

2023

**LOK SABHA
REPLIES**

**MONSOON SESSION, 2023 [12th
SESSION OF 17th LOK SABHA]
[20th July, 2023 to 11th August,
2023]**

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 35**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21.07.2023

Supreme Court Bench in Kerala

SS(Appt.)

✓*35. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the long-standing demand from the people and legal fraternity in Kerala for the establishment of a Bench of Supreme Court in Kochi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to take any concrete steps to fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the people of Kerala by establishing the said Bench in Kochi in the Ernakulam district of Kerala;
- (d) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the necessary action is likely to be taken and implemented by the Government?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

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

(13)

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *35 due for answer on 21.07.2023 regarding "Supreme Court Bench in Kerala"

(a) to (e): Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled "The Supreme Court - A Fresh Look", submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai.

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who has informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. The Chief Justice of India had earlier conveyed similar views in August 2007.

In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 39**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21.07.2023

SS (Appt.)
✓

All India Judicial Service

39. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has planned to set up an All India Judicial Service to fill the vacancies in the higher judiciary and give representation to marginalized sections of the society therein;
- (b) if so, the details and the status thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of other steps taken by the Government to ensure representation of marginalized sections of the society in the higher judiciary?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

14

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *39 due for answer on 21.07.2023 regarding "All India Judicial Service"

(a) to (c): The Constitution (Forty Second Amendment) Act, 1976 inserted a clause in Article 312 of the Constitution which provides for creation of an All India Judicial Services (AIJS). The constitutional provision enables creation of the AIJS at District Judge level, not including any post inferior to that of a District Judge. In Government's view, a properly framed All India Judicial Service is important to strengthen overall justice delivery system. This will give an opportunity for induction of suitably qualified fresh legal talent selected through a proper all-India merit-selection system as well as address the issue of social inclusion by enabling suitable representation to marginalized and deprived sections of society.

A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. Besides attracting some of the best talent in the country, it may also facilitate inclusion of competent persons from marginalized sections and women in the judiciary. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration.

The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of All India Judicial Service. While some State Governments and High Courts favoured the proposal, some were not in favour of creation of All India Judicial Service while some others wanted changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government.

The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges/ judicial officers at all level was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference, which was held on 03rd and 04th April, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously. The matter was also placed in the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held the next day, i.e. 5th April 2015

In a meeting chaired by Minister of Law and Justice on 16th January 2017 in the presence of Minister of State for Law and Justice, Attorney General for India, Solicitor General of India, Secretaries of Department of Justice, Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department, the setting up of an All India Judicial Service was discussed on the points of eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, reservations etc. Setting up AIJS was also deliberated in a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee in March, 2017 and the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs on 23.02.2021.

In view of the existing divergence of opinion amongst the major stakeholders, at present, there is no consensus on the proposal for setting up an All India Judicial Service.

Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary (Supreme Court and High Courts) is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The primary responsibility for making recommendations against vacancies in the High Courts vests with the High Court Collegium.

: 3 :

In order to replace the Collegium system of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts with a more broad-based, transparent, accountable appointment mechanism and to bring greater objectivity in the system, the Government brought into operation the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f. 13.04.2015. However, both the Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.10.2015 declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative.

In the present system of appointment of Judges to the constitutional courts through the Collegium system, the onus to provide social diversity and representation to all sections of the society including SC/ST/OBC/Women/Minorities, primarily falls on the Judiciary. Government cannot appoint any person as High Court Judge who is not recommended by the High Court Collegium/Supreme Court Collegium.

However, the Government remains committed to social diversity in the appointment of Judges in the Higher Judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that, while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in appointment of Judges in High Courts.

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

LD

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 238
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023.**

Suggestions for Implementation of UCC

Leg. III sec (LD)

✓ 238. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:
SHRI A. RAJA:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:
ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:

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

- (a) whether twenty-second Law Commission of India has recently initiated consultations with various stakeholders including general public, religious organisations and minority communities and sought suggestions from them for implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of suggestions and objections received from various quarters so far in this regard;
- (c) whether suggestions received so far are inadequate and require wider publicity;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to extend time limit for more publicity and suggestions on UCC and if so, the details thereof indicating the time line fixed for its implementation and extension, if any proposed therein;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to constitute a commission to study the grievances/objections raised by different Minority communities on the issue of UCC and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has assured the minority communities that UCC would be brought after broader consensus among all political parties and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (f) The 21st Law Commission of India had issued a consultation paper on "Reform of Family Law" on 31.08.2018, however, it had not submitted any report. Since more than four years have lapsed from the date of issuance of the said Consultation paper, the 22nd Law Commission decided to solicit views and ideas of the public at large and religious organizations on 14.06.2023, bearing in mind the relevance and importance of the subject matter and also various court order on the subject of uniform civil code. The Commission has decided to grant an extension of two weeks for the submission of views and suggestions by the concerned stakeholders *i.e.* upto 28th of July, 2023.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A1

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 245

JR

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023

Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary

JS(WMTR)

- ✓ 245. Shri Ranjeetsingh Naik Nimbalkar:
Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya:
Shri Anil Firojiya:
Shri Sudhakar Tukaram Shrangare:
Shri Dilip Saikia:
Shri Arun Sao:
Shri Shivakumar C. Udasi:

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

- (a) the present status of work done under the centrally sponsored scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary since its inception particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of court buildings, digital computer rooms, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and residential accommodation for judicial officers constructed under the scheme so far, State-wise; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by the Government for time bound implementation of the scheme across the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) and (b): The primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, to supplement the resources of the State Governments/UTs, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally

Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary since 1993-94 by providing financial assistance to them in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States. The scheme covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of district and subordinate judiciary. From the year 2021, besides court halls and residential units, new components of digital computer room, lawyers' halls and toilet complexes have also been added under the ambit of the above CSS. A sum of Rs. 10035 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6591 crore (66%) has been released since 2014-15. There are 21,365 number of court halls and 18,846 number of residential units available in the district and subordinate courts against the working strength of 19,876 Judges/Judicial Officers as on 30.06.2023. Moreover, as per Nyaya Vikas Portal, 2,811 Court Halls and 1640 residential units are under construction. the State-wise statement of number of court halls and residential units available and under construction is at *Annexure*. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore for this scheme.

As far as the releases to the State Government of Maharashtra is concerned, a sum of Rs. 870 crore has been released till 15.07.2023 under the Scheme. As per information made available by the Bombay High Court, there are 2,350 Court Halls and 2,055 Residential Units as on 30.06.2023 available in the State of Maharashtra. In addition, 603 court halls and 106 residential units are under construction. The digital computer rooms, lawyers' halls and toilets are essentially the part of a court complex and funds are not released project-wise/component-wise under the scheme. However,

States have been sensitized about the new elements of Lawyers' Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms, introduced under the scheme since 2021-22.

(c): The Government is sensitive to the needs of building better infrastructure for the judicial officers of the lower and subordinate judiciary. For time bound and proper implementation of the scheme, there are monitoring mechanisms in place as per the guidelines of the scheme.

There is a High Court Level Monitoring Committee in the State, chaired by the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts and this also has other stake holders such as, Registrar General of the High Court, portfolio judges, Law/Home Secretary of the State and Secretary of the State PWD as members. This committee meets every six months to review the physical and financial progress of the projects running under the scheme.

Apart from this, there is a Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice, chaired by Secretary (Department of Justice, Government of India) to review the progress of the projects and iron out any issues that hinder the smooth implementation of the scheme.

Besides, there are regular visits by the officials of the Department of Justice to the States for getting firsthand information on the ground. Regular meetings through video conferencing to sort out the problems of the States/UTs also takes place.

Trainings are also organized (both online and offline) for the State officials on the technical issues relating to Public Financial Management (PFMS) through which funds gets released and utilization is monitored.

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The States/UTs are required to geo-tag the on-going projects in real time and reflect it on the Nyaya Vikas Portal, which is an online monitoring system developed with the technical assistance of National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO for collection of data on progress and time bound completion of judicial infrastructure projects.

Above all, the scheme has enough flexibility by way of its norms and specifications, for the States to take care of their local needs and geo-spatial peculiarities.

Annexure

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 245 for reply on 21.07.2023 and State-wise statement of number of Court Halls and residential units available and under construction as on 30.06.2023

Sl. No.	States & Uts	Total Court Halls	Total Court Halls Under Construction*	Total Residential Units	Total Residential Units Under Construction*
1	Andaman and Nicobar	17	0	10	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	647	99	574	16
3	Arunachal Pradesh	29	2	29	3
4	Assam	426	97	372	14
5	Bihar	1523	86	1202	82
6	Chandigarh	31	1	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	484	26	462	426
8	D & N Haveli	3	0	3	0
9	Daman & Diu	5	3	5	0
10	Delhi	694	50	348	70
11	Goa	53	28	26	0
12	Gujarat	1531	140	1337	29
13	Haryana	562	75	518	65
14	Himachal Pradesh	170	14	157	1
15	Jammu and Kashmir	199	46	122	8
16	Jharkhand	651	12	609	0
17	Karnataka	1189	144	1147	84
18	Kerala	566	46	541	18
19	Ladakh	9	0	6	0
20	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	1546	413	1696	91
22	Maharashtra	2350	603	2055	106
23	Manipur	43	5	16	0
24	Meghalaya	53	30	26	97
25	Mizoram	47	26	37	6
26	Nagaland	30	12	39	2
27	Odisha	819	53	717	56
28	Puducherry	36	0	29	0
29	Punjab	589	72	625	36
30	Rajasthan	1340	216	1135	125
31	Sikkim	20	0	17	0
32	Tamil Nadu	1233	0	1363	0
33	Telangana	535	45	475	6
34	Tripura	82	22	91	26
35	Uttar Pradesh	2761	284	2393	238
36	Uttarakhand	253	70	210	3
37	West Bengal	836	91	421	32
	TOTAL	21365	2811	18846	1640

Source: MIS Port of Department of Justice and Nyaya Vikas Portal

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 251

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21.07.2023

Representation of Weaker Sections in High Court Judges

SS (Appt.)

✓ **251. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 79% judges appointed in all High Courts were from upper castes during the last five years indicating inequitable representation of backward and minorities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that only 2.6% of the total 537 judges since 2018 were from sections other than upper castes, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has urged CJI and CJs of High courts to address the issue of social diversity and social justice and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the situation has worsened after the collegium system was introduced in appointment of judges; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard in consultation with Supreme Court and High Courts?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

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(a) to (f): Information on social background is being provided by the recommendees for elevation to High Court Judges as per the revised Annexure put into effect since 2018 wherein besides other information details regarding their social background are made available in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per information provided by the recommendees, out of 604 High Court Judges appointed since 2018 till 17.07.2023, 458 Judges belong to the General Category, 18 Judges belong to the SC category, 09 belong to the ST category, 72 Judges belong to the OBC category, 34 Judges belong to Minority and for the remaining 13 Judges there is no information available in the Annexures filled by them at the time of their consideration for appointment to the post of Judges.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. However, the Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts. As per the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts, the Government appoints only those persons who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
 DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Lok Sabha

Unstarred Question No. 252

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st July 2023

Judl Sec (LA)

Government Litigations in Courts

252. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) the total percentage of cases that involve the Government as a party;
- (b) the expenditure on all of these cases, categories by year and type;
- (c) the nature of these cases and the courts where they are concentrated and the specific Government department involved therein, year-wise;
- (d) the number of service matters that were appealed in courts which did not involve a matter of constitutional ambiguity;
- (e) status on the National Litigation Policy; and
- (f) whether the Government intends to re-draft/update it and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDANT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (d):The requisite data is not maintained by the Government in the form and manner sought regarding pendency of cases Ministry/Department wise. However, the information as compiled on LIMBS Portal isat Annexure-A. Further, the information regarding expenditure on litigation has been compiled and is atAnnexure -B.
- (e) and (f):The National Litigation Policy is yet to be finalised.

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Annexure-A

S. No.	Ministry/Department	Total Pending Cases
1	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	3665
2	Ayush	870
3	Chemicals and Fertilizers	770
4	Civil Aviation	465
5	Coal	4031
6.	Commerce and Industry	4434
7.	Communication Telecommunication (Dopt)	5602
8.	Communication (Dop)	20701
9.	Comptroller and Auditor General of India	24812
10.	Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution	968
11.	Corporate Affairs	10426
12.	Culture	2406
13.	Defence	87543
14.	Department of Atomic Energy	926
15.	Department Space	426
16.	Development of North Eastern Region	27
17.	Earth Sciences	316
18.	Education(MoE)	17214
19.	Electronics and Information Technology	958
20.	Environment Forest and Climate Change	2729
21.	External Affairs	1431
22.	Finance	179464
23.	Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	410
24.	Food Procesing Industries	61
25.	Health and Family Welfare	8003
26.	Heavy Industries	365
27.	Home Affairs	23012
28.	Housing and Urban Affairs	3513
29.	Information and Broadcasting	2474

30.	Jal Shakti (Dept of Water Resources)	1285
31.	Jal Shakti (Drinking Water and Sanitation)	42
32.	Labour and Employment	80117
33.	Law and Justice	715
34.	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	937
35.	Mines	1775
36.	Minority Affairs	238
37.	New and Renewable Energy	107
38.	Panchayati Raj	14
39.	Parliamentary Affairs	5
40.	Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	3778
41.	Petroleum and Natural Gas	124
42.	Ports Shipping and Waterways	4848
43.	Power	783
44.	Railways	110245
45.	Road Transport and Highways	14628
46.	Rural Development	914
47.	Science and Technology	851
48.	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	757
49.	Social Justice and Empowerment	1413
50.	Statistics and Programme Implementation	352
51.	Steel	857
52.	Textile	1223
53.	Tourism	412
54.	Tribal Affairs	350
55.	Women and Child Development	722
56.	Youth Affairs and Sports	662
Total		636605

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Annexure- B

S. No.	Financial Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs.)
1	2018-19	50,85,65,984/-
2	2019-20	60,40,71,128/-
3	2020-21	58,01,97,187/-
4	2021-22	48,37,38,253/-
5	2022-23	54,35,49,015/-

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 284**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21.07.2023

Appointment of Judges from Advocate Quota

SS (Appt.)
✓

284. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

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

- (a) the details of the judges appointed from OBC, SC, ST categories and communities such as Gurjar, Yadav, Mali, Muslim from the advocate quota till date since the establishment of the High Court in Rajasthan;
- (b) the number of judges from the advocate quota in Rajasthan High Court at present, caste and category-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make a new policy for the selection of judges from OBC, SC, ST category even for the selection of judges of High Courts from advocate quota;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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(a) to (e): The data regarding Social diversity in High Court Judges has been institutionalized as per the revised Annexure (revised in 2018) wherein the recommendees have to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court).

Out of 39 Judges appointed in Rajasthan High Court from 2018 till 17.07.2023, 10 judges were appointed from the Bar quota. Out of these 10 judges, 7 belong to General category, and 3 (one each) from ST, OBC and Minority categories. However, no community wise data such as Gurjar, Yadav, Mali is maintained. Data regarding judges appointed prior to 01.01.2018 (revision of annexure) is not available.

Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. However, the Government is committed to social diversity in the appointment of Judges in the Higher Judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in appointment of Judges in High Courts.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †285
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023**

SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN COURTS

SS (WMTJR)

†285. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) the average number of cases settled in the Lower Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court during the last three years, till date, year-wise/State-wise; and**
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government for expeditious settlement of cases pending in the courts of the country?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The detailed statement showing the number of cases settled/disposed of by the Supreme Court during the last three years is at *ANNEXURE I*. Further, as per the information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the year-wise statement showing the number of cases settled/disposed of by the High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts during the last three years is at *ANNEXURE II & III* respectively.

(b): 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

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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 and to reducing pendency. To this end, the Government has taken multiple initiatives the details of which are as under:-

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.

- i. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10035 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has

increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.

- ii. Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 815 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. 22 virtual courts have been set up in 18 States/UTs. As on 31.05.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.113 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 408 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.
- iii. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 10.07.2023, 56 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges were appointed and 653 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 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
14.07.2023	25,246	19,858

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

- iv. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases

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pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.

- v. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.05.2023, 832 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. Further, the central government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme.
- vi. With a view 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.
- vii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case 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.
- viii. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent

establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last three years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto 17.06.2023)	3,00,11,291	61,88,686	3,61,99,977
Total	6,82,32,800	2,26,81,224	9,09,14,024

- ix. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

***Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data**

Till 28th Feb, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	15,75,140	34.38	15,35,775	34.39
Male	30,06,772	65.62	29,30,601	65.61
Caste Category Wise				
General	9,82,636	21.45	9,52,773	21.33
OBC	13,28,505	28.99	12,93,153	28.95
SC	14,88,971	32.50	14,53,283	32.54
ST	7,81,800	17.065	7,67,167	17.18
Total	45,81,912		44,66,376	

- x. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where

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advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates have been initiated in 21 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †285 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING 'SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN COURTS'.

Detailed Statement showing disposal of cases by Supreme Court of India in the last 3 years and current year (till 15th July, 2023).

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Cases disposed during the year
1	2020	20,670
2	2021	24,586
3	2022	36,436
4	2023 (till 15.07.2023)	25,959

Source: Supreme Court of India, Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. +285 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING 'SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN COURTS'.

Detailed Statement showing High Court-wise disposal of cases for last 3 year(s) 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023(till 17th July, 2023)*					
S. No.	Name of High Court	No. of cases disposed			
		Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023 (till 17.07.2023)
1	Allahabad	146395	181493	195534	84077
2	Bombay	58447	92224	85337	28539
3	Calcutta	25001	38588	51070	20594
4	Gauhati	15782	18699	19521	7645
5	Telangana	22818	33628	41804	14030
6	Andhra Pradesh	22613	28310	36224	9603
7	Chhattisgarh	22560	25717	28875	11662
8	Delhi	22099	27514	28584	10425
9	Gujarat	46370	54048	59008	22735
10	Himachal Pradesh	26128	26648	29862	11402
11	Jammu and Kashmir	5920	7069	5236	1656
12	Jharkhand	28030	34859	32365	8724
13	Karnataka	35192	43772	39381	11382
14	Kerala	44575	26833	18577	8623
15	Madhya Pradesh	77909	95366	91342	37280
16	Manipur	1368	1879	2112	560
17	Meghalaya	957	996	1000	412
18	Punjab and Haryana	77193	91034	91718	32016
19	Rajasthan	88872	104576	101670	33631
20	Sikkim	128	143	89	21
21	Tripura	2158	2058	1888	537
22	Uttarakhand	10046	11266	11763	4675
23	Madras	153158	187017	214763	96796
24	Orissa	74458	115197	85049	33673
25	Patna	51089	88726	83942	32640
Total		10,59,266	13,37,660	13,56,714	5,23,338

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1285 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING 'SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN COURTS'.

Detailed Statement showing State-wise disposal of cases for last 3 year(s) 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023(till 17th July, 2023)*

S.No	Name of the State	No. of cases disposed			
		Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023 (till 17.07.2023)
1	Uttar Pradesh	1606083	2527703	3698994	2022823
2	Maharashtra	256229	1188934	1553069	860415
3	Bihar	611536	386816	635678	385177
4	West Bengal	233658	365242	608746	279727
5	Rajasthan	453978	723598	1048909	525877
6	Madhya Pradesh	94418	201984	916960	480141
7	Karnataka	312127	742786	305772	825773
8	Kerala	422946	746005	958382	577040
9	Odisha	862533	1774039	1655931	145314
10	Gujarat	385729	1408146	1409917	789238
11	Haryana	681104	1264515	686311	227895
12	Tamil Nadu	216988	402207	2077873	1408796
13	Delhi	223606	307406	496401	335617
14	Telangana	125743	320170	625526	208736
15	Punjab	169334	260624	712985	436595
16	Andhra Pradesh	182422	481684	522831	264751
17	Jharkhand	278998	216603	348352	219438
18	Himachal Pradesh	56692	313541	274206	223251
19	Assam	167376	119821	459938	151416
20	Chhattisgarh	88471	206262	193003	170702
21	Jammu and Kashmir	68643	137985	149899	73786
22	Uttarakhand	87130	134773	185619	101480
23	Chandigarh	14170	30889	31293	12136
24	Goa	10050	17228	28545	15868
25	Tripura	14381	25772	38468	19493
26	Puducherry	11100	36004	38083	18987
27	Meghalaya	3155	8840	15902	8267
28	Manipur	1921	2197	1162	6286
29	Andaman and Nicobar	7831	8512	16718	332
30	Mizoram	2950	4386	5922	917
31	DNH at Silvasa	905	1686	2107	858
32	Nagaland	273	476	816	275
33	Diu and Daman	1126	2035	2069	807
34	Sikkim	0	0	40	1718
35	Arunachal Pradesh	456	3094	3753	280
36	Ladakh	2040	1007	1336	839
Total		76,56,102	1,43,72,970	1,97,11,516	1,08,01,051

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 299
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st JULY, 2023**

Use of Technology in judicial Institutions

✓ SS(PPP)
299. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has worked out/ taken steps for the use of technology to reach out to citizens and for the evolution of judicial institutions highlighting the importance of technology to ensure judicial access to all citizens, particularly those in remote areas, as it has ample power to transform the way justice is delivered in India quickly and also to ensure court proceedings are transparent, efficient, and accessible to all, regardless of their location and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government has also stressed the importance of evolving judicial institutions and the goal to continually improve and modernise the judiciary, rather than waiting for crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic like situations to forced changes and if so, the details thereof and progress made therein?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) & (b):As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary”. eCourts project is being implemented in association with e-Committee Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice. Phase I of the project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-23. The Government has taken the following e-initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders / judgments (as on 03.07.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.

