

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2180
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 04TH AUGUST, 2022**

PENDING CASES OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL NATURE IN VARIOUS COURTS

2180. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:

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

- (a) the total number of pending cases of civil and criminal nature in various courts including in the Supreme Court and High Courts in the country;**
- (b) the number of cases lying pending in each of these courts in categories for less than five years, between five to ten years and more than ten years; and**
- (c) whether any measures have been taken by Government to expedite the process of disposal of these cases; and**
- (d) if so, the complete details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): As on 02.08.2022, as per information provided by Supreme Court of India, the total number of pending cases in Supreme Court of India are 71,411 out of which 56,365 are civil matters and 15,076 are criminal matters.

The total number of pending cases of civil and criminal in the High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts in the country is at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

(b): As on 02.08.2022, as per information provided by Supreme Court of India, the number of pending in Supreme Court of India for less than five years, between five to ten years and more than ten years is as under:-

Pendency Criteria	Number of Pending Cases
Less than 5 years	42,816
Between 5 and 10 years	18,134
More than 10 years	10,491

The number of cases lying pending for less than five years, between five to ten years and more than ten years in the High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts in the country is at *Annexure-III* and *Annexure-IV* respectively.

(c) & (d): 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, 2,677 court halls and 1,659 residential units are under construction (as per Nyaya Vikas Portal). 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
29.07.2022	24,631	19,288

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) **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 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2180 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2022 REGARDING PENDING CASES OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL NATURE IN VARIOUS COURTS.**

S. No.	Name of High Courts	Pendency as on 29.07.2022		
		Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Allahabad High Court	562067	464091	1026158
2	Bombay High Court	491830	100818	592648
3	Calcutta High Court	185983	29697	215680
4	Gauhati High Court	46109	11055	57164
5	High Court for state of Telangana	222977	35835	258812
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	200649	34372	235021
7	High Court of Chhattisgarh	56226	31180	87406
8	High Court of Delhi	76846	28968	105814
9	High Court of Gujarat	103494	55018	158512
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	76529	11396	87925
11	High Court for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	38036	7244	45280
12	High Court of Jharkhand	40189	45878	86067
13	High Court of Karnataka	252512	44917	297429
14	High Court of Kerala	167865	42368	210233
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	260371	156917	417288
16	High Court of Manipur	4303	463	4766
17	High Court of Meghalaya	1129	132	1261
18	High Court of Punjab & Haryana	283584	166529	450113
19	High Court of Rajasthan	443885	162315	606200
20	High Court of Sikkim	138	39	177
21	High Court of Tripura	1380	132	1512
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	24717	18435	43152
23	Madras High Court	508187	54859	563046
24	Orissa High Court	136933	47311	184244
25	Patna High Court	114015	105984	219999
	Total	4299954	1655953	5955907

Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

Annexure-II**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2180 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2022 REGARDING PENDING CASES OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL NATURE IN VARIOUS COURTS.****Details of Pending Cases in the country State / UT-wise as on 29.07.2022**

Sl. No	Name of States/UTs	Pending Cases (Civil)	Pending Cases (Criminal)	Total Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts
1.	A & N Island*	---	---	---
2.	Andhra Pradesh	411259	387754	799013
3.	Telangana	335149	514503	849652
4.	Arunachal Pradesh*	---	---	---
5.	Assam	90497	372425	462922
6.	Bihar	498830	2925267	3424097
7.	Chandigarh	24080	53328	77408
8.	Chhattisgarh	74498	329206	403704
9.	D & N Haveli	1883	1897	3780
10.	Daman & Diu	1452	1500	2952
11.	Delhi	255130	1050722	1305852
12.	Goa	25758	30812	56570
13.	Gujarat	451581	1452738	1904319
14.	Haryana	456170	940109	1396279
15.	Himachal Pradesh	157219	320236	477455
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	96693	176792	273485
17.	Jharkhand	91463	425535	516998
18.	Karnataka	870626	1001431	1872057
19.	Kerala	393940	908938	1302878
20.	Ladakh	560	460	1020
21.	Lakshadweep*	---	---	---
22.	Madhya Pradesh	393397	1513720	1907117
23.	Maharashtra	1548552	3461272	5009824
24.	Manipur	8096	4094	12190
25.	Meghalaya	4468	12093	16561
26.	Mizoram	2314	3194	5508
27.	Nagaland	500	2385	2885
28.	Odisha	287910	1184435	1472345
29.	Punjab	415150	558791	973941
30.	Rajasthan	534527	1568777	2103304
31.	Sikkim	846	1137	1983
32.	Tamil Nadu	605821	487672	1093493
33.	Puducherry	13846	19816	33662
34.	Tripura	9295	27573	36868
35.	Uttar Pradesh	1875776	8653255	10529031
36.	Uttarakhand	45830	288264	334094
37.	West Bengal	614430	2075565	2689995
Total		10597546	30755696	41353242

*Data on District and Subordinate Courts in the State of **Arunachal Pradesh** and Union Territories of **Lakshadweep** and **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** are not available on the web-portal of NJDG.

