	35661	127613
13	Jammu and Kashmir	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	256232	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	287744	543976
14	Jharkhand	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	213104	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	631909	845013
15	Karnataka	23-3-2020	30-04-2022	780305	23-3-2020	30-04-2022	112324	892629
16	Kerala	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	154043	24-3-2020	30-04-2022	488725	642768
17	Madhya Pradesh	23-3-2020	31-03-2022	664649	23-3-2020	31-03-2022	704367	1369016
18	Madras	26-3-2020	30-04-2022	1423438	26-3-2020	30-04-2022	305503	1728941
19	Manipur	15-4-2020	31-03-2022	38515	15-4-2020	31-03-2022	15262	53777
20	Meghalaya	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	1615	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	13287	14902
21	Orissa	23-3-2020	31-03-2022	256676	19-3-2020	31-03-2022	212551	469227
22	Patna	24-3-2020	30-04-2022	242047	24-3-2020	30-04-2022	1805852	2047899
23	Punjab and Haryana	23-3-2020	30-04-2022	581047	23-3-2020	30-04-2022	670111	1251158
24	Rajasthan	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	224972	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	177267	402239
25	Sikkim	24-3-2020	30-04-2022	472	24-3-2020	30-04-2022	6560	7032
26	Telangana	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	298589	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	190327	488916
27	Tripura	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	10502	22-3-2020	30-04-2022	10436	20938
28	Uttarakhand	15-4-2020	30-04-2022	73406	15-4-2020	30-04-2022	40899	114305
	Total			637656			12876549	19253110
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Annexure – IV

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1394 for 28/07/2022 regarding Establishment of e-courts and increase in the number of judges. The details of Virtual Courts are as under(As on 04/07/2022):

Sr. No.	Establishment Name	Received	Proceeding Done	Contested	Paid Challans	Challan Amount
1	PUNE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	6,080	6,056	16	471	93,750
2	MAHARASHTRA TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	28,548	12,494	20	802	18,93,905
3	MADHYA PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	5	4	-	-	
4	TRIPURA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	6	5	-	-	
5	UTTAR PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	40,78,318	32,82,468	7,707	1,74,512	10,49,17,575
6	KERALA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	64,064	40,462	142	7,630	38,69,641
7	MEGHALAYA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	22	21	-	-	
8	KARNATAKA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	28,043	28,011	119	22,161	14,51,18,370
9	TAMIL NADU TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	91,781	87,357	791	29,422	23,26,46,660
10	Odisha Traffic CTC-BBSR Commissionerate	82,672	78,830	185	6,640	65,33,001
11	NOTICE BRANCH DELHI TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	99,09,804	97,61,680	38,689	9,58,632	68,96,69,055
12	KERALA TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	2,24,442	1,73,391	857	31,310	3,94,06,051
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH TRAFFIC	11,052	10,192	8	221	10,91,753

	DEPARTMENT					
14	JAMMU TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	5,608	4,801	37	1,835	9,95,890
15	KASHMIR TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	1,06,602	94,501	784	24,231	1,22,58,583
16	ASSAM TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	57,039	57,039	290	15,577	1,08,99,681
17	CHHATTISGARH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	81	80	-	31	64,500
18	VIRTUAL COURT DELHI (TRAFFIC)	33,09,982	32,86,434	90,398	13,78,930	1,46,54,06,982
19	HARYANA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	8,204	1,553	12	143	1,26,101
20	WEST BENGAL TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	13	9	-	1	1
	Total	1,80,06,286	1,69,19,332	1,40,039	26,52,078	2,71,48,97,749

Annexure – V

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1394 for 28/07/2022 regarding Establishment of e-courts and increase in the number of judges. The state wise details of implemented NSTEP are as under:

Sr No.	State/UT Name	Served processes as on 01.01.2022	Served processes as on 30.04.2022	Progress percentage
1	Andhra Pradesh	695	119	17.12
2	Assam	4350	5256	120.83
3	Bihar	12071	36023	298.43
4	Chandigarh	3	3	100.00
5	Chhattisgarh	12428	8294	66.74
6	Delhi	16761	26105	155.75
7	Diu and Daman	4	4	100.00
8	DNH at Silvassa	45	45	100.00
9	Gujarat	3	3	100.00
10	Haryana	1653	2578	155.96
11	Himachal Pradesh	33	33	100.00
12	Jammu and Kashmir	11	10	90.91
13	Jharkhand	514	514	100.00
14	Karnataka	135574	159501	117.65
15	Kerala	86	97	112.79
16	Madhya Pradesh	24170	38537	159.44
17	Maharashtra	55896	96352	172.38
18	Manipur	229	378	165.07
19	Mizoram	127	145	114.17
20	Orissa	5	3	60.00
21	Puducherry	437	2331	533.41
22	Punjab	15339	18810	122.63
23	Rajasthan	27089	28113	103.78
24	Sikkim	2479	2702	109.00
25	Tamil Nadu	61301	113324	184.86
26	Telangana	39439	38171	96.78
27	Tripura	9680	14853	153.44
28	Uttar Pradesh	38451	73415	190.93
	Total	458311	665719	145.25

Annexure – VI

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1394 for 28/07/2022 regarding Establishment of e-courts and increase in the number of judges. The High Court wise details of Justice Clock are as under(As on 25/07/2022):

Sr. No.	High Court	No. of Justice Clock Installed
1	Allahabad	2
2	Andhra Pradesh	1
3	Calcutta	1
4	Chhattisgarh	1
5	Delhi	1
6	Gauhati	4
7	Gujarat	1
8	Himachal Pradesh	1
9	Jharkhand	1
10	Kerala	1
11	Karnataka	3
12	Madhya Pradesh	3
13	Madras	2
14	Manipur	1
15	Meghalaya	1
16	Orissa	1
17	Rajasthan	2
18	Sikkim	1
19	Tripura	1
20	Uttarakhand	1
21	Jammu & Kashmir	2
	Total	31