- v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.88 cr. downloads till 30th June 2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,164 downloads till 30th June 2023).
- vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 1,98,67,081 cases while the High Courts heard 78,69,708 cases (totalling 2.77 cr) till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
- vii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- viii. 22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 3.26 crore cases have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more than 39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases online fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crores has been realized till 30.06.2023.
- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have

been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 30.06.2023.

- x. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 30.06.2022.
- xi. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- xii. In addition to eSewaKendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched Tele Law program since 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

- xiii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiv. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

The eCourts Phase II formally came to an end on 31st March 2023. For further expanding the reach of justice through digital revolution, the Government of India, in the Union Budget 2023-2024, announced Rs. 7000 crores for Phase-III of e-Courts project. Based on Detailed Project Report approved by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 23.02.2023 has recommended eCourts Phase III with a total outlay of Rs.7210 .Crore. Further, the Empowered Technology Group chaired by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister in its meeting held on 21.06.2023 has also recommended the eCourts Phase III for approval.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 310

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023

JR

Gram Nyayalayas

JSL(WMSR)
✓310.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

- (a) the names of places where Gram Nyayalayas and Nyay Panchayats are operational in Jharkhand;
- (b) the details of such Nyay Panchayats in tribal areas of Jharkhand, district-wise;
- (c) the nature of cases being heard in these Gram Nyayalayas;
- (d) whether the Government has analysed the success rate of these Gram Nyayalayas and Nyay Panchayats; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): In order to provide access to justice to the citizens at their door steps, the Central Government had enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with their respective High Courts. However, the Act does not

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make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. There is only one operational Gram Nyayalaya in the State of Jharkhand in the district of Koderma, Jharkhand.

(c): In terms of the provisions contained in the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, Gram Nyayalayas shall be deemed to be a court of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class and exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction to the extent provided in the Schedules to the said Act. Central Government and State Government have the power to add or omit any item in such Schedules.

Section 3(3) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides that Gram Nyayalayas shall be in addition to the ordinary courts established under any other law for the time being in force. For every Gram Nyayalaya, the State Government shall in consultation with the High Court appoint a Nyayadhikari in terms of Section 5 of the above Act. The provisions of appeals from any judgment, sentence or order of a Gram Nyayalaya in criminal cases and civil cases is laid down in Sections 33 and 34 of the said Act.

(d)&(e): As per data uploaded by the High Courts on the Gram Nyayalaya portal set up by the Department of Justice, 15,405 cases have been disposed of during the period April 2023 to July, 2023 (as on 17th July, 2023) in 269 Gram Nyayalayas operational in the country as on 17th July, 2023.

The Gram Nyayalayas scheme has been evaluated from time to time. Following the recommendation of third party evaluation of Gram Nyayalaya

Scheme, conducted by NITI Aayog during 2019-2021, the Government has extended the CSS for financial assistance to Gram Nyayalaya for a further period of five years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, with a budgetary outlay of Rs.50 crores. Revised guidelines of the scheme have also been issued accordingly on 19.08.2021. As per the directions of the Government, further review of the performance of Gram Nyayalayas was to be done after one year to assess its efficacy as an institution in providing speedy and affordable justice to the rural marginalised and decide on its future. Consequently, the third party evaluation of the Scheme has been awarded and currently underway.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 313**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21.07.2023

Shifting of Andhra Pradesh High Court

✓ SS (Appt)

313. DR. TALARI RANGAIAH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any request to shift the High Court of Andhra Pradesh from Amaravati to Kurnool; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (b): High Court of Andhra Pradesh with principal seat at Amaravati was established under Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 and has been functioning w.e.f. 01.01.2019.

The Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh in February, 2020 has proposed for shifting of principal seat of Andhra Pradesh High Court from Amaravati to Kurnool.

Shifting of Principal Seat of High Court is decided by the State Government in consultation with the concerned High Court. The State

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Government is responsible for meeting the expenditure for running the High Court of the State. Similarly, the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court is responsible for running the day to day administration of the Court. In the present matter, both the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and High Court of Andhra Pradesh have to form their opinion regarding shifting of High Court to Kurnool and submit a complete proposal to the Government of India. At present, there is no complete proposal pending with the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

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LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 314

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023

Temp Sec (LA)

Fee of Advocates

+314. SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:

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

(a) whether there are no prescribed guidelines to regulate the fees of the advocates and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to issue any guidelines to regulate the fees of advocates; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) : The Bar Council of India (BCI), a statutory body under the Advocates, Act, 1961 has informed that the standard of professional conduct and etiquette for lawyers including charging of fee, has been prescribed under the Chapter-II, Part-VI of the Bar Council of India Rules framed under the Advocates Act, 1961. The relevant rule in this regard is given below:-

"11. An advocate is bound to accept any brief in the Courts or tribunals or before any other authorities in or before which he proposes to practice at a fee consistent with his standing at the Bar

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and the nature of the case."

The BCI has further stated that Advocates charge fees from their clients as per their standing and seniority in the Bar. At present, there is no proposal pending with the Government to regulate the fee charged by the Advocates.

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

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LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 317
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st JULY, 2023

e-Courts Project

✓ 55(PPP)

317. SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:

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

- (a) whether for efficient administration of justice, Phase-3 of the e-Courts project has been launched with an outlay of Rs. 7,000 crores;
- (b) if so, the details and the progress made therein till now; and
- (c) the funds sanctioned/spent thereunder till now since 2014 onwards, court-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) : In the Union Budget 2023-2024, the Government of India announced Phase-III of e-Courts project with an outlay of Rs.7000 crore (approx.). Based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) approved by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 23.02.2023 has approved the eCourts Phase III with a total outlay of Rs.7210 Crore. Further, the Empowered Technology Group chaired by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister in its meeting held on 21.06.2023 has also recommended to the Cabinet the eCourts Phase III for approval.

(c) : The eCourts Mission Mode Project is a national eGovernance project for ICT enablement of district/subordinate courts of the country with a view to

facilitate faster disposal of cases by speeding up court processes and providing transparent on-line flow of information on case status, orders/judgments etc. to the judiciary as well as litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders. The eCourts Phase I (2011-15) was aimed at basic computerization of courts and providing local network connectivity under which a total expenditure of Rs.639.41 crore was done. Phase II (2015-23) of the project focused on citizen-centric e-services besides computerising 18735 courts and interconnecting these with wide area network (WAN). Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crore in the phase II of the project, the Department of Justice has released Rs.1668.43 crore for implementation of the project till 31st March 2022. The details of funds released/utilized under eCourts Phase I and Phase II (court-wise) are attached at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.317 for 21/07/2023 regarding e-Courts project. The details of fund released under eCourts Phase I are as under:

Year wise fund release under eCourts Project Phase-I:

Financial Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	103.05
2006-07	84.00
2008-09	25.90
2009-10	65.00
2010-11	97.50
2011-12	112.39
2012-13	83.51
2013-14	56.114
2014-15	9.947
2015-16	2.00
Total	639.41

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.317 for 21/07/2023 regarding e-Courts project. The details of fund released/utilized under eCourts Phase II (court-wise) are as under:

Sr.No	High Courts	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		Total	
		Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized
1	Alahabad	31.14	31	20.88	21	21	20.3	8.07	7.96	15	14	13.8	10			109	104.1
2	Andhra Pradesh											1.96	0			1.96	0
3	Bombay	30.39	30	38.25	38	47	47.2	0.52	0.52	0	0	8.86	8.9			125	125.2
4	Calcutta	12.14	10	9.17	8.4	11	1.9	0.13	0.08	0	0	4.93	0			37.1	20.3
5	Chhattisgarh	3.82	3.8	6.03	6	9.3	9.34	1.33	1.33	4.44	4.4	2.34	2.3			27.3	27.31
6	Delhi	5.87	5.9	5.41	5.4	9	8.95	3.54	3.54	0	0	3	2.9			26.8	28.62
7 (a)	Gauhati																
	(Arunachal Pradesh)	0.59	0.6	4.33	4.3	1.4	1.36	2.85	2.82	0.98	1	1.52	1.5	1.3	1.2	12.9	12.69
7 (b)	Gauhati (Assam)	5.19	5.2	25.47	25	8.1	8.13	8.7	8.22	13.7	13	6.11	1.8	3.5	3.5	70.8	65.65
7 (c)	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.71	0.7	3.01	3	2.5	2.47	0.15	0.15	0.51	0.4	0.72	0.7	0.3	0.3	7.87	7.65
7 (d)	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.77	0.8	2.31	2.1	1.8	1.83	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.3	0.83	0.2	0.8	0	7.99	5.92
8	Gujarat*	11.23	11	18.32	16	29	21.8	10.7	0.1	0	0	3.48	0.8			72.8	49.83
9	Himachal Pradesh	1.79	1.8	3.21	3.2	4.1	4.03	0.13	0.13	0	0	2	1.8			11.2	10.94
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1.84	1.8	5.28	5.3	11	10.6	0.26	0.26	0	0	1	1			19	18.98
11	Jharkhand	3.2	3.2	5.09	5.1	2.9	2.92	4.53	4.53	5.53	0.4	2.98	0.5			24.3	16.57
12	Karnataka	11.86	12	17.43	17	22	21.9	0.61	0.61	9.15	8.9	4.29	4.2			65.4	64.9
13	Kerala	5.53	5.5	8.32	8.3	15	13.3	4.61	4.61	0	0	2.83	1.2	1.6	0	37.8	32.95
14	Madhya Pradesh	9.73	9.7	23.93	24	23	22.5	0.39	0.39	11.2	5.9	6.28	6.2			74.1	68.64
15	Madras	10.24	10	24.62	25	25	24.6	5.11	4.06	0	0	4.73	2.5			70.2	65.92
16	Manipur	0.53	0.5	4.24	3.7	1.2	0.49	0.65	0.63	0.61	0.4	1.3	0.2	0.8	0	9.27	5.87
17	Meghalaya	0.19	0.2	3.28	2.9	3.7	3.33	0.62	0.61	0.92	0.1	2.32	0.4	2.2	0.7	13.2	8.11
18	Orissa	7.57	7.6	7.71	7.7	13	12.5	1.59	1.48	13.5	13	3.37	3.3			46.4	45.63
19	Patina	8.04	8	26.41	26	8.7	8.3	0.13	0.07	7.08	6.5	5.44	5.3			55.8	54.54
20	Punjab & Haryana	11.63	12	17.92	18	12	11.5	8.49	8.49	0	0	4.55	4.6			54.1	54.13
21	Rajasthan	9.97	10	23.04	23	25	25.1	3.01	3.01	1.29	1.3	10.6	11	1.6	1.6	74.6	74.54
22	Sikkim	0.18	0.2	1.79	1.7	1.4	1.39	0.8	0.44	1.61	0.7	1.01	0.9	0.8	0	7.58	5.31
23	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh**	13.9	14	14.31	9.8	34	23.8	8.13	0.13	0	0	0	0			70.3	47.61
24	Telangana											1.79	0			1.79	0
25	Tripura	1.2	1.2	4.38	4.4	2.9	2.86	1.77	1.77	2.24	2.2	4.44	3.8	1	0.7	17.9	16.91
26	Uttarakhand	2.98	3	2.66	2.1	4.6	2.5	0.13	0.12	0	0	1.28	0.7			11.7	8.35
	Total	202.2	200	326.8	317	348	315	77.7	66.8	88.4	73	108	76	14	7.8	1164	1045

*Gujarat High Court surrendered Rs.13.12 Cr.. Total utilization included surrender funds.

**Funds released erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court, and both the states shared the available funds in the ration of 58:42 respectively

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.322
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023

CASES PENDING IN COURTS

NM

✓ 322. SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:

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

- (a) the approximate number of cases pending in District courts, High courts and Supreme court in the country as on date, State and court-wise;
- (b) whether there has been a huge increase in the pendency of cases in the above courts during the last three years and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up special courts for speedy disposal of pending cases in view of the number of such cases and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of other steps taken to reduce the backlog of cases;
- (e) the details of steps being taken to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanism; and
- (f) whether Government has initiated any scheme to ensure equal access to Justice for vulnerable and marginalized population and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information provided by the Supreme Court of India, as on 01.07.2023, there were 69,766 cases pending in the Supreme Court. The detailed statement of cases

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pending in High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts of the various States/UT is at *ANNEXURE I & II* respectively.

(b), (c) & (d): The detailed, comparative statement of pending cases during the last three years (2020-till date) in the Supreme Court, High Court and District and Subordinate Courts is at *ANNEXURE III*. There has been an increase of 7.45% in the number of pending cases during the last three years (2020-till date) in the High Courts. Whereas there has been an increase of 20.48% in pending cases in the District and Subordinate Courts during the last three years (2020-till date). However, the disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts.

Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.05.2023, 832 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. Further, the central government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme.

Further, under Commercial Courts Act, 2015, Dedicated Commercial Courts for speedier resolution of commercial disputes have been set up with proper infrastructure and exclusive judicial human power. There are 35 Dedicated Commercial Courts in Delhi, 6 Dedicated Commercial Courts in Mumbai, 10 Dedicated Commercial Courts in Karnataka and 2 Dedicated Commercial Court in Bengaluru Rural areas), and 2 Dedicated Commercial Courts in Kolkata. At present, there is no proposal pending with the Government to set up special courts.

Apart from this, the Government has taken several other initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, the details of which are as under:-

- i. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10035 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.
- ii. Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 815 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. 22 virtual courts have been set up in 18 States/UTs. As on 31.05.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.113 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 408 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

iii. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 10.07.2023, 56 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges were appointed and 653 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 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
14.07.2023	25,246	19,858

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

- iv. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.
- v. With a view 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.
- vi. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case 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.
- vii. LokAdalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of

law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a LokAdalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. LokAdalat is not a permanent establishment. National LokAdalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed off in LokAdalats during the last three years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto 17.06.2023)	3,00,11,291	61,88,686	3,61,99,977
Total	6,82,32,800	2,26,81,224	9,09,14,024

viii. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

*Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data

Till 28th Feb, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	15,75,140	34.38	15,35,775	34.39
Male	30,06,772	65.62	29,30,601	65.61
Caste Category Wise				
General	9,82,636	21.45	9,52,773	21.33
OBC	13,28,505	28.99	12,93,153	28.95
SC	14,88,971	32.50	14,53,283	32.54
ST	7,81,800	17.065	7,67,167	17.18
Total	45,81,912		44,66,376	

ix. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates have been initiated in 21 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(e): The Government has been at the forefront of promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems. The enabling legal framework for resolution of disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has been provided under Section 89, Civil Procedure Code, 1908. Section 89 recognises four modes of ADR namely, Arbitration, Conciliation, Judicial Settlement including settlement through LokAdalat and Mediation. It provides for the court to refer a dispute for settlement by either of these modes, where it appears that there exist elements of a settlement, which may be acceptable to the parties.

The Mediation Bill, 2021, which has been introduced in the Parliament, stipulates a provision under Clause 7, which states that courts may, if deemed appropriate refer *inter-alia* any dispute relating to compoundable offences to mediation. However, the outcome of such mediation shall be further considered by the court in accordance with the law for the time being in force. Therefore, the provisions of the Mediation Bill, 2021 enable and recognise settlement of compoundable offences in terms of the provisions contained therein.

The Government is promoting ADR mechanisms including arbitration and mediation as these mechanisms are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes. The use of ADR mechanisms is also expected to reduce the burden on the judiciary and thereby enable

timely justice dispensation to citizens of the country. Some of the major initiatives over the years in this regard include:-

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 was enacted to consolidate and amend the law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards as also to define the law relating to conciliation and for matters connected therewith. To keep pace with current developments in the arbitration landscape and to enable arbitration as a viable dispute resolution mechanism, the Indian arbitration law has undergone significant changes in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021. The changes are enabled to signal a paradigm shift for ensuring timely conclusion of arbitration proceedings, minimizing judicial intervention in the arbitral process and enforcement of arbitral awards.

The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 provided for expeditious, fast track and time bound arbitral proceedings, neutrality of arbitrators and cost effective delivery mechanism. This was followed by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 with the main objective of giving boost to institutional arbitration and to reduce the share of ad-hoc arbitration in the country. Further, Section 34 of the Act was amended vide the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021, which provides for unconditional stay of enforcement of arbitral awards where the underlying arbitration agreement, contracts or making of the arbitral award are induced by fraud or corruption, besides giving power to Arbitration Council of India, to lay down qualifications, experience and norms for accreditation of arbitrators, by regulations.

The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in the year 2018 to provide for Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mechanism. Under this mechanism, where a commercial dispute of specified value does not contemplate any urgent interim relief, the parties have to first exhaust the mandatory remedy of PIMS before

approaching the Court. This is aimed at providing an opportunity to the parties to resolve the commercial disputes through mediation.

Rooted in the tradition of “People’s Court”, the concept of LokAdalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. LokAdalat can take up any kind of Civil matters and all Criminal Compoundable matters, whether pending in a court or at the Pre-Litigative stage. The award made by LokAdalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against the Award before any court. During the COVID pandemic, the Legal Services Authorities (LSAs) innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-LokAdalat, wherein affected parties could get their matter resolved without physically visiting the venue of the Adalat. E-LokAdalat is a process to settle disputes, combining technology and alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) mechanisms which offers a faster, transparent and accessible option.

(f): A scheme on Access to Justice titled “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India “has been launched by the Government of India which aims to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation through Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached; ensure pan - India dispensation framework to deliver Pro Bono legal Services through Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme and to empower citizens through Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme. The Scheme embeds use of technology and developing contextualized IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material in regional / local dialect to support its intervention and to achieve easy accessibility of legal services to the poor and weakest sections of the society. All these services are provided free of cost to all citizens including the dalits, backward classes and other weaker sections of the society.

Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides that State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of

(4)

economic or other disability. Articles 14 and 22(1) also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before law and a legal system which promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity to all. Legal aid strives to ensure that constitutional pledge is fulfilled in its letter and spirit and equal justice is made available to the poor, downtrodden and weaker sections of the society.

In 1987 Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted to give a statutory base to legal aid programmes throughout the country on a uniform pattern. This Act was finally enforced on 9th of November, 1995 and National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted on 5th December, 1995.

In every State a State Legal Services Authority is constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the Central Authority (NALSA) and to provide legal services to the people and conduct LokAdalats in the State. State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) is headed by the Chief Justice of the State High Court who is its Patron-in-Chief. A serving Judge of the High Court is nominated as its Executive Chairman.

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) is constituted in every District to implement Legal Aid Programmes and Schemes in the District, under the Chairmanship of District Judge of the District. Taluk Legal Services Committees are also constituted for each of the Taluk or Mandal or for group of Taluk or Mandals to coordinate the activities of legal services in the Taluk and to organise LokAdalats.

Under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the following persons are entitled to free legal services irrespective of their income;

- (a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes;
- (b) a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in article 23 of the Constitution;
- (c) a woman or a child;

- (d) a person with disability as defined in clause (i) of section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1996);
- (e) a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
- (f) an industrial workman; or
- (g) in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or a in a Juvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 (53 of 1986), or in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987 (14 of 1987);
- (h) As regards the means test for the entitlement of legal services, Section 12(h) specifies that the persons belonging to the categories other than those mentioned above are entitled to free legal services, if their annual income is less than Rs. 3 lakh (in some States Rs. 1,00,000/- and Rs.1,50,000/-) if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and is less than Rs.5,00,000/-, if the case is before the Supreme Court."

The National Legal Services Authority has notified National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 and published in the Gazette of India. The said Regulation being of statutory nature provides entitlement to the aforesaid poor and weaker section of the society such as member of SC/ST, Women, children, etc. Amicus curie are also appointed by the Government at State levels. As regards legal services advocates, panel lawyers for legal aid cases are appointed at all levels including in the High Courts and Supreme Court by the Legal Services Institutions for prosecuting or defending the Court cases on behalf of all persons who are eligible for Legal Services under the above provisions.

Section 2 (c) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 defines “legal services” which include the rendering of any service in conduct of any case or other legal proceeding before any Court or other authority or Tribunal and the giving of advice on any legal matter. Section 4 and Section 8 of the said Act proscribe function of NALSA and State Legal Services Authorities respectively whereas Section 10 and Section 11-B for District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees respectively.

NALSA has formulated 10 Schemes under Section 4 (b) of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, for the purpose of making legal services available under the provisions of the Act and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizens by reason of economic or other disabilities which are as under:-

- (a) NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme, 2015,
- (b) NALSA (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2015
- (c) NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection) Scheme, 2015.
- (d) NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme, 2015.
- (e) NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Scheme) Scheme, 2015.
- (f) NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015.
- (g) NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace) Scheme, 2015.
- (h) NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016.
- (i) NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016.
- (j) NALSA (Legal Services for Differently Abled Children) Scheme, 2021.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 322 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN COURTS'.

High Court-wise detailed Statement of Pendency of cases in High Court as on 15.07.2023*		
S. No.	High Court	No. of Pending cases
1	Allahabad High Court	1038489
2	Bombay High Court	709267
3	High Court Of Rajasthan	650234
4	Madras High Court	553550
5	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	445213
6	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	443576
7	High Court of Karnataka	277907
8	High Court for State of Telangana	253210
9	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	246774
10	Calcutta High Court	204531
11	Patna High Court	203738
12	High Court of Kerala	190175
13	High Court of Gujarat	165389
14	Orissa High Court	146137
15	High Court of Delhi	110693
16	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	95168
17	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	91554
18	High Court of Jharkhand	85606
19	Gauhati High Court	60980
20	High Court of Uttarakhand	47945
21	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	45093
22	High Court of Manipur	5038
23	High Court of Tripura	1227
24	High Court of Meghalaya	1138
25	High Court of Sikkim	154
	Total	6072786

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 322 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN COURTS'.

