

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1390
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2022**

Video conference facilities in the courts

1390. Shri Anil Desai:

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

- (a) whether video conference facilities are available in all the courts;
- (b) whether this facility is also provided to hardened criminals and terrorists; and
- (c) the response or reaction of stake holders like Judges, lawyers etc., about the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a)to (c): During Phase II of the eCourts project, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available. Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been acquired. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails which are for the use of all undertrial prisoners including hardened criminals and terrorists. Since Covid lockdown started, the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts have held a total of 1.94 cr. virtual hearings till 30.04.2022 making it the world leader in virtual hearings. Virtual hearings through video conferencing have lots of advantages to all stakeholders i.e., lawyers, litigants and judges like:

- The lawyers and litigants can appear before the court from any location of their choice.
- Production of witnesses becomes easy as they can be at their own safe locations.
- There is considerable saving of time and money.
- The lawyers can attend hearings at multiple locations at short notice.
- Movement of under trial prisoners can be done very economically and conveniently.
