

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 592
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2022**

NATIONAL MISSION FOR JUSTICE DELIVERY & LEGAL REFORMS

592. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) details of work done and number of beneficiaries under the "National Mission for Justice Delivery & Legal Reforms";**
- (b) the details of the fund allocated, released and spent for the said mission during the last three years, state-wise;**
- (c) whether there has been any delay in the release of the allocated funds, if so, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) the details of the implementation of the mission in the State of Maharashtra; and**
- (e) whether Government proposes to increase the fund allocation for the mission and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): 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. 9,13.21 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) **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 31.05.2022, 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 1,023 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 and Rs. 160 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 and Rs. 134.557 crore has been released during the FY 2021-22 for the scheme. 726 FTSCs are presently functional including 408 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 96,736 cases as on 31.05.2022. The continuation of the scheme of FTSC has been approved for another two years (2021-23) at a total outlay of Rs. 1,572.86 crore, including Rs. 971.70 crore as central share.

(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.

(b) to (e): 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 in district and subordinate courts by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern. 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. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9,000 crore including central share of Rs. 5,307crore. 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. The release of funds under the scheme are released after the state government fulfilling the conditions as per the extant guidelines of the scheme. The release in respect of a State is subject to the budgetary allocation made under the scheme. Funds amounting to Rs. 982.00 crore, 593.00 and Rs. 770.44 crore were allocated at RE stage during the Financial Years 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary. The state-wise release made under the scheme and expenditure reported by the State Governments for the last 3 years is annexed.

Under the Scheme a sum of Rs. 761.94 crore has been released to the Government of Maharashtra since the inception of the scheme in 1993-94. As per the records made available by the Bombay High Court there are 2350 court halls and 2055 residential units available as on 30.06.2022. As per Nyaya Vikas II Portal the state government is undertaking 498 and 73 construction of court halls and residential units respectively as on 30.06.2022.

Annexure

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (B) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 592 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2022 REGARDING NATIONAL MISSION FOR JUSTICE DELIVERY & LEGAL REFORMS

Statement showing the releases made, State-wise, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and expenditure reported by the State Governments for the last 3 years.

Sl. No.	State	Release in 2019-20	Funds utilized for funds released during 2019-20	Release in 2020-21	Funds utilized for funds released during 2020-21	Release in 2021-22	Funds utilized for funds released during 2021-22
1	Andhra Pradesh	20.00	20.00	10.28	7.46	0.00	0.00
2	Bihar	87.62	87.62	65.72	3.32	0.00	0.00
3	Chhattisgarh	19.83	19.83	7.84	7.84	0.00	0.00
4	Goa	4.06	4.06	3.80	3.80	3.20	3.20
5	Gujarat	16.49	16.49	13.50	7.25	0.00	0.00
6	Haryana	14.06	14.06	22.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	5.72	1.45	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Jammu & Kashmir	10.00	10.00				
9	Jharkhand	13.74	13.74	9.05	9.05	6.00	6.00
10	Karnataka	44.04	44.04	29.72	0.00	27.00	0.00
11	Kerala	15.82	15.82	13.00	13.00	50.00	0.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	66.90	66.90	45.60	45.60	55.00	55.00
13	Maharashtra	61.09	61.09	23.11	23.11	18.00	17.90
14	Odisha	35.69	18.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Punjab	39.78	39.78	16.48	16.48	16.50	16.50
16	Rajasthan	64.21	64.21	29.90	29.90	41.50	41.50
17	Tamilnadu	38.71	38.71	18.17	18.17	35.66	0.00
18	Telangana	5.65	5.65	16.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
19	Uttarakhand	28.50	28.50	5.86	0.00	80.00	0.00
20	Uttar Pradesh	169.66	169.66	111.00	111.00	219.00	118.50
21	West Bengal	61.43	54.77	31.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (A)	823.00	794.78	477.60	309.97	551.86	258.60
	NE States						
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.69	2.69	5.00	5.00	4.09	0.93
2.	Assam	36.54	36.54	25.00	25.00	27.40	0.00
3.	Manipur	9.66	4.00	5.00	2.68	0.00	0.00
4.	Meghalaya	22.85	22.85	7.71	7.71	28.02	28.02
5.	Mizoram	5.24	5.24	5.00	5.00	9.50	4.50
6.	Nagaland	3.42	3.42	5.00	5.00	13.27	0.00
7.	Sikkim	2.78	2.78	2.95	0.68	0.00	0.00
8.	Tripura	18.82	8.97	7.74	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (B)	102.00	86.49	63.40	51.07	82.28	33.45

UTs							
1	A & N Islands	0.17	0.17	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00
2	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Delhi	48.52	48.52	45.00	45.00	30.00	19.43
6	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Puducherry	3.31	3.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	5.00	5.00	6.65	6.65	20.00	11.19
9	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (C)	57.00	57.00	52.00	52.00	50.00	30.62
	Grand Total (A+B+C)	982.00	938.27	593.00	413.04	684.14	322.68