State-wise detailed Statement of Pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Courts as on 15.07.2023*		
Sr No.	State	No. of Pending cases
1	Uttar Pradesh	11604842
2	Maharashtra	5098211
3	Bihar	3501247
4	West Bengal	2901756
5	Rajasthan	2265986
6	Madhya Pradesh	2008754
7	Karnataka	1916866
8	Kerala	1879849
9	Gujarat	1683883
10	Haryana	1532073
11	Odisha	1519857
12	Tamil Nadu	1471478
13	Delhi	1227453
14	Punjab	916266
15	Telangana	907280
16	Andhra Pradesh	846873
17	Himachal Pradesh	537048
18	Jharkhand	524360
19	Assam	464851
20	Chhattisgarh	407859
21	Uttarakhand	335360
22	Jammu and Kashmir	316596
23	Chandigarh	82417
24	Goa	56743
25	Tripura	45322
26	Puducherry	34108
27	Meghalaya	15971
28	Manipur	12557
29	Andaman and Nicobar	8742
30	Mizoram	5800
31	DNH at Silvassa	4048
32	Nagaland	3361
33	Diu and Daman	3058
34	Sikkim	1816
35	Arunachal Pradesh	1387
36	Ladakh	1205
	Total	44145283

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

Annexure-III

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 322 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN COURTS'.

Detailed Comparative Statement of Pending Cases in various courts during last three years							
S.No	Year	Name of Court					
		Supreme Court*	% increase/decrease	High Courts**	% increase/decrease	District & Subordinate Courts**	% increase/decrease
1	2020	65,086 (As on 01.01.2021)		56,42,567		3,66,39,436	
2	2021	70,239 (As on 01.01.2022)	7.9%	56,49,068	0.11%	4,05,79,062	10.75%
3	2022	69,768 (As on 01.01.2023)	(-)0.67%	59,78,714	5.83%	4,32,09,164	6.48%
4	Present	69,766 (As on 01.07.2023)	(-)0.02%	60,62,953 (As on 14.07.2023)	1.40%	4,41,45,249 (As on 14.07.2023)	2.16%

*Source: Supreme Court of India

**Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 341
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023.**

Leg. III Sec (V)

Report on Uniform Civil Code

341. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:
SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:
SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:
PROF. SOUGATA RAY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether in the year 2018, the 21st Law Commission in its report had said that UCC was neither necessary nor desirable at this stage;
- (b) if so, whether this decision was taken by Law Commission after wide consultation and responses from the public;
- (c) if so, whether the present Law Commission has issue fresh public notice for views on UCC;
- (d) if so, the rationale behind this stand despite wide opposition from different quarters on this issue; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that religious rights of the citizen are protected as enshrined in Constitution?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a) to (e) The 21st Law Commission of India had issued a consultation paper on "Reform of Family Law" on 31.08.2018, however, it had not submitted any report. Since more than four years have lapsed from the date of issuance of the said Consultation paper, the 22nd Law Commission decided to solicit views and ideas of the public at large and religious organizations on 14.06.2023, bearing in mind the relevance and importance of the subject matter and also various court order on the subject of uniform civil code .

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. +351
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21th July, 2023**

J-II

Disposal of Cases by Fast Track Courts

✓ 351. **SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:
SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:**

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

- (a) whether a large number of cases are still pending even after various steps like setting up of Fast Track Courts and Village Courts in various States of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of cases disposed of by the Fast Track Courts and village courts since their inception, State and Court-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to dispose of the pending cases at the earliest by setting up more courts and appointment of more judges in the existing courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Maharashtra; and
- (e) the additional steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to dispose of the pending cases in a time-bound manner?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a to e): Establishment of courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and Village Courts for providing speedy justice in the country lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts.

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The 14th Finance Commission (FC) had recommended for setting up of 1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The FC had further urged State Governments to utilize the enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The Union Government had also urged the State Governments/UTs to allocate funds for setting up of FTCs from the financial year 2015-16 onwards. In this regard, the State Governments/UTs have set up 832 FTCs upto 31.05.2023. The details of FTCs functional, cases disposed of and pending in these courts including Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Maharashtra for the last three years and upto May, 2023 are given at **Annexure-I**.

Pursuant to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing, since October 2019, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (e-POCSO) Courts for speedy disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. The Scheme, initially, was for a period of one year spread over two financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21. The total cost of the project was Rs.767.25 crore with Rs.474.00 crore as Central Share to be funded from Nirbhaya Fund. The Third Party Evaluation of the Scheme was undertaken by the National Productivity Council which recommended for continuation of the Scheme for 2 more years. The Cabinet approved continuation of the Scheme up to 31st March, 2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.1572.86 crore including Rs.971.70 crore as Central Share. As per information made available by the High Courts, 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs which have disposed more than 1,69,000 cases while 1,95,797 cases are pending in these courts as on 31st May, 2023. Details of FTSCs functional, cases disposed of and pending in these courts including Maharashtra for the last 3 years and upto May 2023 are given at **Annexure-II**. 29 States/UTs have joined the Scheme. In 22 States/UTs, FTSCs are fully functional, in 7 States, FTSCs are partially operational while Arunachal Pradesh

and A&N Islands are yet to join the Scheme. An amount of Rs.633.70 crore have been released to the States/UTs since inception of the scheme up to 31.03.2023.

The disposal of cases lies exclusively within the domain of the Judiciary. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter. However, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide suitable environment for timely disposal of cases by the judiciary, as follows:-

(i) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would provide infrastructure aimed to ease the work of lawyers and litigants and aid justice delivery. As on date, Rs.10065.00crore have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.

(ii) Further, under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 819 e-SewaKendras 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. 22 virtual courts have been set up in 18 States/UTs. As on 30.06.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.26 crore cases and realized more than Rs.419.89 crore in fines. eCourts Phase-III Project is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial

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Intelligence (AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

(iii) The Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 18.07.2023, 58 Judges have been appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges have been appointed and 653 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has increased from 906 in May 2014 to 1114 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as given below:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
10.07.2023	25,245	19,870

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

(iv) In pursuance of a Resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.

(v) To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a scheme for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 29 States/UTs have joined the scheme.

(vi) With a view to reducing the 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.

(vii) Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted wholeheartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in cases 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.

(viii) LokAdalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a LokAdalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. LokAdalat is not a permanent establishment. National LokAdalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed of in LokAdalats during the last three years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (Upto 17.06.2023)	3,00,11,291	61,88,686	3,61,99,977
Total	6,82,32,800	2,26,81,224	9,09,14,024

(ix) The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

***Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data**

Till June, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender-Wise				
Female	11,46,046	33.43	11,23,504	33.49
Male	22,82,642	66.57	22,31,041	66.51

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Caste Category-Wise				
General	7,31,346	21.33	7,12,646	21.24
OBC	10,08,050	29.40	9,83,336	29.31
SC	10,86,611	31.69	10,66,037	31.78
ST	6,02,681	17.58	5,92,526	17.66
Total	34,28,688		33,54,545	

(x) Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 22 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

Annexure-I

Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.351 for 21/07/2023
Details of FTC functional, cases disposed of and pending cases in these courts for last three years upto May 2023

S. No.	State/UTs	2020			2021			2022			2023		
		FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st May)	Cases Disposed (as on 31 st May)	Cases pending (as on 31 st May)
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	1177	10069	21	312	10069	22	1446	6855	22	1111	7200
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7	181
4	Assam	14	2615	10108	16	3780	9356	16	7413	10750	16	3160	11518
5	Bihar	33	1759	58636	0	1603	69792	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh		0		0			0	0	0	23	1519	5050
7	Chhattisgarh	23	2877	15310	23	5324	17779	23	4158	5330	0	0	0
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	5	393	40733	7	223	48520	10	1019	4057	6	400	2788
10	Diu & Daman	0	0		0			0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	130	0	0	59974	0	4	7114	2215	4	2789	2286
12	Gujarat	0	462	33560	35	37102	35335	54	3784	6791	54	2652	6527
13	Haryana	5	825	58511	6	899	65337	6	433	873	6	235	791
14	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	15618	0	5	5102	3	313	497	1	40	226
15	Jammu & Kashmir	1	27	0	4	391	0	4	54	686	5	15	1071
16	Jharkhand	40	624	14507	6	861	19371	34	2417	7836	34	965	7916
17	Karnataka	13	210	38365	18	2051	39458	0	1257	0	0	0	0
18	Kerala	23	217	100479	28	2333	114020	0	1650	0	0	0	0
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2	1	15584	0	0	25769	1	59	193	0	0	0

22	Maharashtra	116	63470	52079	110	114254	67315	111	118311	158149	97	101446	137903
23	Manipur	6	45	634	6	73081	634	6	316	360	6	121	309
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	2	179	0	2	1758	0	2	221	223	2	111	219
26	Nagaland	1	3	66	0	3	153	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	0	0	39670	19	234	44689	0	304	0	0	0	0
28	Puducherry	0	0	1535	0	0	1452	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	7	85	52198	7	471	85061	7	248	255	7	115	225
30	Rajasthan	0	0	44222	0	32	46048	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Sikkim	2	5	188	2	5	195	2	20	14	2	5	14
32	Tamil Nadu	73	9389	29970	74	7865	32519	73	24993	107346	72	10503	92344
33	Telangana	29	1525	15469	35	2849	18095	0	2645	0	0	0	0
34	Tripura	11	100	2551	11	347	3604	3	386	1393	3	71	1417
35	Uttar Pradesh	389	148466	413176	376	86013	396462	372	333049	1086490	372	403331	1221761
36	Uttarakhand	4	170	15119	4	215	15997	7	554	1532	4	166	923
37	West Bengal	87	5202	0	88	3172	1166	88	21065	72824	88	21761	77517
	Total	907	239956	1078357	898	405168	1173298	848	533229	1474669	832	550523	1578186

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STATUS OF FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS (As on 31.05.2023)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme			No. of cases pending at the end of the month			Cumulative Pendency
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	FTSCs	ePOCSO	Total	FTSCs		ePOCSO	
							Rape	POCSO		
FULLY FUNCTIONAL										
1	Chhattisgarh	15	11	547	2976	3523	107	400	1987	2494
2	Gujarat	35	24	1647	6598	8245	624	722	5181	6527
3	Mizoram	3	1	95	30	125	7	32	24	63
4	Nagaland	1	0	48	3	51	2	53	0	55
5	Jharkhand	22	16	1651	2997	4648	634	564	3158	4356
6	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	2865	15897	18762	2360	156	8806	11322
7	Manipur	2	0	95	0	95	12	106	0	118
8	Haryana	16	12	1117	3053	4170	291	726	2899	3916
9	Chandigarh	1	0	171	0	171	69	148	0	217
10	Rajasthan	45	30	3154	7126	10280	202	1198	5470	6870
11	Tamil Nadu	14	14	0	5178	5178	0	0	5036	5036
12	Tripura	3	1	108	125	233	151	45	106	302
13	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	23559	21429	44988	6422	24610	48758	79790
14	Uttarakhand	4	0	1138	0	1138	322	599	0	921
15	Delhi	16	11	347	702	1049	1218	0	3151	4369
16	Meghalaya	5	5	0	290	290	0	0	1013	1013
17	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	63	63	126	188	0	252	440
18	Punjab	12	3	1238	1488	2726	426	613	511	1550
19	Himachal P	6	3	195	553	748	150	356	421	927
20	Karnataka	31	17	1890	4775	6665	2326	0	3008	5334
21	Telangana	36	0	4047	2731	6778	205	7864	0	8069
22	Puducherry	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	209	209
PARTIALLY FUNCTIONAL										
23	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	0	2729	2729	0	0	7277	7277
24	Assam	17	17	0	3566	3566	0	0	4557	4557
25	Bihar	45	45	0	7533	7533	0	0	16013	16013
26	Goa	1	1	0	30	30	0	0	44	44
27	Kerala	53	14	8880	3990	12870	1066	4086	1775	6927
28	Maharashtra	30	14	5439	8887	14326	688	2497	2632	5817
29	Odisha	39	23	2827	5472	8299	770	2570	7924	11264
NON FUNCTIONAL										
30	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		758	412	61121	108221	169342	18240	47345	130212	195797

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 355
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023

Leg. I Sec (LD)

Review of Drafting of Legislations

355. SHRI D.K. SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that one of the main reasons for ambiguous litigation in High Courts and the Supreme Court is the defective and faulty drafting of legislations containing provisions admitting more than one interpretation, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to take the assistance of the retired judges of Supreme Court, High Courts, and senior advocates in drafting new legislations for making them more accurate, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has put any mechanism for a periodical review of the working of the legislation with a view to removing ambiguity in it caused by legislative interventions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d): The Legislative Department is mandated with drafting of laws on the basis of the policy decisions taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and as per the procedure prescribed

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by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the Manual of Parliamentary Procedure in the Government of India.

At present, there is no proposal to take the assistance of retired Judges and senior advocates. The Legislative Department has been taking necessary steps to ensure that legislative drafting is simple, plain, precise and unambiguous.

Efforts are also being made to aim at clarity of expressions and use of appropriate words and expressions.

The Legislative Department has requested all Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India to ensure that the legislative policies are made simple, non-complex and framed in easy to understand language. Further, draft persons are also given suitable training. As the process of drafting of laws is continuous and ongoing one, the Legislative Department will continue in its efforts to draft laws which are precise and accurate.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 366

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST JULY, 2023

SS(NWTR) Schemes for Improvement in Judicial System JR

✓ †366. SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:

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

- (a) the details of schemes started by the Government to improve judicial system during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the details of targets set and achievements made under each of the said schemes during the said period;
- (c) the details of proposals received from the State of Uttar Pradesh and approved by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated and utilized for the implementation of these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme and State-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d): The Department of Justice is implementing several schemes like Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Judicial Infrastructure, Gram Nyayalayas, Fast Track Special Courts and Central Sector Scheme of eCourts for improvement in Judicial System but all these schemes are more than 3years old.

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During the period of last 3 years, Department of Justice has launched a scheme on Access to Justice titled “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India”, for a period of five years (2021-2026), with a total budget of Rs 250 Crore. The scheme aims to provide citizen-centric delivery of legal services with use of technology. It has three components which includes Tele- Law: Mainstreaming Legal Aid to the Grassroots; Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme. The Tele-Law aims to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation, between the citizens and Panel Lawyers. The Tele-Law service is available across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country at the Common Service Centers. It is also available via Tele-Law Citizen Mobile APP (available on Android & iOS platform) and UMANG portal. As on 30th June,2023 the Tele-Law has enabled advice to 46 lakh beneficiaries.

The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) program provides to create a decentralized pan India dispensation framework to deliver Pro Bono legal services. It aims to connect registered Pro Bono lawyers with registered beneficiaries through Nyaya Bandhu Mobile APP (available on Android & iOS platform) and UMANG portal. As on 30th June, 2023 10,241 Lawyers have enrolled on the Nyaya Bandhu programme. Pro Bono Clubs has been started under 69 Law schools, across the country to instill the young legal minds with Pro Bono legal services.

In addition, to ensure legal empowerment of citizens, Department of Justice is implementing Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme, through

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various State agencies and National Law school's etc. Approx. 4 Lakh participants has benefitted through various initiatives of legal literacy and legal awareness programmes being implemented under it (both online and physical mode).

Especially in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Tele-Law service is operational across 19,560 Common Service Centers and has enabled advice to 8 lakh beneficiaries in 75 districts, till 30th June 2023. 649 Lawyers have joined the Nyaya Bandhu Programme and 6 Law colleges have constituted Pro Bono Clubs till 30th June 2023. Moreover, DoJ is implementing training and awareness programme on issues related to gender-based violence in six districts of Uttar Pradesh which includes Prayagraj, Mathura, Varanasi, Pratapgarh, Aligarh and Bulandshahr. The project is being implemented by National Law University, Delhi. Awareness programmes have been conducted on various topics like Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013; Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; Crimes like female foeticide, child sexual offences, dowry death, cruelty etc. Since 2021, 860+ participants including villagers, law enforcing agencies, college and school students have been covered under the various legal awareness programmes.

Under DISHA SCHEME, during financial year 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, funds amounting to Rs. 87 crore, Rs. 40 crore and Rs. 48.15 crore were sanctioned, out of which Rs. 87 crore, Rs. 39.96 crore and Rs. 47.14 crore were utilized in respective year.

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

LOK SABHA

Leg. III Sec (L.O)

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 372

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st JULY, 2023.

Effect of UCC on other Laws

372. SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:
PROF. SOUGATA RAY:
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is being drafted to be implemented in the country and if so, the details and the time-frame thereof along with the stand of the Government thereon;
- (b) whether various religious groups have been taken into confidence regarding its implementation, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether adoption of cultures, beliefs and traditions of tribal community is a challenging factor for UCC and may cause difficulties in its implementation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures proposed to keep them out of the ambit of UCC;
- (e) whether the Government has analysed the likely effect of implementation of UCC on other laws and if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to address such situations; and
- (f) whether the UCC is likely to be a single code for everyone like Cr.PC and IPC and if so, the details thereof?

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A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (f) : The Government had requested the 21st Law Commission of India to undertake examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code and to make recommendations thereon. The term of the 21st Law Commission ended on 31.8.2018 and the 22nd Law Commission took up the reference on uniform civil code for consideration and solicited views and ideas of the public at large and recognized organizations through a public notice dated 14.6.2023. Stake holders are at liberty to submit their comments to Law Commission till the 28th of July, 2023.

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**Government of India
Ministry of Law & Justice
Department of Legal Affairs

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 449
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st JULY, 2023**

Use of Hindi and Regional languages in Legal Education

449. Shri Unmesh Bhaiyyasaheb Patil:
Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit:
Dr. Sujay Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil:
Prof. Rita Bahuguna Joshi:
Dr. Krishna Pal Singh Yadav:
Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde:

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

- Impl. Cell
(DoLA)
- whether the Government proposes to undertake any steps to promote the use of Hindi and other regional languages in legal education;
 - if so, the details of the progress on the digitization of a legal glossary in various Indian languages;
 - the details of the progress on the Government's initiative to identify frequently used words in the legal documents and creating a transitive vocabulary/common core vocabulary by coining words from common roots which would be adaptable by all the Indian languages; and
 - whether the Government plans to employ institutes and professionals to translate legal terminology into regional languages and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b) : The Department of Higher Education has informed that the National Education Policy, 2020 in its para 20.4 *inter-alia* states that the curricula for legal studies must reflect socio-cultural contexts along with, in an evidence-based manner, the history

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of legal thinking, principles of justice, the practice of jurisprudence, and other related content appropriately and adequately. State institutions offering law education must consider offering bilingual education for future lawyers and judges - in English and in the language of the State in which the institution is situated. In this regard, a committee under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Justice of India (Retd.) Shri S.A. Bobde has also been constituted by the Bar Council of India (BCI) to recommend measures to enhance the use of Hindi and other Regional languages in legal education.

Also, the Ministry of Law and Justice is promoting use of Hindi and other regional languages. A glossary of 65000 legal terms in Hindi has been compiled and is available to the public in a searchable format on an online platform.

(c) and (d): The Ministry of Law and Justice has in addition put on its website a translation of newly added words and expressions, besides glossary related to custom and excise duties, words used in jurisprudence. To simplify the ease of understanding of Arabic and Persian words used in Indian laws, the Ministry has also placed on its website Hindi equivalents of such words, besides Latin-Hindi glossary of words with English translation, used in law.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**STARRED QUESTION NO. *121
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023**

**CASES PENDING BEFORE CONSTITUTIONAL BENCHES
OF SUPREME COURT**

JS (NMTR)

***121. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that several cases having serious consequences for the legal system of the country are pending before various Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court for a long time;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the name of cases, type of Constitution Bench and period of pendency;**
- (c) whether it is true that the reason for pendency of the above mentioned cases is the lack of interest in expediting the same, if so, the details thereof and the corrective action likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and**
- (d) the list of cases heard and disposed of by the Constitutional Benches of the Supreme Court since its inception till date, decade-wise?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *121 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING BEFORE CONSTITUTIONAL BENCHES OF SUPREME COURT'.

(a) & (b): The adjudication and disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. The Central Government has no role in the said matter. However, as per information obtained from Supreme Court of India, as on 20.07.2023, there were 29 main cases pending for adjudication before the Supreme Court in the form of Constitution Bench cases. Out of these 29 cases, 18 cases are pending before 5-Judge Bench, 6 cases pending before 7-Judge Bench and 5 cases pending before 9-Judge Bench for adjudication. The detailed statement of the aforementioned cases are at *ANNEXURE-I*.

(c): No, Sir, it cannot be said that the reason for pendency of the Constitution Bench cases is the lack of interest in expediting the same. As per information obtained from the Supreme Court, in respect of the Constitution Bench cases there are intricate issues of law involved and arguments are addressed for number of days ranging from weeks to months. The said issues require deep analysis and thorough examination of law. Therefore, it is not possible to set out strict parameters and timelines regarding adjudication of such cases.

As far as corrective action in this regard is concerned, the adjudication and expeditious disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and Government has no role in the matter.

(d): As per information obtained from the Supreme Court, the detailed list of cases heard and disposed of by the Constitution Benches of Supreme Court since its inception till date, decade-wise from year(s) 1950 to 2023 is at *ANNEXURE-II*.

Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) AND (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *121 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING BEFORE CONSTITUTIONAL BENCHES OF SUPREME COURT'.