Annexure-III**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2180 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2022 REGARDING PENDING CASES OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL NATURE IN VARIOUS COURTS.****Details of Pending Cases (High Court-Wise) as on 29.07.2022**

S. No.	Name of High Courts	Less than 5 years		More than 5 years & Less than 10 years (5-10 years)		More than 10 years		Total
		Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	
1	Allahabad High Court	200560	200455	136754	92581	224753	171055	1026158
2	Bombay High Court	260429	67465	104873	17003	126528	16350	592648
3	Calcutta High Court	70272	12919	44011	7695	71700	9083	215680
4	Gauhati High Court	37491	8399	7244	2397	1374	259	57164
5	High Court for state of Telangana	123668	23318	61035	8562	38274	3955	258812
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	107914	21222	55507	8235	37228	4915	235021
7	High Court of Chhattisgarh	43901	20020	11177	7587	1148	3573	87406
8	High Court of Delhi	54150	19236	13824	5554	8872	4178	105814
9	High Court of Gujarat	69751	36241	23216	10574	10527	8203	158512
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	64351	8532	9616	2490	2562	374	87925
11	High Court for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	21700	5319	10951	1430	5385	495	45280
12	High Court of Jharkhand	27481	24831	8048	8836	4660	12211	86067
13	High Court of Karnataka	157543	31043	48464	7364	46505	6510	297429
14	High Court of Kerala	99120	19467	53066	11617	15679	11284	210233
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	129083	72655	71093	43658	60195	40604	417288
16	High Court of Manipur	3537	400	355	24	411	39	4766
17	High Court of Meghalaya	1016	131	113	0	0	1	1261
18	High Court of Punjab & Haryana	151323	95619	59883	41749	72378	29161	450113
19	High Court of Rajasthan	300944	104621	78034	24549	64907	33145	606200
20	High Court of Sikkim	128	39	9	0	1	0	177

21	High Court of Tripura	1370	130	10	2	0	0	1512
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	18810	13975	4435	3611	1472	849	43152
23	Madras High Court	315260	46378	81626	3286	111301	5195	563046
24	Orissa High Court	83013	25404	33039	9620	20881	12287	184244
25	Patna High Court	79292	72521	24433	13902	10290	19561	219999
	Total	2422107	930340	940816	332326	937031	393287	5955907

Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

Annexure-IV**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2180 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2022 REGARDING PENDING CASES OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL NATURE IN VARIOUS COURTS.****Details of Pending Cases (State-Wise) as on 29.07.2022**

Sl. No	Name of States/UTs	Less than 5 years		More than 5years & Less than 10 years (5-10 years)		More than 10 years		Total
		Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	
1.	A & N Island*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2.	Andhra Pradesh	355645	364065	48750	22239	6864	1450	799013
3.	Telangana	287170	467886	40542	43644	7437	2973	849652
4.	Arunachal Pradesh*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5.	Assam	79061	329964	9990	38559	1446	3902	462922
6.	Bihar	308389	1728254	119562	691555	70879	505458	3424097
7.	Chandigarh	22634	51882	1351	1343	95	103	77408
8.	Chhattisgarh	68130	307240	5774	21330	594	636	403704
9.	D & N Haveli	1316	1677	525	157	42	63	3780
10.	Daman & Diu	1222	1317	192	137	38	46	2952
11.	Delhi	218757	947650	32718	93716	3655	9356	1305852
12.	Goa	18432	27416	4952	3160	2374	236	56570
13.	Gujarat	339065	1222146	74446	125388	38070	105204	1904319
14.	Haryana	430356	910088	23576	29141	2238	880	1396279
15.	Himachal Pradesh	133185	293862	22051	25106	1983	1268	477455
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	78516	144479	14347	26950	3830	5363	273485
17.	Jharkhand	70048	319291	13967	89353	7448	16891	516998
18.	Karnataka	715398	868423	128542	115872	26686	17136	1872057
19.	Kerala	356469	786281	32482	118633	4989	4024	1302878
20.	Ladakh	514	438	45	20	1	2	1020
21.	Lakshadweep*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
22.	Madhya Pradesh	341403	1314809	45511	188056	6483	10855	1907117
23.	Maharashtra	1139613	2672884	323876	527019	85063	261369	5009824
24.	Manipur	6742	3403	1187	606	167	85	12190
25.	Meghalaya	3001	8196	1073	2691	394	1206	16561
26.	Mizoram	2046	2942	238	237	30	15	5508
27.	Nagaland	443	1837	48	434	9	114	2885
28.	Orissa	184924	743605	73997	255061	28989	185769	1472345
29.	Punjab	396498	541337	17276	16502	1376	952	973941
30.	Rajasthan	411445	1236037	97141	274453	25941	58287	2103304
31.	Sikkim	842	1134	4	0	0	3	1983
32.	Tamil Nadu	509965	399465	73648	72654	22208	15553	1093493
33.	Puducherry	33662	33662	33662	33662	33662	33662	33662
34.	Tripura	8668	24417	575	1853	52	1303	36868
35.	Uttar Pradesh	1193612	5906576	390049	1581904	292160	1171645	10535946
36.	Uttarakhand	40626	259057	4390	24759	814	4448	334094
37.	West Bengal	402888	1166482	125757	507552	85785	401531	2689995
Total		8160685	23088202	1762244	4933746	761802	2821788	41360157

* Data on District and Subordinate Courts in the State of **Arunachal Pradesh**, and Union Territories of **Lakshadweep**, and **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** are not available on the web-portal of NJDG