S.No.	Case No. & Year of Institution/Pending since	Cause Title	No. of connected matters
LIST OF PENDING 5-HON'BLE JUDGES BENCH MATTERS			
1	C.A. No. 841/2018 ETC.	M/S. Bajaj Alliance General Insurance Co.Ltd. Vs.Rambha Devi And Ors	(+75)
2	C.A. No. 9486-9487/2019	Central Organisation For Railway Electrification Vs.M/S ECI SPIC SMO MCML(JV) A Joint Venture Company	(+3)
3	W.P. © NO. 1099/2019 MAIN W.P. © NO. 1013/2019	In Re Article 370 Of The Constitution Vs. ----	(+22)
4	W.P. © NO. 887/2021	Government Of NCT Of Delhi Vs.Union Of India And Anr	
5	W.P. © NO. 546/2000	Ashok Kumar Jain Vs. U.O.I	(+9)
6	W.P. © NO. 562/2012 Main Matter is W.P. (C) NO. 274/2009	Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha & Ors. Vs. Union Of India & Ors.	(+16)
7	CRL.A. NO. 1003/2017	Pyare Lal Vs. State Of Haryana	
8	SMW(Crl) No. 1/2022	In Re: Framing Guidelines Regarding Potential Mitigating Circumstances To Be Considered While Imposing Death Sentences	
9	C.A. No. 7513/2005	State Of A.P & Ors. Vs. B. Archana Reddy & Ors.	(+18)
10	CRL.A. No. 451/2019	Sita Soren Vs. Union Of India	
11	C.A. No. 9228/2022	Hariharan And Ors Vs. Harsh Vardhan Singh Rao And Ors	(+2)

12	CRL. A NO. 375/2006	Union Of India & Ors Vs. Preeti Aggarwal	(+6)
13	SLP(C) No. 2755/2008 etc. (Main matter is SLP(C) No. 3660/2008)	Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committ. Vs. Shail Mittal & Ors	(+5)
14	W.P. (C) No. 36/2016	V. Vasanthakumar Vs. H.C. Bhatia And Ors	
15	W.P. (C) NO.222/2018 Main matter is W.P.(C) No. 202/2018	Sameena Begum vs. Union of India & Ors.	(+9)
16	SLP(C) No. 804/2017 ETC.	Karmanya Singh Sareen and Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors.	(+3)
17	C.A. no.16879/1996	State of West Bengal & Ors. vs. Paschim Banga B.K. Samity & Ors.	(+23)
18	C.A. No. 37/1992	Abhiram Singh vs. C.S. Commachen (Dead) by LRs and Ors.	(+1)

LIST OF PENDING 7-HON'BLE JUDGES BENCH MATTERS

1	C.A. No. 8763/1994	Arjun Flour Mills vs. State of Orissa & Ors.	(+10)
2	W.P. (Crl.) No. 206- 210/2003	N. Ravi & Ors. vs. Speaker Legislative Assembly, Chennai & Ors.	(+1)
3	C.A. No. 2286/2006	Aligarh Muslim University through its Registrar Faizan Mustafa vs. Naresh Agarwal and Ors.	(+9)
4	C.A. No. 2317/2011 ETC.	State of Punjab & Ors. vs. Davinder Singh & Ors.	(+21)
5	C.A. No. 8588/2019 ETC.	Roger Mathew vs. South Indian Bank Ltd. And Ors.	(+21)
6	W.P. (C) No. 493/2022	Subhash Desai vs. Principal Secretary, Governor of Maharashtra and Ors.	(+5)

LIST OF PENDING 9-HON'BLE JUDGES BENCH MATTERS

1	C.A. No. 1012/2002	Property Owners Association vs. State of Maharashtra	(+15)
2	C.A. No. 151/2007	State of U.P. & Ors. vs. M/s. Lalta Prasad Vaish	(+27)
3	C.A. No. 4056-	Mineral Area Development	(+81)

	4064/1999	Authority etc. vs. M/s. Steel Authority of India & Ors.	
4	C.A. No. 897/2002	State of U.P. vs. Jai Bir Singh	(+46)
5	R.P. (C) No. 3358/2018 in W.P. (C) No. 373/2006	Kantaru Rajeevaru vs. Indian Young Lawyers Association through its General Secretary Ms. Bhakti Pasrija and Ors.	(+66)

Source: - Supreme court of India

Annexure-II

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (D) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *121 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING
'CASES PENDING BEFORE CONSTITUTIONAL BENCHES OF SUPREME
COURT'.**

S.no.	Period	No. of Constitution Bench matters disposed of
1	1950-1959	440
2	1960-1969	956
3	1970-1979	292
4	1980-1989	110
5	1990-1999	157
6	2000-2009	138
7	2010-2019	71
8	2020-2023	19
	TOTAL	2,183

Source: - Supreme court of India

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO-*131

ARJ

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023

✓ JG (WRG)

LEGAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH DIGITAL PLATFORM

†*131. SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:

SHRI NAYAB SINGH:

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

- (a) whether any measures have been taken to integrate legal expertise with digital technology for better functioning of courts in Madhya Pradesh and Haryana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any digital platform has been launched to provide legal assistance to the common people and the rural entrepreneurs in rural areas of Khandwa and Kurukshetra Parliamentary Constituencies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the said digital platform is effective and the plan of the Government to increase its accessibility in future?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *131 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING
'LEGAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH DIGITAL PLATFORM'.**

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, Various measures have been taken to integrate legal expertise with digital technology for better functioning of courts in the State of Madhya Pradesh and State of Haryana.

High Court of Madhya Pradesh has developed Court Management Information System (CMIS) Software. The CMIS software provides real time data regarding nature and disposal of cases, court wise and judge wise. This real time data is maintained in coordination with District courts. Stratified information of cases helps in clearing backlog of civil/ criminal cases pending for 5 years or more in District courts which were held up due to stay orders passed by the High Court in appeal/ revisions or writ petitions etc. New listing policy was introduced under which concerned listing officials and the Registry officials make the records for listing with proper updation and also ensure timely movement of the case files to the concerned courts. The usage of software has reduced the work load of legal functionaries and optimized their working efficiency.

Proper utilization of time of all the duty holders has facilitated the office of the Advocate General to ensure production of case-diaries in the courts, giving specific direction regarding matters arising from the same crime number in bail applications and timely communication of orders in the matters arising from the same judgment filed by the different accused persons/appellants/applicants. In addition, the Judicial Section of the High Court is using E-Memo System under which memo are digitally signed and sent to parties on their email -id.

In addition to above the High Court of Madhya Pradesh has also developed a bi-lingual (Hindi- English) Mobile app on android and iOS having features like E-Display board, Judgment / orders, Case status, Cause list, Copying, Caveat, Defects / defaults, My Diary, Free text search, Feedback facility, Online payments, Video Conferencing Facility, ILR facility & Push Notification etc. The version 2.0 of the Mobile app also has case related information of District Courts and Tehsil Courts of Madhya Pradesh. The technological intervention has

minimized the manual intervention while ensuring better administration of justice.

In the State of Haryana Legal Service Management System (LSMS) is fully operational. Legal aid/ assistance applications received through the said portal are registered and thereafter forwarded to the concerned High Court Legal Services Committee/DLSAs, as the case may be, for taking necessary action. The action taken on the application is updated on the portal and applications are disposed of. Similarly, to ensure faster resolution and curb unnecessary delays e-Mediation through Video Conferencing and e-Lok Adalat has already been initiated in State of Haryana.

(c) to (e) Harnessing technology under the Digital India, the Government of India launched its Tele-Law initiative in 2017 with the aim to strengthen pre-litigation advice mechanism at the grassroots with support from Common Service Centres (CSCs). The CSCs are run by Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) who are local persons from the Panchayat who helps and assist the villagers in availing various online services of the Government. These CSCs, situated at the gram panchayat level also provides for an e-interface platform that connects the citizens and the Panel Lawyers, through tele/video conferencing facilities and via Tele-Law Citizens Mobile application (available on Android, iOS and UMANG platform). Tele-Law service is currently operational across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in 36 States/UTs in the country.

Presently, in the district of Khandwa, (Madhya Pradesh) 349 CSCs are providing Tele-Law service and 11,999 beneficiaries have been served under Tele-Law. In the district of Kurukshetra (Haryana), 218 CSCs have enabled Tele-Law service to 4,799 beneficiaries.

In addition, NALSA has taken various digital initiatives for providing legal services throughout the country. Web Portal and Mobile App has been created to file online legal assistance applications. The Web Portal can be accessed on www.nalsa.gov.in and is available in Ten (10) languages i.e., English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, Bengali, Odia and Kannada. Since 2016, out of 3.77 lakh, approx. 3.55 lakh applications have been disposed off

through NALSA's Web Portal and Mobile App. Apart from the above, Legal Services Authorities have initiated e-Lok Adalat to enable the parties to join pre-Lok Adalat and Lok Adalat proceedings and ensure their monitoring.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

J-1

STARRED QUESTION NO. *133

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2023

PROMOTION OF HINDI IN SC AND HCs

54 (MK 6)
✓ *133.

SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI :

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

- the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote the use of Hindi in the High Courts (HCs) and the Supreme Court (SC);
- the details of various instructions issued by the Government for the use of Hindi in issuing judicial decisions and the number of decisions given by the Courts in Hindi during the last five years;
- whether despite so many instructions of the Government, Hindi has not got the desired place in the High Courts and other courts; and
- if so, the details thereof including the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *133 DUE FOR ANSWER ON
28.07.2023.**

(a) & (b): Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in English language. Article 348 (2) of the Constitution of India states that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State.

Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 states that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English Language, for the purposes of any judgment, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State and where any judgment, decree or order is passed or made in any such language (other than the English Language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English Language issued under the authority of the High Court.

The details of number of judgements given in Hindi is not maintained centrally.

(c) & (d): The Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court.

The use of Hindi in the proceedings of High Court of Rajasthan was authorized under Article 348(2) of the Constitution in 1950. After the Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 as mentioned above, the use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 137

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 28.07.2023

Notary (M(LA))

APPOINTMENT OF CENTRAL NOTARY

***137. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:**

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

- (a) the number of legal professionals appointed as Notary Public by the Central Government during the last five years, State and UT-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that many advocates who submitted online applications for said post in the year 2021 are still waiting for their appointment;
- (c) if so, the details of such applications that are pending as on date, State and UT-wise along with the reasons thereof; and
- (d) the timeline by which all the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 137 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023

(a) Statement showing the total notaries appointed by the Central Government during the last five years, State and UT-wise is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Statement showing the online applications received in the year 2021 through the Service Plus portal and are pending as on date, State and UT-wise is enclosed at Annexure-II. The applications are pending as appointment of central notaries is an ongoing process and will be done as per provisions of the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956, as amended from time to time.

(d) The appointment of central notaries is done in accordance with the provisions contained in the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956, as amended from time to time. Since this is an ongoing process, no specific time-frame can be indicated.

ANNEXURE-I

Table: Statement showing list of notaries appointed by the Central Government during the last five years, State and UT-wise

S. No.	State Name	No. of Notaries Appointed
1	Andhra Pradesh	172
2	Assam	13
3	Bihar	168
4	Chandigarh	29
5	Chhattisgarh	182
6	Delhi	324
7	Goa	16
8	Gujarat	1896
9	Haryana	374
10	Himachal Pradesh	95
11	Jammu And Kashmir	91
12	Jharkhand	66
13	Karnataka	570
14	Kerala	441
15	Lakshadweep	3
16	Madhya Pradesh	193
17	Maharashtra	1949
18	Odisha	66
19	Puducherry	156
20	Punjab	351
21	Rajasthan	786
22	Tamil Nadu	748
23	Telangana	79
24	Tripura	7
25	Uttar Pradesh	504
26	Uttarakhand	32
27	West Bengal	91
	TOTAL	9402

Table: Statement showing online applications received in the year 2021 and are pending as on date, State and UT-wise

S. No.	State Name	Pending Applications (2021)
1	Andaman And Nicobar	4
2	Andhra Pradesh	3578
3	Arunachal Pradesh	15
4	Assam	406
5	Bihar	238
6	Chandigarh	76
7	Chhattisgarh	2682
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu	6
9	Delhi	989
10	Goa	306
11	Gujarat	3016
12	Haryana	1218
13	Himachal Pradesh	656
14	Jharkhand	552
15	Karnataka	4788
16	Kerala	2048
17	Ladakh	9
18	Madhya Pradesh	3219
19	Maharashtra	15686
20	Meghalaya	4
21	Mizoram	1
22	Odisha	456
23	Punjab	1466
24	Rajasthan	4756
25	Tamil Nadu	10035
26	Telangana	1969
27	Tripura	30
28	Uttar Pradesh	3599
29	Uttarakhand	138
30	West Bengal	1105
	TOTAL	63051

ANNEXURE-II

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 140
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

LOK ADALATS

LAP

SS(WKG)

✓†*140. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

- (a) the details of the Lok Adalats organized in the rural areas of the country during the last three years and the current year till date, State and location-wise;
- (b) the total number of cases disposed through the Lok Adalats, State and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make the Lok Adalats more effective;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total number of Lok Adalats proposed to be organized during the ensuing year, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 140 for reply on 28.07.2023 regarding Lok Adalats asked by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat.

(a) and (b) State/UT-wise and year-wise details of number of Lok Adalats organized and cases disposed of by National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-A, Annexure-B and Annexure-C respectively.

(c) and (d) The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) vide National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 to organise more Lok Adalats so that pendency of cases could be reduced. Further in view of Covid, E-Lok Adalat was conceptualized which significantly improved access to justice for people who were otherwise unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. The first E-Lok Adalat was held on 27.06.2020 and since then E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 28 States / UTs; wherein 432.89 lakh cases were taken up and 70.85 lakh cases disposed of.

(e) Every year, NALSA issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats. During the year 2023, National Lok Adalats were held on 11th February, 13th May and are further scheduled to be held on 9th September and 9th December. State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per local conditions and needs.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 140 for answering on 28.07.2023 raised by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, MP - Lok Adalats

Statement containing the information of cases disposed (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) In National Lok Adalats during the last three years and the current year viz, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (upto May,23)					
S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2020	2021	2022	2023 (upto May,23)
		Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	248	3997	3310	607
2	Andhra Pradesh	37896	122839	647956	453225
3	Arunachal Pradesh	104	1054	1071	405
4	Assam	12188	39642	113989	71696
5	Bihar	66451	151620	305483	177320
6	Chandigarh	2569	16833	15569	22403
7	Chhattisgarh	24464	134548	1125318	706180
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1768	172	1323	584
9	Daman & Diu	31	113	215	16935
10	Delhi	83006	154992	535025	320196
11	Goa	351	1680	3934	1618
12	Gujarat	41584	748722	1185571	776733
13	Haryana	30298	123413	673487	411650
14	Himachal Pradesh	5971	35556	111150	67708
15	Jammu & Kashmir	13258	166544	390496	194453
16	Jharkhand	53152	232473	1121405	1249358
17	Karnataka	334681	1277856	3444607	9889839
18	Kerala	15010	68681	136101	35140
19	Lakshadweep	8	7	129	873
20	Madhya Pradesh	108365	347333	419776	41
21	Maharashtra	215837	2440375	4754239	240048
22	Manipur	204	794	1343	1772758
23	Meghalaya	303	852	956	338
24	Mizoram	218	790	4432	268
25	Nagaland	251	941	888	1713
26	Odisha	18329	35557	337065	345
27	Puducherry	1738	5084	6405	304328
28	Punjab	32528	138175	392256	3448
29	Rajasthan	103060	286834	4572315	282166
30	Sikkim	30	110	232	6917001
31	Tamil Nadu	88819	191604	447536	52
32	Telangana	47560	349902	1611677	200324
33	Tripura	382	1070	4814	710384
34	Uttarakhand	8088	20882	67438	3376
35	Uttar Pradesh	1171022	5551793	18698973	40536
36	West Bengal	28596	133736	788082	14335395
37	Ladakh	0	1463	1444	466764
	Grand Total	2548368	12788037	41926010	39676208

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 140 for answering on 28.07.2023 raised by Shri Ashu Kumar Rawat, MP - Lok Adalats

Statement containing the information of cases disposed of (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in the State Lok Adalats and benches constituted during the last three years and the current year viz. 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 (upto April, 2023).									
S. No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24 (upto April,23)	
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	90	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3585	30461	4874	12123	4999	6720	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6	25	24	91	1	4	0	0
4	Assam	6	1	136	13672	0	0	0	0
5	Bihar	28	97	1	6	9	574	0	0
6	Chandigarh	26	1	69	37	30	538	1	374
7	Chhattisgarh	491	3475	187	228	124	139	0	0
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	300	195359	250	147103	60	11094	1	140
11	Goa	8	777	30	3209	43	1308	0	0
12	Gujarat	2851	21880	5157	15546	3805	19717	0	0
13	Haryana	33774	52789	54762	115797	43135	230018	0	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	90	3205	260	22031	142	4198	3	68
15	Jammu & Kashmir	125	9469	24	3271	225	76683	25	79
16	Jharkhand	607	79649	1310	22954	1523	10868	104	941
17	Karnataka	1912	121884	412	2524	229	2632	0	0
18	Kerala	721	4837	302	19226	607	23246	4	15
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1714	14903	808	4110	1242	5367	114	156
21	Maharashtra	22	605	6	28	30	341	2	25
22	Manipur	1	21	0	0	4	43	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	23	89	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	27	147	17	204	41	1202	1	1
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	239	4628	12	326	6	112422	1	262
27	Puducherry	24	392	42	262	47	743	0	0
28	Punjab	0	0	339	1108	6	15	0	0
29	Rajasthan	607	34514	786	845	1202	1628	141	141
30	Sikkim	110	158	110	636	150	887	13	59
31	Tamil Nadu	767	13117	759	13066	1295	16369	9	110
32	Telangana	1501	24327	2827	7363	2604	25365	227	1252
33	Tripura	12	6938	93	11624	19	2492	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	200	100305	57	31414	30	259125	2	954
35	Uttarakhand	121	6166	25	8605	125	26498	10	1112
36	West Bengal	575	13853	774	74999	454	10830	0	0
37	Ladakh	0	0	4	32	4	240	0	0
	Grand Total	50451	744073	74480	532529	62194	851309	658	5689

Annexure-C

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 140 for answering on 28.07.2023 raised by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, MP - Lok Adalats

Statement containing the information of number of sittings of Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) and cases settled in these sittings during the last three years and the current year viz. 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 (upto April, 2023)									
S. No	Name of the State/UT Authority	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24 (upto April, 23)	
		Sitting during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting during the year	Cases settled during the year
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	431	1283	927	1406	1058	558	105	143
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	99	12	141	56	213	56	12	6
5	Bihar	977	203	482	221	313	157	0	0
6	Chandigarh	246	108	240	687	241	10945	16	137
7	Chhattisgarh	346	32	1045	1199	1224	2028	94	42
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	532	14765	791	17395	773	18682	60	1171
11	Goa	24	30	2	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	1	105	9	2238	1	8	0	0
13	Haryana	3413	9654	3547	30960	3416	72440	271	916
14	Himachal Pradesh	6	10	9	11	0	0	0	0
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	3554	1943	5144	32514	6216	26154	468	2470
17	Karnataka	1069	3869	1292	5371	904	4588	41	415
18	Kerala	336	248	212	1104	226	2564	15	123
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	455	270	886	574	1176	608	102	26
21	Maharashtra	541	249	918	765	1017	1208	78	37
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	583	1350	742	1561	753	1612	81	119
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	2868	3987	4538	9967	4902	14545	337	385
29	Rajasthan	1123	806	2960	3228	4435	5072	336	465
30	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	236	80	671	272	1121	528	90	42
32	Telangana	66	549	108	6674	118	7540	10	0
33	Tripura	1	0	44	81	70	162	9	7
34	Uttar Pradesh	2714	383	3961	1087	3720	1173	334	175
35	Uttarakhand	156	522	484	765	590	510	47	12
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	19777	40458	29153	118136	32487	171138	2506	6691

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1386

Leg. II Sec. (LD)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 28TH JULY, 2023

Reforms in Voting Method in Elections

†1386. Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel:

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating upon bringing reforms in the existing method of voting in elections in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any proposal to conduct both the General and Assembly elections simultaneously in the country and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has held talks with those States where the terms of the State Government have not been completed yet regarding conducting assembly elections along with at the forthcoming general elections; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF MINISTRY OF THE LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a): No sir.
- (b): The Department Related Parliament Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had examined the issue of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies in consultation with various stake-holders including Election Commission of India. The Committee has given certain recommendations in this regard in its 79th

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Report. The matter now stands referred to the Law Commission for further examination to work out practicable road map and framework for simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

(c): No sir.

(d): Does not arise, in view of reply (c) above.

8/7/23

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1394
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023**

CONSTITUTION OF SPECIALISED BENCHES

✓ JS (WHTSR)
**1394. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:
SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to Constitute specialized benches to deal with cases related to direct & indirect Taxation, land acquisitions, compensation including motor vehicle cases involving death or injury, arbitration, IBC & Corporate Law for their early disposal as they were dealt with during special multiple vacation benches constituted during summer vacation in view of spurting of such cases in the SC; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (b): As per Article 145(1)(b) of the Constitution read with clause (2) thereof, the Supreme Court is empowered to make rules to regulate its own procedure for hearing appeals and other matters pertaining to appeals and may fix the minimum number of judges who are to sit for such purposes. The Supreme Court in the past and as per its decisions, has constituted specialised benches to deal with cases engaging different subject matters. As the issue primarily falls within the purview of the court, the Government has no role in constituting specialized benches in the said court.

As per information provided by Supreme Court regarding the constitution of Special Benches by it, since November 2022, six Special Benches have been constituted by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India; the sitting of such Special Benches is on every Wednesday and Thursday which are designated as "Regular Hearing Days" and these Benches deal with:

- (i) Death Reference Cases & Criminal Matters;
- (ii) Land Acquisition and Requisition Matters;
- (iii) Compensation Matters and Matters relating to Consumer Protection
- (iv) Indirect Tax matters and Arbitration matters
- (v) Service Matters and
- (vi) Direct Tax Matters.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1398
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

LAP

CAMPAIGNS FOR LEGAL AWARENESS IN RURAL AREAS

SS(WRGS)

✓ 1398. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:
MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

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

- (a) whether any special campaigns are being run by the Government to create an awareness about the process of law and justice in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details of the said campaigns;
- (c) the number of people who have availed the benefits from such campaigns so far;
- (d) the number of such campaigns being run in the State of Maharashtra and Kerala, location-wise;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to intensify such special campaigns across the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (c) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) carried out a six week Legal Awareness and Outreach campaign from 2nd October to 14th November, 2021 as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to reach each and every village/Urban areas of the country in order to maximize the outreach of Legal Services Authorities as well as to spread awareness regarding the availability of free legal services.

The major activities carried out during the above campaign included door-to-door campaigns, legal awareness programs, awareness through mobile vans and awareness through legal aid clinics. Apart from these major activities, the Legal Services Authorities organised specific legal awareness programs for women and children, organised mega legal services camps, programs for children who lost either or both parents due to covid, exhibitions at State and District level, moot court competitions for students of law universities, etc. During this period 1623 Legal Services Mega Camps were organised wherein more than 75.64 lakh people were benefited.

Further, Nationwide Legal awareness and outreach programme campaigns namely “Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach” and “Haq_humara_bhi_to_hai@75” were conducted from 31st October 2022 to 13th November 2022, for bridging the gap between the institutions & the underprivileged by spreading legal awareness & ensuring delivery of legal entitlements to eligible beneficiaries and for providing basic legal assistance to persons confined in prisons and child care institutions to commemorate the 75th year of Independence respectively.

In addition, Department of Justice is running a scheme DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) under which there is a specific component of Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme through which awareness workshops on various national/local laws, rights, duties, entitlements, grievance redressals etc are organized and monthly webinar campaign covering broad-based social-legal issues are conducted. Since 2021, 18 webinars have been organized virtually with support from CSC e-Gov and other Ministries/Departments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Topics like Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Child Rights, Fundamental Duties, the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and the Sexual Harassment of

Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, Gender Justice in India, Children in Conflict with Law and Children in Need of Care and Protection, Human Trafficking in India, Consumer Protection, Undertrial Prisoners; Rights of Transgender Persons; Disability Rights; Rights of Senior Citizens; Child Labour and Rehabilitation of Acid Attack Survivors have been included so far. These webinars have reached out to more than 4.2 lakh participants via various social media platforms.

(d) to (f) Location-wise number of such campaigns being run in the state of Maharashtra and Kerala is not maintained by NALSA. However, 14400 villages in Maharashtra and 733 villages in Kerala were visited thrice or more during the above campaign and 37 Legal Services Mega Camps in Maharashtra and 92 Legal Services Mega Camps in Kerala were organised wherein 3,26,796 and 8,763 people were benefited respectively. Regarding consideration of intensifying such special campaigns, it is submitted that State Legal Services Authorities may independently organise such campaigns at their own. Presently, there is no such proposal for organising any special campaign across the country.

Under DISHA scheme, in the state of Maharashtra, six law colleges have constituted Pro Bono Clubs wherein law students participate and organize legal awareness activities in the villages. In addition, Yashwantrao Chavan Academy Of Development Administration (YASHADA), State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Pune one of the implementing agency under DISHA scheme is executing legal awareness programmes in four Aspirational districts of Nandurbar, Gadchiroli, Osmanabad and Washim. In the first phase, the programme has trained 500 volunteers as "Vidhi doots" in 100 Gram Panchayats of these Aspirational districts. These Vidhidoots will conduct legal awareness at the community level. In the state of Kerala, one law

college have constituted Pro Bono Club and legal awareness activities are organized in the villages adopted by the Law college.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1413**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28.07.2023

SS(Appt.)

Transparency in Appointment of Judges

✓ **1413. SHRI D.K. SURESH:
SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:**

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

- (a) whether the issue of transparency has been raised strongly in the constitution of collegium system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to re-evaluate the collegium system and addressed its flaws to ensure that it truly reflects the will of the people and serves the best interest of the nation;
- (d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken any measures to ensure transparency in the appointment or elevation of judges by the collegium system and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): In order to make the Collegium system of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts more broad-based, transparent, accountable and bringing objectivity in the system, the Government brought into force the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f. 13.04.2015. However, both the Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.10.2015 declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court vide order dated 16.12.2015 directed the Government to finalize the existing MoP by supplementing it in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium taking into consideration eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of secretariat and mechanism to deal with complaints. The Government of India after due deliberations, proposed changes in the existing MoP and the draft MoPs were sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 22.03.2016. Responses of Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) were received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The comments of Government, in response to the views of SCC were conveyed to the Chief Justice of India on 03.08.2016. The SCC provided their comments on the views of the Government on draft MoP on 13.03.2017. The stand of Government with suggestions to resolve issues involved in appointment of Judges was conveyed to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court vide letter dated 11.07.2017 of Secretary (Justice). In order to ensure transparency in appointment procedure, the government emphasised on the need for a more robust evaluation process by setting up a search-cum-evaluation committee. In its recent communication dated 06.01.2023 to the Chief Justice of India, the Government has emphasized the need to finalize the MoP in view of various judicial pronouncements. In the letter dated 6.01.2023, the Government again requested the Supreme Court to consider

various suggestions sent by the Government from time to time for making the system of appointment of judges to the Constitutional Courts more transparent, fair, representative and accountable.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1417
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2023

SS(PPP) Court Hearings during COVID-19 Lockdown

✓ 1417. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:
SHRI DIPSINH SHANKARSINH RATHOD:

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

- (a) whether the country has been appreciated globally for conducting the hearings of courts during the COVID-19 lockdown and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of hearings conducted by the courts during the said lockdown, court-wise;
- (c) the methods or mediums that were utilized for conducting these hearings; and
- (d) the details of expenditure incurred by courts in conducting the said hearings, court-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) : 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. During the covid period, the case clearance rate in 2020 for District & Subordinate Courts was 61.47% and it rose to 80.22% in 2021 due to robust ICT infrastructure, thus making India a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. Since Covid lockdown started, the District & Subordinate courts heard 1,98,67,081 cases while the High Courts heard 78,69,708 cases (totalling 2.77 crore) till

30.06.2023 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court held 4,82,941 hearings till 15.05.2023 since the beginning of lockdown period. The court-wise details of virtual hearings conducted since Covid-19 has been attached at Annexure-I. To bring about uniformity and standardization in the conduct of VC, an overarching order was passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 6th April 2020 which gave legal sanctity and validity to the court hearings done through VC. Further, VC rules were framed by a 5-judge committee which was circulated to all the High Courts for adoption after local contextualization. One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and additionally 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.

(c) : Holding of court proceedings is an administrative matter and falls strictly under the domain of judiciary. It is for courts to decide whether court proceedings are to be held physically or online. The Courts across the country are presently using various video conferencing platforms such as Vidyio, Jitsi Meet, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Cisco WebEx etc. to conduct virtual hearings through video conferencing.

(d): In the Phase-II of the eCourts Project, out of total outlay of Rs. 1670 crore, the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1668.43 crore as on 31.03.2022 to various organizations involved in the implementation of the project. This includes a sum of Rs. 111.29 crores released for installation of video conferencing infrastructure such as video conferencing equipment for court rooms, VC Cabins, VC Licenses and Document Visualizers, etc in Courts and Jails.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. for 28/07/2023 regarding Court Hearings during Covid-19 lockdown. The court-wise details of virtual hearings conducted since Covid-19 are as under:

S. No.	High Court	High Courts	District Courts	Grand Total
1	Allahabad	241609	4715226	4956835
2	Andhra Pradesh	380257	1416538	1796795
3	Bombay	41058	103510	144568
4	Calcutta	142353	84539	226892
5	Chhattisgarh	103323	51560	154883
6	Delhi	318964	4725322	5044286
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	2295	8128	10423
8	Gauhati – Assam	266221	366667	632888
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	3963	13268	17231
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	945	678	1623
11	Gujarat	388945	194963	583908
12	Himachal Pradesh	183911	124491	308402
13	Jammu & Kashmir	258457	477088	735545
14	Jharkhand	219493	652867	872360
15	Karnataka	1229767	130114	1359881
16	Kerala	161911	560308	722219
17	Madhya Pradesh	671241	826174	1497415
18	Madras	1432188	376473	1808661
19	Manipur	38695	15288	53983
20	Meghalaya	3735	34301	38036
21	Orissa	301492	260759	562251
22	Patna	277203	2245253	2522456
23	Punjab & Haryana	581047	2041363	2622410
24	Rajasthan	231257	181705	412962
25	Sikkim	487	13510	13997
26	Telangana	299031	190327	489358
27	Tripura	10606	14254	24860
28	Uttarakhand	79254	42407	121661
	TOTAL	7869708	19867081	27736789

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

LOK SABHA

A25

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1431
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023**

PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE

✓ SS (WRG)

1431. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Pro Bono legal service is assisting the litigants from marginalized communities by offering free legal aid and advice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of lawyers registered on Pro Bono portal for providing Pro Bono Services;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism to assess the functioning of Pro Bono legal services and the outcome of the cases filed by the litigants under the Pro Bono legal services; and
- (e) if so, the number of cases filed, resolved and pending?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (c) The Government launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services) in the year 2017 with the overarching vision to advance the culture of pro bono. The Nyaya Bandhu service aims to connect the persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12

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of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 with the lawyers interested in providing Pro Bono Legal Services. So far, 1870 applicants (including marginalized category) have registered on the Nyaya Bandhu mobile application for availing the service of a Pro Bono lawyer. (Detail is at Annexure-'A'). As on 30th June, 2023, 10,231 Pro Bono advocates have registered for the scheme across the country through 27 States/UT Bar Councils. Data related to pro bono advocates are maintained State Bar Council wise. (Detail is at Annexure- 'B').

(d) & (e) In order to avail the services of a Pro Bono lawyer, both the applicants and lawyers are required to register on the Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application (available on Android, iOS and UMANG platform), for availing the service. Once the case is registered by an applicant, the advocate is automatically assigned by matching the fields of case category (civil/ criminal) and the court where the case is pending, duly filled by the applicant. Once the advocate accepts the request, the applicant and advocate may conduct regular in-person meetings to discuss any case related details, as required by both the parties. Department of Justice however, does not maintain the records of final outcome of cases undertaken by the Pro Bono lawyers as this activity is performed purely on a voluntary basis.

Annexure-'A'

Statement as referred to in reply to part (a) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1431 for answering on 28.07.2023 raised by SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH, MP on Pro Bono Legal Service

Statement containing number of applicants from marginalised communities under Pro Bono Legal Service (2017-2023)

S. No.	Applicant Eligibility Category	No. of Applicants Registered
1.	Member of a Scheduled Caste	406
2.	Member of a Scheduled Tribe	75
3.	Victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred in Article 23 of the Constitution	1
4.	Woman	511
5.	Child	16
6.	Person with disability	244
7.	Person in custody	9
8.	An industrial workman	43
9.	Victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster	6
10.	Person with annual income less than as prescribed under law.	167
11.	Other (such as Senior Citizens)	232
12.	Other	160
	TOTAL	1870

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Annexure-'B'

Statement as referred to in reply to part (c) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1431 for answering on 28.07.2023 raised by SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH, MP on Pro Bono Legal Service

A State Bar Council-wise Statement containing number of advocates registered on Pro Bono portal for providing Pro Bono Services (2017-2023)

S. No.	State Bar Councils	No. of advocates state Bar Council Wise
1	Andhra Pradesh	648
2	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim	264
3	Bihar	591
4	Chhattisgarh	341
5	Delhi	815
6	Gujarat	186
7	Himachal Pradesh	382
8	Jammu & Kashmir	144
9	Jharkhand	327
10	Karnataka	261
11	Kerala	147
12	Madhya Pradesh	602
13	Maharashtra & Goa	532
14	Manipur	55
15	Meghalaya	48
16	Odisha	280
17	Punjab & Haryana	1958
18	Rajasthan	1114
19	Tamil Nadu	369
20	Telangana	183
21	Tripura	6
22	Uttar Pradesh	649
23	Uttarakhand	154
24	West Bengal	154
25	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01
27	Daman & Diu	05
	Total	10231

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1434
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2023

54 (PPP)

National Judicial Data Grid

e-Case

✓ 1434. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether as per National Judicial Data Grid, as on 20 January, 2023 there are over four crore cases pending in lower courts in the country of which 78 per cent are criminal and rest are civil;
- (b) if so, the main reasons for huge pendency of cases in lower courts;
- (c) the extent to which non availability of Counsel, affordability of advocates and insufficient free legal services are responsible for piling of cases;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps in consultation with States to reduce pendency of cases in lower courts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a): As per data available on National Judicial Data Grid, as on 1st February 2023, total 4,39,73,903 cases were pending in District & Subordinate courts across the country, of which 74.98 per cent were criminal cases while rest were civil cases.

(b) & (c): Pendency of cases in courts can be contributed to 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. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed time frame by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

(d) & (e): The disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary and the Government has no direct role in the same. However, The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and to 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.

Some of the initiatives taken by Department of Justice to aid the cause of justice delivery are as under:-

- i. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential

quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10035 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.

- ii. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 10.07.2023, 56 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges were appointed and 653 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 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
24.07.2023	25,246	19,858

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

- iii. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.
- iv. With a view 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.

- v. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case 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

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1439
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2023

Disposal of Cases in Virtual Courts

e-court

✓ 55 (PPP)

- 1439. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:**
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI SELVAM G.:
SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI GAUTAM GAMBHIR:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of virtual courts functioning in the country and the number of cases handled/disposed of by them during the last three years and current year;
- (b) whether present infrastructure is adequate for smooth functioning of virtual courts, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether courts are moving towards virtual courts using indigenously developed software system for secured transmission of cases with courts and counsels having options for accessing them, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has organized any training/awareness campaigns regarding their functioning, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has invited proposal for research and study for starting 24/7 virtual courts to dispose of cases other than traffic challans, if so, the details, aims and objectives thereof; and
- (f) whether there is need for reducing physical presence of advocates and litigants to save judicial time, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

ANSWER**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (c) : The software for virtual courts has been developed indigenously by National Informatics Centre (NIC) eCourts division, Pune. Over 3.26 crore cases (3,26,14,617) have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more than 39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crore have been realized till 30.06.2023. The detail breakup of cases dealt through virtual courts across India is at Annexure- I. As on 30.06.2023, there are 22 such courts in 18 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

(d) : The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted training programmes including training for virtual courts, which have covered nearly 5,13,080 stakeholders, including High Court Judges, Judges of the District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers among Judges/DSA, Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates.

(e) : Yes. The proposals have been invited under the "Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms" for exploring the scope of expansion for virtual courts as part of Indian justice delivery system.

(f) : The virtual courts initiative has enabled adjudication of traffic violation cases on a virtual platform, eliminating the presence of litigant or lawyer in the court. These courts have enabled litigants to pay their fines or contest the claims 24X7, thus saving time and resources for both the court system and the litigants. Virtual courts also eliminates physical presence of offender/violator in

the court. It reduces the number of judges performing judicial work in adjudicating traffic challans. Electronic traffic challans are automatically filed in virtual court for adjudication. A Judge can access the Virtual Court application from anywhere or any part of the state, view the cases and adjudicate the cases online.

To eliminate the physical presence of advocates and litigants to save judicial time the following initiatives has been taken by eCourts Mission Mode Project:

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders / judgments (as on 03.07.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.
- v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent

daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.88 crore downloads till 30.06.2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,164 downloads till 30.06.2023).

- vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 1,98,67,081 cases while the High Courts heard 78,69,708 cases (totalling 2.77 crore) till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
- vii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 30.06.2023.
- ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-

payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 30.06.2023.

- x. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online eCourts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing eCourts services etc.
- xi. In addition to eSewa Kendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched Tele Law program since 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.
- xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiii. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1439 for 28/07/2023 regarding the detail breakup of cases dealt through Virtual Courts across the country are as under:

Statistics of Virtual Courts 2019-2023						
S.No	Establishment_Name	Received	Proceeding Done	Contested	Paid Challans	Challan Amount
1	ASSAM TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	72415	72413	357	19022	13159081
2	CHHATTISGARH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	101	87	0	37	81500
3	GUJARAT TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	126716	74647	82	2718	171300
4	HARYANA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	821765	681342	1080	16992	12638701
5	HIMACHAL PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	81631	57247	86	1954	4011753
6	JAMMU TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	157590	136152	880	38613	21420590
7	KARNATAKA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	47857	47824	119	40576	338437490
8	KASHMIR TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	356434	356433	9300	75231	41025995
9	KERALA (POLICE DEPARTMENT)	635792	625069	1280	54717	28393893
10	KERALA TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	485190	476054	2971	79969	115151882
11	MADHYA PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	46581	36028	57	1853	1315300
12	MAHARASHTRA TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	40387	24349	20	1449	2348605
13	MEGHALAYA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	437	314	0	33	20000
14	NOTICE BRANCH DELHI TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	14133187	13712402	77223	1344606	954951505
15	Odisha Traffic CTC-BBSR COMMISSIONERATE	333416	307908	627	20615	19894001
16	PUNE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	6080	6056	18	591	114250
17	RAJASTHAN TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	26497	23650	892	9708	6276170
18	TAMIL NADU TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	162337	143042	1333	78188	718829890
19	TRIPURA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	354	353	1	4	2900
20	UTTAR PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	10238520	7569945	28769	501614	298422756
21	VIRTUAL COURT DELHI (TRAFFIC)	4773216	4734431	105500	1624555	1618662492
22	WEST BENGAL TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	67940	64293	76	3360	2039452
Total		32614443	29150039	230671	3916405	4198908506

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
 LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1443

Leg. II 40 (60) TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 28TH JULY, 2023

Co-termination of State Assemblies with Lok Sabha

†1443. Shri Gopal Chinnaya Shetty:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take steps as targeted measures in consultation with the State Governments to make Legislative Assemblies and local bodies co-terminous with the Lok Sabha keeping in view the excessive time and cost intensive process of conducting General Elections, Assemblies and Local bodies which are held at different times involving the deployment of excessive manpower therein;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the progress made so far, in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
 (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a) and (b): No sir. At present there are no such proposals under the consideration of the Government.
- (c): Does not arise, in view of the reply above.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1445

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28.07.2023

New Benches of Courts

SS (Appt.)
✓

1445. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:

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

- (a) the details of new Benches of various courts established in the country during the last five years;
- (b) the proposals for the establishment of new Benches of these courts that are presently pending with Government; and
- (c) the process/procedure for establishing a new Bench for a court in India?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (c): Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled "The Supreme Court - A Fresh Look", submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai. The

matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who has informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

One Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri has been established on 07.02.2019.

High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No. 379 of 2000 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to provide necessary expenditure & infrastructural facilities and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day-to-day administration of the High Court. The complete proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

At present, there is no complete proposal pending with the Government for setting up of Bench(es) of any High Court and the Supreme Court.

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1452
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023**

EXPEDITIOUS JUDICIAL PROCESS

NM

✓ (NW+SR)

1452. SHRI CHANDESHWAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any dedicated committee to expedite the process for providing justice and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the follow up action taken by the Government for the implementation of the recommendations of the said committee;**
- (c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the additional expenditure incurred on such committee; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): No Sir, there is no dedicated committee constituted by the Government to expedite the process for providing justice. However, the government is implementing many schemes and projects and taking several initiatives for expediting the process for providing easy, affordable and speedy justice, the details of which are as follows:-

1. Government has set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts, including computerization, an 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. Notable initiatives under the National Mission are as follows:-

- i. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10035 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.
- ii. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 10.07.2023, 56 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges were appointed and 653 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 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
24.07.2023	25,246	19,858

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

- iii. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.
- iv. With a view 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.
- v. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case 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.

2. Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 815 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. 22 virtual courts have been set up in 18 States/UTs. As on 31.05.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.113 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 408 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

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3. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.05.2023, 832 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. Further, the central government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme.

4. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last three years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto 17.06.2023)	3,00,11,291	61,88,686	3,61,99,977
Total	6,82,32,800	2,26,81,224	9,09,14,024

5. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

*Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data

Till 30 th June,2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	15,75,140	34.38	15,35,775	34.39
Male	30,06,772	65.62	29,30,601	65.61
Caste Category Wise				
General	9,82,636	21.45	9,52,773	21.33
OBC	13,28,505	28.99	12,93,153	28.95
SC	14,88,971	32.50	14,53,283	32.54
ST	7,81,800	17.065	7,67,167	17.18
Total	45,81,912		44,66,376	

6. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates have been initiated in 22 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1459

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023

Leg. I. Sec. (LD)

Repeal of Statutory Rules and Orders

1459. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :

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

- (a) the number of union statutory instruments, rules, orders, etc., which are currently in force in India;
- (b) whether all the statutory instruments issued under various Acts that have since been repealed were also repealed along with the Acts;
- (c) the number and details of cases in which a penalty has been imposed or detention made under such instruments, rules, orders etc. despite the parent Act being repealed;
- (d) whether the Government has commissioned any study to examine the repeal of statutory instruments that hinder the social and economic transformation of the society, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE: MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (e): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1461

JR

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023

✓ JS (WMTJR)

Judicial Access to Differently Abled Citizen

1461. Dr. A. Chellakumar:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the dire shortage of judicial infrastructure in the country, particularly in the lower courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether efforts have been made to improve accessibility within judicial infrastructure suitable to disabled citizens; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d): The development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary in the States, including facilities essential for differently-abled persons, is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government supplements the resources of the State Governments by releasing financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of judicial infrastructure by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the

prescribed fund-sharing pattern between Centre and States. 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. As against the sanctioned strength of 25,215 and working strength of 19,876 judges/judicial officers there are 21,365 court halls and 18,846 residential units available as on 30.06.2023. 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.

A sum of Rs. 10035.35 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6591.04 crore (65.68 %) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. The scheme guidelines provides for certain norms and specifications for the construction of court halls and other structures which the States/UTs have to comply with. The States/UTs have to certify that the projects proposed to be taken up by them are disabled friendly and meet the requisite norms/accessibility standard as laid down by CPWD/Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, from time to time.

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

LOK SABHA

JR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1477

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023

Nyaya Vikas Portal

✓ J (W/MSR)

1477. Dr. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:

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

- (a) whether Nyaya Vikas Portal has been launched recently for the monitoring of the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of CSS that have been monitored since its launch; and
- (d) the total number of CSS being implemented and are under process in Tamil Nadu since the last three years?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) & (b): NyayaVikas online monitoring system has been developed with the technical assistance of National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO for collection of data on progress and completion of court halls and residential units and 3 new components viz; lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms. Space technology has been leveraged for online monitoring through NyayaVikas Web Portal. For the purpose, a web portal and mobile app named "NyayaVikas" has been developed for

monitoring of construction projects which was launched in 2018. The State Governments have nominated Nodal Officers at State level and Surveyors & Moderators for each project to enter and upload data/information relating to ongoing and completed projects. Geotagging of projects using NyayaVikas mobile application has helped better monitoring of the judicial infrastructure projects. The users in States enter data through web portal and upload photographs through mobile app with geotagging. "NyayaVikas Version 2.0", with upgraded features has been launched in April, 2020. The new version of the Mobile App which was launched in April 2020 is more user friendly and runs on iOS phones as well as Android systems. The mobile application is being used by State Surveyors to Geo-tag and upload photographs at remote locations through dimensions trapped through spatial technology. Data analysis and visualization techniques have been used in the portal.

(c): The dashboard of this portal provides data on physical and financial progress of the projects under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Judiciary. As on 30.06.2023, details of 7,410 court halls (completed, under construction and proposed) and 7,287 residential units (completed, under construction and proposed) are uploaded on the portal.

(d): There are two Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Department namely, Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary and Scheme for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts which also extends to the State of Tamil Nadu.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1491

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 28TH JULY, 2023

Facility of Proxy Voting to NRIs

Leg. II sec. (L.D.)
†1491. Shri Gajanan Kirtikar:
Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse:
Shrimati Delkar Kalaben Mohanbhai:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to provide facility of proxy voting to the non-resident Indians (NRIs) voters in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is facing logistic and other challenges in identity verification of the NRI voters; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a): No sir, no such proposal is under consideration.
(b) to (d): Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1492
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023**

ADDITIONAL JUDICIAL POSTS IN STATES

✓ JS (UNSTAR)

†1492. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has recently given any directions for the creation of posts in the State Judicial Services;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Rajasthan;**
- (c) the follow up action taken in this regard and number of such posts created in each of the States;**
- (d) the details of appointments made in the Indian Legal Services during each of the last three years and the current year;**
- (e) whether Government proposes to increase the number of posts in Indian Legal Services; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The information regarding the creation of posts in State Judicial Services and details thereof is not maintained by the Department. The Central Government has no role under the Constitution in the creation of posts for judicial officers in State Judicial Services. As per the Constitutional framework, 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

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regarding the issues of recruitment and appointment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. Thus, the creation of posts of judicial officers in the State Judicial Services is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In some States, the respective High Courts directly undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions. Further, Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of State Judicial Services in the States vests with the concerned High Court. Therefore, the Central Government has no role in the creation of posts or related action taken in respect of the State Judicial Services.

(d): As per the information provided by the Department of Legal Affairs, the Indian Legal Service (ILS) consists of 4 sub-cadres viz. Legal Advisers, Government Advocates, Law Officers and Legislative Counsels. The details of appointment made in each of the aforementioned cadres during last three years and the current year is at *ANNEXURE-I*.

(e) & (f): Department of Legal Affairs being the cadre controlling authority of Indian Legal Service (ILS) has initiated proposal for cadre review of ILS in consultation with Cadre Review Division, Department of Personnel & Training which inter alia envisages increasing the number of posts in ILS.

Annexure-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1492 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'ADDITIONAL JUDICIAL POSTS IN STATES'.**

S.no.	Cadre	2020		2021		2022		2023	
		DR*	P**	DR*	P**	DR*	P**	DR*	P**
1	Legal Advisers	-	-	-	2	2	17	-	6
2	Government Advocates	1	-	-	3	1	2	-	-
3	Law Officers	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
4	Legislative Counsels	3	2	1	-	-	-	1	3

Source: Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.

*DR: Direct recruitment. **P: Promotion

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1498
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2023

Quick and Fair Justice

e-court

✓ JS(PPP)

1498. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent observation that the technology needs to be used as an important enabler to reach out to citizens and to provide justice quickly and fairly as an essential service and if so, the details of steps taken and the progress made in this regard; and
- (b) whether in recent years, courts across India have increasingly turned to technology to improve the efficiency and accessibility of the justice system and if so, the details and the present status thereof indicating the new technologies adopted and services being provided through them?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) & (b): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented in association with eCommittee Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice. Its vision is to transform the judicial system of the country

by ICT enablement of courts and to enhance the judicial productivity, both qualitatively & quantitatively, making the justice delivery system accessible, cost effective, reliable, and transparent. Phase I of the project was implemented between 2011-2015. It aimed at computerization of courts and providing network connectivity. Phase I of the eCourts project was largely aimed at procuring and installing hardware and providing network connectivity. 14,249 courts were computerised under this phase. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023. Phase II of the project focused towards ICT facilitation of judicial services to citizens. 18,735 District & Subordinate courts computerized under this phase. The Government has taken the following e-initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders / judgments (as on 03.07.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases

not urgent on cause list. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.

- v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.88 crore downloads till 30.06.2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,164 downloads till 30.06.2023).
- vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 1,98,67,081 cases while the High Courts heard 78,69,708 cases (totalling 2.77 crore) till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
- vii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- viii. 22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 3.26 crore cases have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more than 39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases online fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crore has been realized till 30.06.2023.
- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been

formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 30.06.2023.

- x. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 30.06.2023.
- xi. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online eCourts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- xii. In addition to eSewa Kendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched Tele Law program since 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.
- xiii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.

- xiv. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1507

J-I

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2023

Development of Infrastructure in Higher Judiciary

55(WRGS)

✓ 1507. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the state of judicial infrastructure of higher judiciary in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the schemes or programmes introduced to ensure equitable development of judicial infrastructure of higher judiciary throughout the country;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and spent for this purpose during the last five years;
- (d) the details of allocation of funds and expenditure under the schemes and programmes launched for improving the access to justice and for the introduction of e-Courts throughout the country during the said period; and
- (e) the details of deadlines met and milestones achieved thereunder?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) : Article 214 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a High Court for each State. Accordingly, every State is entitled to have its own High Court. However, the States are required to create and provide all the necessary infrastructure facilities such as, Court Buildings, Quarters for the Judges, court officials and staffs. The State also have to meet all the expenditure for setting up and running of the High Court. Therefore, the primary responsibility of development of Infrastructure facilities for High Courts and District & Subordinate judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, the details of funds allocated to High Courts by the respective state Governments is not maintained centrally.

In order 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 wherein, construction of Court Halls, Residential Units, Toilet Complexes, Digital Computer Rooms and Lawyers' Hall is covered and for which financial assistance to State Governments /UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern is provided. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. The scheme has been further extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crore including central share of Rs. 5307 crore. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 10,035.35 crore under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6591.04 crore (65.68 %) has been released since 2014-15. The details of funds allocated and spent during the last 5 years is as follows;

(₹. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Total allocation	Utilised
1.	2018-19	650.00	Full
2.	2019-20	982.00	Full
3.	2020-21	593.00	Full
4.	2021-22	770.44	684.14
5.	2022-23	848.00	Full

Article 146(3) of the Constitution stipulates that the administrative expenses of the Supreme Court shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India. The details of allocation made to the Supreme Court of India during last five years is as under:

(₹.in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Total allocation	Utilised
1.	2018-19	258.53	Full
2.	2019-20	296.56	Full
3.	2020-21	328.00	Full
4.	2021-22	350.86	341.41
5.	2022-23	405.47	392.78

For the construction of additional office complex of the Supreme Court of India at land adjoining to Pragati Maidan, New Delhi the following funds were given through CPWD by the Government:

Sl.	Date	Details of work for which approval was given
1.	11.07.2012	Administrative approval issued to CPWD for construction of additional building complex of Supreme Court at estimated cost of ₹.884.30 crore.
2.	27.03.2018	Administrative approval issued for Pneumatic Waste Disposal System of ₹.6.5 crore to CPWD, within savings in the approved estimate.
3.	04.04.2019	Administrative approval given to CPWD to incur additional expenditure of ₹.16.58 crore (₹.7.19 crore for LAN Component and ₹.9.39 crore for VOIP).
4.	11.04.2019	Administrative approval given to CPWD to incur additional expenditure of ₹.30.50 crore for integrated security system.

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(d) & (e) The details of allocation of funds and expenditure under eCourts Project and Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) is as under:

(₹. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	ECourts*		DISHA**	
		Total allocation	Utilised	Total allocation	Utilised
1.	2017-18	375.00	374.11	-	-
2.	2018-19	300.00	282.76	-	-
3.	2019-20	180.00	179.26	-	-
4.	2020-21	180.00	179.31	-	-
5.	2021-22	98.82	98.30	40.00	39.96
6.	2022-23	-	-	48.15	47.14

* The funds for eCourts Project Phase-II have been exhausted on 31.03.2022.

** DISHA scheme has been launched in 2021 for a period of five years (2021-26).

In the digitization initiatives under the eCourts scheme, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of total Court Complexes across India through Wide Area Network (WAN) Project. The litigants can access case status information of over 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders/judgments, as on 03.07.2023, on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing (VC), with the District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts having heard around 2.77 crore cases till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. VC facilities have been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Live Streaming of court proceedings have been started in 7 High Courts & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. 22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases with online fine of more than ₹. 419.89 crore realized till 30.06.2023. 20 High Courts

have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out for facilitating the lawyer or litigant who need assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) a technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons have been launched in 28 States/UTs. The "Judgment Search" portal is being provided free of cost to all for search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search.

The Central Sector Scheme on Access to Justice titled "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" has been launched in 2021 for a period of five years (2021-2026), with a total budget of ₹. 250 crore. The scheme aims to provide citizen-centric delivery of legal services with use of technology. It has three components, namely; (i) Tele- Law- to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation between the citizens and Panel Lawyers across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country at the Common Service Centers and is also available via Tele-Law Citizen Mobile APP (on Android & iOS platform) and Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) portal. Tele-Law has enabled advice to 46 lakh beneficiaries as on 30th June,2023; (ii) The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) program aims to connect registered Pro Bono lawyers with registered beneficiaries through Nyaya Bandhu Mobile APP (on Android & iOS platform) and UMANG portal. 10,241 Lawyers have enrolled on the Nyaya Bandhu programme as on 30th June, 2023; (iii) Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme ensures legal empowerment of citizens through various State agencies and National Law school's, etc., benefitting approx. 4 Lakh participants through various initiatives of legal literacy and legal awareness programmes (both online and physical mode).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1519

JR

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023

Implementation of Schemes in Telangana

JS (WMTSR)

✓ 1519. DR. G. RANJITH REDDY:

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

- (a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes being implemented by the Ministry in the State of Telangana during the last five years and the current year, year, scheme, and State-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, sanctioned, released and utilized for each of the above scheme during the said period, year, scheme and State-wise;
- (c) the details of physical targets set and achieved while implementing above schemes during the said period, year, scheme and State-wise;
- (d) whether the Ministry found any shortcomings while implementing above schemes and if so, the corrective steps taken thereon;
- (e) whether there is time and cost overrun in any of the above schemes; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (f): The Union Government has been administering two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary (including the scheme of Gram Nyayalaya) and the scheme of setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) and two Central Sector Schemes

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namely eCourts and DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice).

The Government is sensitive to the needs of building better infrastructure for the judicial officers of the lower and subordinate judiciary. For time bound and proper implementation of the scheme, there are monitoring mechanisms in place as per the guidelines of the scheme. The details of the schemes are as under:

1. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary: The Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern between Centre and States. The Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court halls, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes, digital computer room and residential quarters of subordinate judiciary. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 10035.35 crore under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6591.04 crore (65.68 %) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. The details of funds released State-wise, including Telangana, during last 5 years and the current financial year is at *Annexure - I*. The PFMS portal keeps track of utilization of funds now. Presently an amount of Rs.963.38 (Central+State share) is pending for utilization by the States/UTs.

There are 21,365 number of court halls and 18,846 number of residential units available in the district and subordinate courts against the working strength of 19,876 Judges/Judicial Officers as on 30.06.2023. Moreover, as per Nyaya Vikas Portal, 2,811

Court Halls and 1640 residential units are under construction. As per as the State of Telangana is concerned, as against sanctioned strength of 559 and working strength of 416 judges, 82 court halls and 91 residential units are available and 45 court halls and 6 residential units are under construction.

There are presently no shortcomings in the implementation of the scheme as all the States have on-boarded the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and all the expenditure is being closely monitored through the PFMS portal. For any technical glitches or implementation related issues, the guidelines of the scheme provide for suitable monitoring mechanisms, such as, the High Court Level Monitoring Committee in the State, chaired by the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts and including as members, stake holders such as, Registrar General of the High Court, portfolio judges, Law/Home Secretary of the State and Secretary of the State PWD. This committee meets every six months to review the physical and financial progress of the projects running under the scheme.

Apart from this, there is a Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice, chaired by Secretary (Department of Justice, Government of India) to review the progress of the projects and iron out any issues that hinder the smooth implementation of the scheme.

Besides, there are regular visits by the officials of the Department of Justice to the States for getting firsthand information on the ground. Regular meetings through video conferencing to sort out the problems of the States/UTs also takes place.

Trainings are also organized (both online and offline) for the State officials on the technical issues relating to Public Financial Management (PFMS) through which funds gets released and utilization is monitored.

The States/UTs are required to geo-tag the on-going projects in real time and reflect it on the Nyaya Vikas Portal, which is an online monitoring system developed with the technical assistance of National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO for collection of data on progress and time bound completion of judicial infrastructure projects.

Above all, the scheme has enough flexibility by way of its norms and specifications, for the States to take care of their local needs and geo-spatial peculiarities

2. Scheme of Setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs): In pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Government finalized a scheme in August 2019 for setting up of a total of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases pertaining to Rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, in a time-bound manner under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Based on the pendency of cases in March 2018, a total of 1023 FTSCs were earmarked by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice. As per the data submitted by the High Courts, up to May 2023, a total of 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in the 29 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 1,69,000 cases.

State-wise details of earmarked Courts, functional Courts, cases disposed and cases pending are placed at *Annexure-II(A)*.

In line with the pendency of cases at the inception of the Scheme, the State of Telangana was earmarked 36 Fast Track Special Courts. According to data from the High Court of Telangana, all 36 earmarked courts are operational, contributing to the disposal of over 6700 cases related to rape and the POCSO Act while 8069 cases remain pending.

As on 31.3.2023, the Department of Justice has released a total of Rs.634.56 Cr. (Rs.140 Cr. in the FY 2019-20, Rs.160 Cr. in the FY 2020-21, Rs.134.56 Cr. in the FY 2021-22 and Rs.200.00 Cr. in the FY 2022-23) to 29 States/UTs for the operationalization of these FTSCs. Rs 100.37 Cr has been released till 25.07.2023 in the current FY (2023-24). State-wise details of release of funds is placed at *Annexure-II(B)*.

The State of Telangana has received funds from the Central Government to support the functioning of these special courts. In FY 2019-20, Rs 8.1 Crore was released, followed by Rs 8.9875 Crore in FY 2022-23. Up to 25th July 2023, Rs 3.37 Crore has been released as the Central share of funds for the current fiscal year (FY 2023-24). No funds were released to Telangana during 2020-21 & 2021-22.

The Department of Justice has been regularly conducting review meetings by way of Video Conferencing with the Law Secretaries of the States/UTs and Registrars General of High Courts and Nodal Officers, virtually, to ensure that States/UTs operationalize all the earmarked FTSCs. Letters are also sent from time to time to the States/UTs and High Courts including D.O. Letters from Hon'ble MLJ to Chief Ministers of the

States/Chief Justices of the High Courts and also from Secretary (J) to the Chief Secretaries of State/UTs.

3. eCourts: Department of Justice (DoJ) is implementing eCourts Mission Mode Project as a Central Sector Scheme. It is under implementation for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) development of the District & Subordinate courts including Telangana based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented in association with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice. Phase I of the project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023. The Government has taken the following e-initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders / judgments (as on 03.07.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version

3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.

- iv. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.
- v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.88 crore downloads till 30.06.2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,164 downloads till 30.06.2023).
- vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 1,98,67,081 cases while the High Courts heard 78,69,708 cases (totaling 2.77 crore) till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.

- vii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- viii. 22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 3.26 crore cases have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more than 39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases online fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crore has been realized till 30.06.2023.
- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 30.06.2023.
- x. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 30.06.2023.
- xi. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and

saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.

- xii. In addition to eSewa Kendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched Tele Law program since 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.
- xiii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiv. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

eCourts MMP Phase II is being implemented through High Courts and funds are distributed directly to the concerned High Courts and not to the State Government.

High Court wise fund status is at *Annexure -III*.

The National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in their evaluation found no major shortcomings in the eCourts Mission Mode Project-Phase II. However, it was recommended to generate more awareness, maintenance of the basic infrastructure, training, and monitoring through some measurable indicators.

4. Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India (DISHA): Department of Justice (DoJ), Government of India has launched a Central Sector Scheme on Access to Justice titled “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India”, for a period of five years (2021-2026), with a total budget of Rs 250 Crore. The scheme aims to provide citizen-centric delivery of legal services with use of technology. It has three components which includes Tele- Law: Mainstreaming Legal Aid to the Grassroots; Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme. The Tele-Law aims to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation, between the citizens and Panel Lawyers. The Tele-Law service is available across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country at the Common Service Centers. It is also available via Tele-Law Citizen Mobile APP (available on Android & iOS platform) and UMANG portal. As on 30th June,2023 the Tele-Law has enabled advice to 46 lakh beneficiaries.

The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) program provides to create a decentralized pan India dispensation framework to deliver Pro Bono legal services. It aims to connect registered Pro Bono lawyers with registered beneficiaries through Nyaya Bandhu Mobile APP (available on Android & iOS platform) and UMANG portal. As on 30th June,2023 10,241 Lawyers have enrolled on the Nyaya Bandhu programme. Pro Bono Clubs has been started under 69 Law schools, across the country to instill the young legal minds with Pro Bono legal services.

In addition, to ensure legal empowerment of citizens, DoJ is implementing Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme, through various State agencies

and National Law school's etc. Approx. 4 Lakh participants has benefitted through various initiatives of legal literacy and legal awareness programmes being implemented under it (both online and physical mode).

In the last two financial years (2021-2022; 2022-2023), a total of Rs 88.15 crore was released and Rs 87 crore has been utilized (FY-2021-2022-Amount sanctioned: Rs 40 crore and Rs 39.96 crore was utilized; FY-2022-2023-Amount sanctioned: Rs 48.15 crore and 47.14 crore was utilized), under the Scheme.

Especially in the State of Telangana, Tele-Law service is operational across 1860 Common Service Centers and has enabled advice to 73,417 beneficiaries in 33 districts, till 30th June 2023. 183 Lawyers have joined the Nyaya Bandhu Programme and 1 Law college have constituted Pro Bono Club till 30th June, 2023 in the region. In the FY 2023-2024, DoJ has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Telangana State Legal Services Authority, to increase the participation of the Tribal population in the development of the region, by ensuring increased awareness and sensitization in three Aspirational districts of Telangana which includes Kumarambheem-Asifabad, Bhadrari Kothagudem and Jayashankar Bhupalpally.

All the above mentioned schemes are being implemented within the sanctioned cost and as per the stipulated time lines and hence there are no time and cost overruns in any of these schemes.

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Annexure-I

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1519 for reply on 28.07.2023 and statement of release under Centrally Sponsored Scheme and Unspent balance as on 30.06.2023

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Unspent Balance
1	Andhra Pradesh	10.00	20.00	10.28	0.00	22.50	0.00	4.97
2	Bihar	62.04	87.62	65.72	0.00	0.00	34.09	64.22
3	Chhattisgarh	19.68	19.83	7.84	0.00	60.00	0.00	74.89
4	Goa	3.15	4.06	3.80	3.20	25.00	0.00	1.00
5	Gujarat	15.02	16.49	13.50	0.00	6.22	0.00	1.92
6	Haryana	11.91	14.06	22.00	0.00	0.00	20.10	35.70
7	Himachal Pradesh	4.08	5.72	5.50	0.00	0.00	4.67	5.41
8	Jammu & Kashmir	19.01	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
9	Jharkhand	9.59	13.74	9.05	6.00	16.51	7.71	13.55
10	Karnataka	38.12	44.04	29.72	27.00	82.01	12.10	27.90
11	Kerala	30.82	15.82	13.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	32.65
12	Madhya Pradesh	79.42	66.90	45.60	55.00	125.00	29.00	44.79
13	Maharashtra	10.58	61.09	23.11	18.00	100.00	8.11	0.00
14	Odisha	22.50	35.69	0.00	0.00	30.69	0.00	61.01
15	Punjab	26.47	39.78	16.48	16.50	12.50	18.42	35.86
16	Rajasthan	17.41	64.21	29.90	41.50	71.66	27.87	48.72
17	Tamilnadu	6.09	38.71	18.17	35.66	133.85	0.00	199.55
18	Telangana	10.00	5.65	16.00	0.00	26.61	0.00	45.90
19	Uttarakhand	22.02	28.50	5.86	80.00	0.00	0.00	46.05
20	Uttar Pradesh	128.06	169.66	111.00	219.00	0.00	0.00	109.24
21	West Bengal	35.22	61.43	31.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.73
	Total	581.19	823.00	477.60	551.86	712.55	162.07	877.06
North-Eastern States								
1	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	2.69	5.00	4.09	32.38	0.00	36.24
2	Assam	32.09	36.54	25.00	27.40	25.00	0.00	9.49
3	Manipur	8.87	9.66	5.00	0.00	12.85	0.00	8.43
4	Meghalaya	14.82	22.85	7.71	28.02	50.00	4.27	0.00
5	Mizoram	5.94	5.24	5.00	9.50	0.00	2.42	2.59
6	Nagaland	3.21	3.42	5.00	13.27	0.00	0.00	3.58
7	Sikkim	2.57	2.78	2.95	0.00	2.27	0.00	2.08
8	Tripura	0.00	18.82	7.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32
	Total	67.50	102.00	63.40	82.28	122.50	6.69	62.73
Union Territories								
1	A&N Islands	1.31	0.17	0.35	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.71
3	D&Nagar Haveli	0.00	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	0.00
5	Delhi	0.00	48.52	45.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.84
6	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	5.00	6.65	20.00	12.60	0.00	11.68
7	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14
9	Puducherry	0.00	3.31	0.00	0.00	9.55	0.00	9.22
	Total	1.31	57.00	52.00	50.01	22.15	0.00	23.59
	Grant Total	650.00	982.00	593.00	684.15	857.20	168.76	963.38

Annexure-II(A)

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1519 for reply on 28.07.2023 and State-wise details of earmarked Courts, functional Courts, disposed and pending cases

(As on May 2023)

Sl. N. O.	State/UT	Earmarked Courts		Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme			No. of cases pending at the end of the month			Cumulative Pendency
		FTS Cs including ePO CSO	ePO CSO	FTS Cs including ePO CSO	ePO CSO	FTS Cs	ePOCS O	Total	FTSCs		ePOCS O	
									Rape	POC SO		
1	Chhattisgarh	15	11	15	11	547	2976	3523	107	400	1987	2494
2	Gujarat	35	24	35	24	1647	6598	8245	624	722	5181	6527
3	Mizoram	3	1	3	1	95	30	125	7	32	24	63
4	Nagaland	1	0	1	0	48	3	51	2	53	0	55
5	Jharkhand	22	8	22	16	1651	2997	4648	634	564	3158	4356
6	Madhya Pradesh	67	26	67	57	2865	15897	18762	2360	156	8806	11322
7	Manipur	2	0	2	0	95	0	95	12	106	0	118
8	Haryana	16	12	16	12	1117	3053	4170	291	726	2899	3916
9	Chandigarh	1	0	1	0	171	0	171	69	148	0	217
10	Rajasthan	45	26	45	30	3154	7126	10280	202	1198	5470	6870
11	Tamil Nadu	14	14	14	14	0	5178	5178	0	0	5036	5036
12	Tripura	3	1	3	1	108	125	233	151	45	106	302
13	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	218	74	23559	21429	44988	6422	24610	48758	79790
14	Uttarakhand	4	4	4	0	1138	0	1138	322	599	0	921
15	Delhi	16	11	16	11	347	702	1049	1218	0	3151	4369
16	Meghalaya	5	5	5	5	0	290	290	0	0	1013	1013
17	J&K	4	0	4	2	63	63	126	188	0	252	440
18	Punjab	12	2	12	3	1238	1488	2726	426	613	511	1550
19	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	6	3	195	553	748	150	356	421	927
20	Karnataka	31	17	31	17	1890	4775	6665	2326	0	3008	5334
21	Telangana	36	10	36	0	4047	2731	6778	205	7864	0	8069
22	Puducherry	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	209	209
23	Andhra Pradesh	18	8	16	16	0	2729	2729	0	0	7277	7277
24	Assam	27	15	17	17	0	3566	3566	0	0	4557	4557
25	Bihar	54	30	45	45	0	7533	7533	0	0	16013	16013
26	Goa	2	0	1	1	0	30	30	0	0	44	44
27	Kerala	56	14	53	14	8880	3990	12870	1066	4086	1775	6927
28	Maharashtra	138	30	30	14	5439	8887	14326	688	2497	2632	5817
29	Odisha	45	22	39	23	2827	5472	8299	770	2570	7924	11264
30	W.B.	123	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Andaman & Nicobar	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	1023	389	758	412	61121	108221	169342	18240	47345	130212	195797

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Annexure-II(B)

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1519 for reply on 28.07.2023 and the state-wise details of fund released under Fast Track Special Courts scheme.

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	States/UTs	Amount released in 2019-20	Amount released in 2020-21	Amount released in 2021-22	Amount released in 2022-23	Amount Released in 2023-24
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	2.85625	1.86875	3.375	6.7325	2.530238
3.	Bihar	2.025	15.26255	20.25	11.895	4.465125
4.	Chandigarh	0.1875	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	3.375	3.375	4.259	3.93	1.488375
6.	Delhi	3.60	0.00	0.00	4.225	1.5876
7.	Goa	0.225	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.099225
8.	Gujarat	7.875	7.875	0.00	9.26	3.472875
9.	Haryana	3.60	3.60	3.60	4.225	1.5876
10.	Himachal P	1.0125	1.51875	0.00	2.375	0.893025
11.	J&K	0.5625	0.00	2.635	1.58	1.61535
12.	Jharkhand	4.95	4.95	0.00	5.825	2.18295
13.	Karnataka	6.975	0.00	6.635	7.395	3.805775
14.	Kerala	8.40	0.00	0.00	7.40	15.4566
15.	Madhya Pradesh	15.075	15.0750	26.175	17.72	7.498075
16.	Maharashtra	31.05	0.00	0.00	8.72	3.77055
17.	Manipur	0.675	0.675	0.3375	0.785	0.297675
18.	Meghalaya	1.6875	0.00	0.00	1.977	0.744188
19.	Mizoram	1.0125	1.0125	2.02625	1.18	0.446513
20.	Nagaland	0.3375	0.3375	0.00	0.38	0.148838
21.	Odisha	5.40	1.30	16.20	11.64	4.465125
22.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.1125	0.00	0.00
23.	Punjab	2.70	0.00	0.00	4.312	2.5487
24.	Rajasthan	5.85	14.4	19.745	11.895	13.83263
25.	Tamil Nadu	3.15	3.15	2.59	6.62	1.38915
26.	Telangana	8.10	0.00	0.00	8.9875	3.37365
27.	Tripura	1.0125	1.0125	0.00	1.1725	0.446513
28.	Uttar Pradesh	13.80625	84.29375	24.525	57.68	21.63105
29.	Uttarakhand	2.70	0.00	2.092	1.53	0.59535
Total		140	160	134.55	200.00	100.37

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1519 for reply on 28.07.2023 and statement of High Court wise fund status as on 30.06.2023

(Rs. in crore)

Sr. No	High Courts	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
		Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized
1	Allahabad	20.57	20.27	8.07	7.96	15.04	13.63	13.79	10.22	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Bombay	47.22	47.18	0.52	0.52	0.00	0.00	8.86	8.86	0.00	0.00
4	Calcutta	10.72	1.90	0.13	0.08	0.00	0.00	4.93	0	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	9.34	9.34	1.33	1.33	4.44	4.44	2.34	2.34	0.00	0.00
6	Delhi	8.97	8.95	3.54	3.54	0.00	0.00	3.00	2.85	0.00	0.00
7	Gauhati	1.37	1.37	2.85	2.85	0.98	0.98	1.52	1.52	1.26	1.18
(a)	(Arunachal Pradesh)										
7(b)	Gauhati (Assam)	8.13	8.13	8.7	8.22	13.68	13.4	6.11	1.78	3.49	3.46
7	Gauhati (Mizoram)	2.47	2.47	0.15	0.15	0.51	0.43	0.72	0.69	0.3	0.25
(c)											
7	Gauhati (Nagaland)	1.83	1.83	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.84
(d)											
8	Gujarat*	29.06	21.81	10.73	0.1	0.00	0.00	3.48	0.83	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	4.05	4.03	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.78	0.00	0.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	10.59	10.59	0.26	0.26	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
11	Jharkhand	2.92	2.92	4.53	4.53	5.53	0.35	2.98	0.48	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	22.04	22.04	0.61	0.61	9.15	9.15	4.29	4.29	0.00	0.00
13	Kerala	14.73	14.73	4.61	4.61	0	0	2.83	2.83	1.58	1.58
14	Madhya Pradesh	22.51	22.51	0.39	0.39	11.21	11.06	6.28	6.21	0.00	0.00
15	Madras	25.45	24.56	5.11	4.09	0.00	0.00	4.73	2.46	0.00	0.00
16	Manipur	1.19	1.18	0.65	0.65	0.61	0.6	1.3	1.28	0.76	0.75
17	Meghalaya	3.65	3.36	0.62	0.61	0.92	0.09	2.32	0.51	2.23	0.85
18	Orissa	12.7	12.47	1.59	1.48	13.46	13.09	3.37	3.31	0.00	0.00
19	Patna	8.72	8.30	0.13	0.07	7.08	6.4	5.44	5.3	0.00	0.00
20	Punjab & Haryana	11.54	11.54	8.49	8.49	0.00	0.00	4.55	4.55	0.00	0.00
21	Rajasthan	25.05	25.05	3.01	3.01	1.29	1.29	10.58	10.57	1.62	1.62
22	Sikkim	1.40	1.39	0.8	0.44	1.61	0.68	1.01	0.92	0.77	0.00
23	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh**	33.95	23.78	8.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Telangana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Tripura	2.86	2.86	1.77	1.77	2.24	2.19	4.44	4.05	0.96	0.78
26	Uttarakhand	4.60	4.49	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	1.28	1.12	0.00	0.00
	Total	347.65	319.06	77.71	56.85	88.44	78.5	107.74	80.57	13.80	11.31

*Gujarat High Court surrendered Rs.13.12 Cr.Total utilization included surrender funds.

**Funds released erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court, and both the states shared the available funds in the ratio of 58:42 respectively.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1524
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

LAP

SS(WRG)
✓

AFFORDABLE JUSTICE TO WEAKER SECTIONS

1524. SHRI M.V.V. SATYANARAYANA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the dalits, backward classes and other weaker sections of the society are unable to get justice due to costly and complex and time taking judicial system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government for the same; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to make judicial process quick, simple and affordable to all sections of the society particularly to weaker classes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) and (b) Government is making every efforts in providing access to justice to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes and other Economically Weaker sections of the society. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok

Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities.

For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include legal aid and advice; legal awareness programmes; legal services/empowerment camps; legal services clinics; legal literacy clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of victim compensation scheme.

- (c) To enable quick and equitable access to justice, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has launched Legal Services Mobile App on Android and iOS versions to enable easy access to legal aid to common citizens.

Further, a scheme on Access to Justice titled "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" is implemented by the Government of India which aims to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation through Tele-Law; ensure pan - India dispensation framework to deliver Pro Bono legal Services through Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme and to empower citizens through Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme. The Scheme embeds use of technology and developing contextualized IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material in regional / local dialect to support its intervention and to achieve easy accessibility of legal services to the poor and weakest sections of the society. All these services under the scheme are provided free of cost to all citizens including the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and other Economically Weaker sections of the society.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1527
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28.07.2023

Notary Cell (LA)

IRREGULARITIES IN APPOINTMENT OF NOTARY PUBLIC

1527. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the reports regarding irregularities in the appointment of Notary Public in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to investigate the said scam to ensure transparency in the appointment of Notary Public in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. Complaint has been received regarding alleged irregularities in the appointment of notary public and the Government having taken note of the same has accorded approval for conduct of an investigation in the matter, as per law.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1534

LD. II. 40. LD

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 28TH JULY, 2023

Delimitation Exercise of Reserved Seats of Lok Sabha

†1534. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Alias Lalan Singh:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to conduct fresh delimitation exercise for the reserved seats of Lok Sabha, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether certain organization have been demanding to correct discrepancies caused during the delimitation exercise carried out in 2009 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a): No Sir.

(b): Section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 provides that upon publication of a Delimitation Order in the Gazette of India, every such order shall have the force of law and shall not be called in question in any court.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1542

JR

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023

✓ JS (W.M.JR)

Lack of Modern facilities in Court Complexes

1542. Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav:

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

- (a) whether the courts in India lack infrastructure such as court rooms with adequate space and modern facilities and court complexes not having basic facilities such as separate toilets for women, medical aid centre, water purifier and libraries making it difficult for them to perform effectively;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the percentage of lower courts not having separate toilets for women;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve judicial infrastructure to ensure ease of doing business in court complexes; and
- (d) the details of funds provided or proposed to be provided by the Government to the States?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d): The development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary in the States, including facilities such as separate toilets for women, medical aid centre, water purifier and libraries, is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government basically supplements the resources of the State Governments by releasing financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the

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development of judicial infrastructure by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between Centre and States. 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. As against the sanctioned strength of 25,215 and working strength of 19,876 judges/judicial officers there are 21,365 court halls and 18,846 residential units available as on 30.06.2023.

A sum of Rs. 10035.35 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6591.04 crore (65.68 %) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. 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 scheme guidelines also include the Norms and Specifications for the Court Buildings which advises the state governments to comply with the existing standards of CPWD while preparing the construction plan for ongoing court complexes and facilities and the new projects.

For providing suitable climate for ease of doing business in the country, the infrastructure of the subordinate courts is being constantly improved. Dedicated and designated commercial courts are functional in these court complexes with exclusive manpower to expeditiously dispose of commercial cases. However, project wise funds are not released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infrastructure for subordinate judiciary.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1549

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 28TH JULY, 2023

Wg II. sec. LD

Anti-Defection Law

†1549. Shri Dharmendra Kashyap:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to strengthen the Anti-Defection law; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): There is no proposal to amend the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India i.e. Anti-Defection law.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1571

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28.07.2023

Appointment of Additional Judges

✓ 55 (Adpt.)
1571. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

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

- (a) the details of memorandum or guidelines for appointing additional judges to High Courts and the Supreme Court;
- (b) the details of vacancies of permanent judges and appointment of additional judges in various High Courts during the last five years, State-wise; and
- (c) whether the Government has sought any advice from the apex court for appointing additional judges when vacancies for permanent judges remained unfilled in High Courts and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (c): The Memorandum of Procedure of appointment and transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts inter-alia states that Additional Judges can be appointed by the President under clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution. The sanctioned strength of Permanent and Additional Judges in the High Court is fixed in a ratio of 75:25. When there is a vacancy of a Permanent Judge in the parent High Court and there is no Additional Judge appointed in the said High Court, fresh appointment would be made as a Permanent Judge. In case of no vacancy of a permanent Judge in the parent High Court or there is a vacancy of a Permanent Judge but an Additional Judge has already been appointed in the said High Court, the fresh appointment will be made as an Additional Judge. There is no provision for appointment of an Additional Judge in the Supreme Court of India.

: 2 :

The list of vacancies of Permanent Judges and Additional Judges in High Courts as on 24.07.2023, High Court-wise is at **Annexure-I**. The list of vacancies of Permanent Judges and appointment of judges in various High Courts since 01.01.2019 is at **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE-I

Statement showing Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts (As on 24.07.2023)

A.	Supreme Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		34			32			2		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	74	21	95	45	20	65
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	5	27	6	4	10
3	Bombay	71	23	94	40	26	66	31	-3	28
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	33	19	52	21	-1	20
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	5	15	7	0	7
6	Delhi	46	14	60	41	3	44	5	11	16
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	15	9	24	7	-1	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	9	0	9	4	4	8
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	12	4	16	1	0	1
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	19	1	20	1	4	5
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	37	13	50	10	2	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	28	6	34	7	6	13
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	34	0	34	5	14	19
15	Madras	56	19	75	47	16	63	9	3	12
16	Manipur	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	0	3	0	1	1
18	Orissa	24	9	33	21	0	21	3	9	12
19	Patna	40	13	53	33	0	33	7	13	20
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	38	22	60	26	-1	25
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	34	0	34	4	12	16
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	25	2	27	7	8	15
24	Tripura	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	8	0	8	1	2	3
	Total	840	274	1114	621	152	773	219	122	341

**Details of vacancies of Permanent Judges and appointment of Additional Judges
from the years 2019 to 2023 (till 24.07.2023)**

S. No.	High Court	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
		Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 01.01.2019	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2019	Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 01.01.2020	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2020	Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 01.01.2021	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2021	Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 01.01.2022	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2022	Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 24.07.2023	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2023
1	Allahabad	15	10	09	04	38	17	46	12	45	09
2	Andhra Pradesh	14	-	13	-	10	02	8	03	6	02
3	Bombay	18	11	16	04	22	06	19	19	31	04
4	Calcutta	35	06	32	01	22	08	24	14	21	-
5	Chhattisgarh	09	-	06	-	04	03	7	03	7	01
6	Delhi	06	-	09	-	15	-	15	01	5	03
7	Gauhati	04	04	03	-	01	06	1	02	7	02
8	Gujarat	12	-	12	-	10	07	7	-	10	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	02	01	01	-	01	01	2	-	4	-
10	J & K and Ladakh	04	-	05	-	02	02	-	04	1	-
11	Jharkhand	05	02	02	-	02	-	-	01	1	-
12	Karnataka	26	10	28	10	21	06	8	06	10	04
13	Kerala	04	01	08	06	05	12	8	01	7	-
14	Madhya	05	-	09	-	11	-	11	-	5	-

S. No.	High Court	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
		Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 01.01.2019	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2019	Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 01.01.2020	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2020	Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 01.01.2021	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2021	Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 01.01.2022	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2022	Vacancy of Permanent Judges as on 24.07.2023	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2023
	Pradesh										
15	Madras	15	01	10	10	04	05	11	04	9	11
16	Manipur	01	-	-	01	-	-	1	-	1	-
17	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-01*	-	-	-	0	-
18	Orissa	06	-	06	-	05	04	2	-	3	-
19	Patna	18	-	14	-	18	04	14	-	7	-
	Punjab & Haryana	18	10	26	01	22	06		21		01
20								21		26	
21	Rajasthan	13	-	17	-	15	03	10	-	4	-
22	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
23	Telangana	05	-	06	-	04	07	13	02	7	-
24	Tripura	01	-	01	-	-	-	-01**	-	1	-
25	Uttarakhand	-	01	-	-	01	-	2	-	1	-
	Total	236	57	233	37	232	99	229	93	219	37

* In the year 2021, against the sanctioned strength of 03 Permanent Judges and 01 Additional Judge in the Meghalaya High Court, 04 Permanent Judges were working, therefore, there was -01 vacancy of Permanent Judge.

** In the year 2022, against the sanctioned strength of 04 Permanent Judges and 01 Additional Judge in the Tripura High Court, 05 Permanent Judges were working, therefore, there was -01 vacancy of Permanent Judge.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

NM

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH JULY, 2023

✓ JS (NMSR) VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS

1593. SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:
SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR:
DR. SANGHMITRA MAURYA:
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:
SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAWAN AJENIMBALKAR:
DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:
SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:
SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

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

- (a) whether the pendency of cases in courts has increased due to vacancy of judges in different courts and tribunals and if so, the details thereof, court-wise;
- (b) the details of sanctioned, actual strength and vacancy of judges in Supreme Court, High Courts, district courts and tribunals during the last three years and the current year, court/tribunal-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken to fill up the vacant posts within a fixed time limit in all these courts;
- (d) whether a number of cases are pending for 10 and 15 years or more therein, if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken for their speedy disposal;
- (e) whether there is a proposal for reservation in Higher judiciary, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same; and
- (f) whether the Government has a provision to make court judgements/correspondence online, if so, the details thereof?

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ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY
OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The vacancy of judges is not the sole reason for the increased pendency of cases in courts. Pendency of cases in courts can be contributed to several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, 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. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

The information regarding pendency of cases in the Tribunals is not maintained by the Department. A detailed court-wise statement of pendency of cases in Supreme Court, High Courts, and District courts are at *ANNEXURE I, II* and *III* respectively.

(b): The information regarding sanctioned, working strength and vacancy in the Tribunals is not maintained by the Department. A detailed statement showing the sanctioned, actual/working strength and vacancy position of judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District Courts during the last three years and the current year are at *ANNEXURE-IV* and *V* respectively.

(c): Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level. Hence, the time for filling up of vacancies of the Judges in the higher Judiciary cannot be indicated. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on

arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

In case of the District/Subordinate judiciary, The Central Government has no role under the Constitution in the selection, recruitment and appointment of judicial officers at the District/Subordinate judiciary level. As per the Constitutional framework, 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 issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. Thus, the selection and appointment of judicial officers in the Subordinate/District Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

(d): As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, as on 21.03.2023, cases pending for more than 30 to 50, 30 to 40, 40 to 50 and more than 50 years is 22, 20, 2, 0 respectively. There are no cases pending for 10 and 15 years in the Supreme Court. In case of the High Courts and District Courts, as per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on 24th July, 2023, the number of cases pending for 10 and 15 years or more is as follows:-

Details of Pendency as on 24.07.2023*					
S. No.	Name of Court	Cases pending for 10 years	Cases pending for 15 years	Cases pending for more than 15 years	
				Cases pending for 20 to 30 years	Cases pending for more than 30 years
1	High Courts	1,83,146	1,11,847	2,17,010	71,204
2	District and Subordinate Courts	8,73,587	3,09,792	5,20,588	1,01,837

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

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The disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts.

(e): Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. However, the Government is committed to social diversity in the appointment of Judges in the in the Higher Judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in appointment of Judges in High Courts.

(f): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented in association with e-Committee Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice. Its vision is to transform the judicial system of the country by ICT enablement of courts and to enhance the judicial productivity, both qualitatively & quantitatively, making the justice delivery system accessible, cost effective, reliable, and transparent. Under Phase II of the project that was implemented from 2015 to 2023. 18,735 District & Subordinate courts computerized. All stakeholders 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 03.07.2023, Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders / judgments. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available for litigants and advocates on the eCourts web portal at https://ecourts.gov.in/ecourts_home/ as well as the eCourts services mobile app.

Judgments of the High Court can be retrieved from the 'Judgment & Order Search' portal. The 'Judgment Search' segment can be reached at <https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in>, which encapsulates the features such as search

by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. The most important feature of this portal is using a free text search engine, which finds out judgments based on a given keyword or combination of keywords.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK
SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON
28.07.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS'.**

Supreme Court Pendency as on 01.07.2023	69,766
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Source:- Supreme Court website

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Annexure-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS'.

High Court Pendency as on 26.07.2023*		
S. No.	Name of High Court	Total Pendency of cases
1	Allahabad	1039879
2	Bombay	700214
3	Rajasthan	652093
4	Madras	551953
5	Madhya Pradesh	445498
6	Punjab and Haryana	442805
7	Karnataka	278405
8	Andhra Pradesh	247095
9	Telangana	252901
10	Patna	203291
11	Calcutta	203637
12	Kerala	189728
13	Gujarat	165487
14	Orissa	145908
15	Delhi	110951
16	Himachal Pradesh	95184
17	Chhattisgarh	91332
18	Jharkhand	85840
19	Guwahati	60635
20	Uttarakhand	48000
21	Jammu and Kashmir	45150
22	Manipur	5034
23	Tripura	1174
24	Meghalaya	1148
25	Sikkim	157
	Total	6063499

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS'.

Pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Court as on 24.07.2023*		
S. No.	State	Total Pendency of Cases
1	Uttar Pradesh	11635286
2	Maharashtra	5121209
3	Bihar	3508123
4	West Bengal	2908921
5	Rajasthan	2273368
6	Madhya Pradesh	2012302
7	Karnataka	1926412
8	Kerala	1885878
9	Gujarat	1697326
10	Haryana	1532073
11	Odisha	1531155
12	Tamil Nadu	1474434
13	Delhi	1229741
14	Punjab	914800
15	Telangana	909793
16	Andhra Pradesh	852215
17	Himachal Pradesh	543461
18	Jharkhand	526160
19	Assam	467874
20	Chhattisgarh	410118
21	Uttarakhand	336583
22	Jammu and Kashmir	317884
23	Chandigarh	82417
24	Goa	56545
25	Tripura	45856
26	Puducherry	34084
27	Meghalaya	15930
28	Manipur	12641
29	Andaman and Nicobar	8786
30	Mizoram	5851
31	DNH at Silvassa	4075
32	Nagaland	3316
33	Diu and Daman	3091
34	Sikkim	1816
35	Arunachal Pradesh	1387
36	Ladakh	1225
	Total	4,42,92,136

*Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

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Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 17.01.2022

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			32			02		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	120	40	160	74	19	93	46	21	67
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	09	37	20	0	20	8	9	17
3	Bombay	71	23	94	52	08	60	19	15	34
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	30	09	39	24	09	33
5	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	10	03	13	07	02	09
6	Delhi	45	15	60	30	0	30	15	15	30
7	Gauhati	18	06	24	17	06	23	01	0	01
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	32	0	32	07	13	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	08	01	09	02	02	04
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	04	17	13	0	13	0	04	04
11	Jharkhand	19	06	25	19	01	20	0	05	05
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	39	06	45	08	09	17
13	Kerala	35	12	47	27	12	39	08	0	08
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	29	0	29	11	13	24
15	Madras	56	19	75	45	15	60	11	04	15
16	Manipur	04	01	05	03	01	04	01	0	01
17	Meghalaya	03	01	04	03	0	03	0	01	01
18	Orissa	20	07	27	18	0	18	02	07	09
19	Patna	40	13	53	26	0	26	14	13	27
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	43	06	49	21	15	36
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	28	0	28	10	12	22
22	Sikkim	0	0	03	03	0	03	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	19	0	19	13	10	23
24	Tripura	04	01	05	05	0	05	-01	1	0
25	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	07	0	07	02	02	04
	Total	829	269	1098	600	87	687	229	182	411

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 01.01.2021

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			30			04		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	120	40	160	82	14	96	38	26	64
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	09	37	18	0	18	10	09	19
3	Bombay	71	23	94	49	15	64	22	08	30
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	32	02	34	22	16	38
5	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	13	01	14	04	04	08
6	Delhi	45	15	60	30	0	30	15	15	30
7	Gauhati	18	06	24	17	03	20	01	03	04
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	09	0	09	01	03	04
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	04	17	11	0	11	02	04	06
11	Jharkhand	19	06	25	17	0	17	02	06	08
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	26	20	46	21	-05	16
13	Kerala	35	12	47	30	07	37	05	05	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	29	0	29	11	13	24
15	Madras	56	19	75	52	10	62	04	09	13
16	Manipur	04	01	05	04	01	05	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	03	01	04	04	0	04	-01	01	0
18	Orissa	20	07	27	15	0	15	05	07	12
19	Patna	40	13	53	22	0	22	18	13	31
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	42	11	53	22	10	32
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	23	0	23	15	12	27
22	Sikkim	03	0	03	03	0	03	0	0	0
23	Telangana	18	06	24	14	0	14	04	06	10
24	Tripura	04	0	04	04	0	04	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	08	01	09	01	01	02
	Total	815	264	1079	583	85	668	232	179	411

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS.

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 24.07.2023

A.	Supreme Court	34			32			2		
		Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Vacancies						
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	74	21	95	45	20	65
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	5	27	6	4	10
3	Bombay	71	23	94	40	26	66	31	-3	28
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	33	19	52	21	-1	20
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	5	15	7	0	7
6	Delhi	46	14	60	41	3	44	5	11	16
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	15	9	24	7	-1	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	9	0	9	4	4	8
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	12	4	16	1	0	1
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	19	1	20	1	4	5
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	37	13	50	10	2	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	28	6	34	7	6	13
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	34	0	34	5	14	19
15	Madras	56	19	75	47	16	63	9	3	12
16	Manipur	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	0	3	0	1	1
18	Orissa	24	9	33	21	0	21	3	9	12
19	Patna	40	13	53	33	0	33	7	13	20
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	38	22	60	26	-1	25
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	34	0	34	4	12	16
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	25	2	27	7	8	15
24	Tripura	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	8	0	8	1	2	3
	Total	840	274	1114	621	152	773	219	122	341

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Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 01.01.2020

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			33			01		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	76	84	160	67	40	107	09	44	53
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	09	37	15	0	15	13	09	22
3	Bombay	71	23	94	55	15	70	16	08	24
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	22	18	40	32	0	32
5	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	11	04	15	06	01	07
6	Delhi	45	15	60	36	0	36	09	15	24
7	Gauhati	18	06	24	15	06	21	03	0	03
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	27	0	27	12	13	25
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	09	01	10	01	02	03
10	Jammu & Kashmir	13	04	17	08	0	08	05	04	09
11	Jharkhand	19	06	25	17	02	19	02	04	06
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	19	21	40	28	-06	22
13	Kerala	35	12	47	27	05	32	08	07	15
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	31	0	31	09	13	22
15	Madras	56	19	75	46	09	55	10	10	20
16	Manipur	04	01	05	04	0	04	0	01	01
17	Meghalaya	03	01	04	03	0	03	0	01	01
18	Orissa	20	07	27	14	0	14	06	07	13
19	Patna	40	13	53	26	0	26	14	13	27
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	38	17	55	26	04	30
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	21	0	21	17	12	29
22	Sikkim	03	0	03	03	0	03	0	0	0
23	Telangana	18	06	24	12	01	13	06	05	11
24	Tripura	04	0	04	03	0	03	01	0	01
25	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	09	01	10	0	01	01
	Total	771	308	1079	538	140	678	233	168	401

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1593 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCY AND CASES IN COURTS'.

Sanctioned Strength (SS), Working Strength(WS) and Vacancy (V) position of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Judiciary for last three years *

Name of State	As on 31.12.2020			As on 31.12.2021			As on 31.12.2022			As on 25.07.2023		
	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V
Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	-13	0	13	-13	0	13	-13	0	13	-13
Andhra Pradesh	607	510	97	607	492	115	607	534	73	618	544	74
Arunachal Pradesh	41	32	9	41	32	9	41	33	8	42	33	9
Assam	466	412	54	467	436	31	485	425	60	485	443	42
Bihar	1936	1433	503	1954	1394	560	2016	1349	667	2016	1554	462
Chandigarh	30	26	4	30	30	0	30	30	0	30	29	1
Chhattisgarh	480	387	93	482	409	73	527	437	90	556	431	125
D & N Haveli	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Daman & Diu	4	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0
Delhi	799	649	150	862	689	173	884	681	203	887	706	181
Goa	50	40	10	50	40	10	50	40	10	50	40	10
Gujarat	1521	1152	369	1523	1123	400	1582	1151	431	1582	1186	396
Haryana	772	493	279	772	482	290	772	464	308	772	576	196
Himachal Pradesh	175	161	14	175	160	15	179	163	16	179	160	19
Jammu and Kashmir	296	255	41	300	241	59	314	223	91	314	227	87
Jharkhand	675	544	131	675	523	152	694	508	186	694	503	191
Karnataka	1357	1071	286	1363	1077	286	1365	1132	233	1367	1125	242
Kerala	538	470	68	569	488	81	595	473	122	603	523	80
Ladakh	16	8	8	17	9	8	17	9	8	17	9	8
Lakshadweep	3	3	0	3	3	0	4	4	0	4	3	1
Madhya Pradesh	2021	1610	411	2021	1552	469	2021	1649	372	2028	1607	421

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Maharashtra	2190	1940	250	2190	1940	250	2190	1940	250	2190	1940	250
Manipur	54	36	18	59	42	17	59	42	17	59	42	17
Meghalaya	97	49	48	97	49	48	99	57	42	99	57	42
Mizoram	64	43	21	65	42	23	74	41	33	74	41	33
Nagaland	33	26	7	34	24	10	34	24	10	34	24	10
Odisha	950	756	194	976	785	191	1001	767	234	1003	808	195
Puducherry	26	11	15	26	11	15	28	11	17	29	11	18
Punjab	692	593	99	692	607	85	797	589	208	797	587	210
Rajasthan	1489	1292	197	1548	1274	274	1587	1256	331	1616	1358	258
Sikkim	25	20	5	28	20	8	30	21	9	35	23	12
Tamil Nadu	1298	1049	249	1316	1082	234	1340	1068	272	1364	1046	318
Telangana	474	378	96	474	425	49	560	410	150	560	415	145
Tripura	120	97	23	122	97	25	128	108	20	128	109	19
Uttar Pradesh	3634	2581	1053	3634	2542	1092	3647	2474	1173	3694	2484	1210
Uttarakhand	297	255	42	299	271	28	299	269	30	299	277	22
West Bengal	1014	918	96	1014	918	96	1014	918	96	1014	918	96
TOTAL	24247	19319	4928	24492	19328	5164	25077	19319	5758	25246	19858	5388

Source: MIS portal, Department of Justice

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1602
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28-07-2023

Impl. Sec. (VA)

National Law Universities

+1602. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

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

- (a) the total number of National Law Universities (NLUs) throughout the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to establish new Law Universities in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish any NLU in Dhanbad at present; and
- (e) if so, the time by which, it is likely to be established?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): As per information provided by the Bar Council of India, there are 24 National Law Universities (NLUs) throughout the country.
- (b) to (e): The NLUs have been established through State legislations. There is no proposal of the Central Government to establish new Law Universities in the country including NLU at Dhanbad.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2537
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH AUGUST, 2023**

SS(NWTSR)
✓

ADJOURNMENT OF CASE IN SUPREME COURT

2537. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has maintained the information regarding the dates of posting and adjournment of a case in the Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons behind this limitation;**
- (b) the number of cases that have been adjourned more than 30 times in the Supreme Court along with the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the number of times the hearing of the SNC-Lavalin case has been adjourned in the Supreme Court; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to investigate/enquire the reasons for delay in the said case and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): No Sir, the Department does not maintain the information related to dates of posting and adjournment of a case in the Supreme Court nor information related to number of cases that have been adjourned more than 30 times in the said Court. The adjudication and disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and the Central Government has no role in the matter.

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(c) & (d): The information regarding specific cases being heard by the Supreme Court of India is not maintained by the Department. The listing, hearing and adjudication including grant of adjournment in a case are judicial functions exercised by the judiciary and the Government has no role in the said matter.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2540
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH AUGUST, 2023**

PENDENCY OF OLD CASES

✓ JS (WMSR)
**2540. SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL:
SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI):**

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

- (a) the total number of criminal and civil cases pending in various courts for more than 50 years in the country;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has given any directive to courts to dispose off these old cases within a time bound programme; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases disposed off after the said directive?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The Supreme Court of India has informed that there are no cases pending for more than 50 years as per data retrieved from their Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS). In case of High Court and Subordinate Courts, as per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as on 31st July, 2023, number of pending civil and criminal cases is as under: -

S.no.	Name of Court	No. of cases pending for more than 50 years		
		Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total
1	High Court	1062	1	1063
2.	District and Subordinate Courts	787	347	1134

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

(b) and (c): As per information provided by Supreme Court, directions are given by the Supreme Court to other courts on a regular basis through its various judgements/orders for timely disposal. For instance, in the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmad vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and Others* [(2012) 2SCC 688], the Hon'ble Supreme Court noted that while it has no power of superintendence over the High Courts and that under the Constitution of India the High Courts are not subordinate to the Supreme Court, but as the last court and in exercise of its powers to do complete justice, the Supreme Court issued certain guidelines to the High Courts in respect of criminal cases. In these guidelines, the Supreme Court stressed that the High Courts should use their authority sparingly to order stay of investigation pursuant to lodging of FIR or trial in deserving criminal cases. Such power should be exercised with due caution and circumspection keeping in mind the responsibility to expeditiously dispose of the case. Once such power has been exercised, the High Courts should not lose sight of the case where they have exercised their extraordinary power of staying investigation and trial. Most importantly, the High Courts should ensure disposing of such proceedings as early as possible but preferably within six months from the date the stay order was issued.

In order to remedy the institutional problem of bail application not being heard and to dispose such applications with expedition, the Supreme Court in the matter of *Aranab Manoranjan Goswami vs. State of Madhya Pradesh and Ors.* [(2021) 2 SCC 427] urged the Chief Justices of the High Courts to use the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as resource to monitor the pendency and disposal of cases. The Supreme Court further directed that each High Court in their administrative capacities should utilize the ICT tools which are placed at their disposal in ensuring that access to justice is democratized and remedy the problem of bail applications not being heard and disposed with expedition.

The Supreme Court has also constituted the Arrears Committee to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in the High Courts and District courts.

As informed by the Supreme Court of India, the information regarding the number of cases disposed off after the directives of Supreme Court for timely disposal is not maintained by the Registry.

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2547

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 04TH AUGUST, 2023

Leg. II Sec. (1D)

VOTING FROM REMOTE PLACES

**2547. Shri M. Selvaraj:
Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar:**

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission of India has undertaken research and development for a new technology enabling voters to cast their vote from far away places/cities without the need of going to the designated polling booth in their constituency;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the new technology is likely to be developed and introduced;
- (d) the total expenditure to be incurred for the development of the new technology; and
- (e) the extent to which it is likely to be successful in villages and among the illiterate electors across the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (e): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that a Concept Note on improving voter participation of domestic migrants using remote voting

dated 28.12.2022 was circulated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to all National/State political parties, inter alia, including matters like defining a 'Migrant voter', addressing the territorial concept, the method of remote voting and counting of votes, enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, setting up of controlled environment to ensure free and fair voting and so on. Subsequently, a discussion with the political parties was conducted on 16.01.2023. The ECI had solicited written views/comments of the Political Parties by 28.02.2023 on various legal, administrative and technological issues as contained in the Concept Note and beyond. The written views/comments received from the Political Parties are being analysed by the Commission.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Lok Sabha

Unstarred Question No. 2552

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04th August 2023

Judl. Sec. (LA)

National Tribunal Commission

2552. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to establish National Tribunal Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to establish a single unified Tribunals Case Management IT infrastructure for Tribunals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a) & (b): Currently, there is no proposal to establish National Tribunal Commission.
- (C) & (d) : At present, there is no proposal to establish a single unified Tribunals case Management IT infrastructure.



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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2563
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 4th AUGUST, 2023**

J II

Vacancy in Fast Track Courts

SS (PPP)
✓ 2563 **SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:**

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

- (a) the total number of fast track courts in the country at present;
- (b) the details of vacancies of judges and other categories of officials in the said fast track courts at present;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures to fill up the vacancies in the said courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a to d): Establishment of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTC) for providing speedy justice in the country lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission (FC) had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The FC had

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further urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. As per information made available by High Courts, 832 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.5.2023.

Pursuant to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (e-POCSO) Courts for speedy disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act since October 2019. As per information made available by High Courts, 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs which have disposed of more than 1,69,000 cases while 1,95,797 cases are pending in these courts as on 31st May 2023. Among these, exclusive POCSO Courts have disposed of more than 1,08,000 cases while more than 1,30,000 cases remain pending.

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of High Court and State Government concerned. The details of vacancies of judges and other categories of officials in the FTCs/FTSCs are not centrally maintained.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2593
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04-08-2023

Impl. Sec. (LA)

Women in Law Universities

2593. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:
SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:

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

(a) whether a number of women are working at various positions in Central and State Government Law Universities and colleges in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of women working in these Universities and colleges as Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Professor, Assistant Professor and *ad hoc* Professor along with the total number of Professor/Assistant Professor/*ad hoc* Professor therein, University/College-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (b): The National Law Universities (NLUs) and State Law Universities in India have been established under the State Acts enacted by the respective State Legislatures and as such they are State Universities and is not a subject matter of the Central Government. However, as per information collected and forwarded by Bar Council of India, the number of woman working at various position in different law colleges and universities are placed as **Annexure – A**.

Annexure- A

SL.	State	Name of CLE	The total number of female Vice-chancellor in Government Law Universities including Central and State currently;	The total number of female Registrar in law universities including Central and State Universities;	The total number of female professor in Law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise;	The number of female Assistant professor in law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise; and	The number of female ad-hoc professor in law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise?
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam	0	0	2	5	1
2.	---	Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Andhra Pradesh	0	0	1	2	0
3.	---	Gitam School of Law, Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management, Andhra Pradesh				1	
4.	---	Yogi Vemana University, Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0		0
5.	Assam	DHSK Law College, Dibrugarh	0	0	2	2	
6.	---	Dhemaji Law College, Dhemaji				3	
7.	---	SIPE Law College, Dibrugarh				8	
8.	---	Dr. R. K. B. Law College, Dibrugarh				4	
9.	---	Tinsukia Law College, Tinsukia				6	
10.	---	NERIM Law College, Jorhat				17	
11.	---	Jorhat Law College, Jorhat				12	
12.	---	Centre for juridical Studies, Dibrugarh	0	0		6	
13.	Bihar	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University, Bihar	0	0	0	2	
14.	---	Chanakya National Law University, Bihar	1	0	0	7	
15.	---	Bihar Institute of Law, Patna	0	0	0	17	0
16.	---	T. N. B Law College, Bihar			0		

SL.	State	Name of CLE	The total number of female Vice-chancellor in Government Law Universities including Central and State currently;	The total number of female Registrar in law universities including Central and State Universities;	The total number of female professor in Law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise;	The number of female Assistant professor in law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise; and	The number of female ad-hoc professor in law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise?
17.	Chhattisgarh	Seth R. C. S Law College, Chattisgarh					
18.	----	DES. SKTD Law College, Chattisgarh	0	0		1	0
19.	----	KR. P.G. Law College, Chattisgarh				4	3
20.	----	ISBM University, Chattisgarh		0	0		
21.	----	LCIT College of Commerce and Science, Department of Legal Studies, Chattisgarh				1	
22.	Chhattisgarh	P. T. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Chhattisgarh					
23.	----	Govt. J. Yoganandam Chattisgarh College, Chhattisgarh			0	2	0
24.	----	Seth Ratanchand Surana Law College, Chhattisgarh				1	
25.	----	Swami Bal Krishna Puri Law College, Chhattisgarh				5	1
26.	----	Govt. Ghanshyam Singh Gupt P. G. College, Chhattisgarh	0	0			
27.	----	B.C.S. Govt. P.G. College Dhamtari	0	0	0	1	0
28.	----	ISBM University, Gariyaband	0	0	0	0	0
29.	----	Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur	0	0	1	8	0
30.	Delhi	Trinity Institute of Professional Studies, Dwarka,			2	11	
31.	----	University of Delhi	0	1	16	53	0
32.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla	1	0	1	9	4

SL.	State	Name of CLE	The total number of female Vice-chancellor in Government Law Universities including Central and State currently;	The total number of female Registrar in Law universities including Central and State Universities;	The total number of female professor in Law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise;	The number of Assistant professor in law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise; and	The number of female ad-hoc professor in law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise?
33.	Jammu & Kashmir	Ashoka Law College, Jammu					6
34.	Jharkhand	Imamul Hai Khan Law College, Bokaro Steel City				4	
35.	----	Sai Nath University, Jharkhand		1	11		
36.	Karnataka	SDM Law College M.G. Road Kodialbail Mangalore				13	
37.	----	Reva University, Bangalore	0	0	1	2	12
38.	----	B.M.S. law College			2	17	2
39.	----	ISBR Law College, Bengaluru				6	2
40.	----	Vivekananda Law College, Karnataka	0	0	0	9	1
41.	----	MES Law College, Sirsi				1	
42.	Karnataka	P.E.S Law College, Mandya	0	0		1	0
43.	Kerala	National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Cochin. (Kochi)	0	1	2	4	0
44.	----	School of Legal Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology			0	6	
45.	----	CSI College for legal studies, Kottayam			18		
46.	----	Co-operative School of Law, Thodupuzha			17		
47.	----	Government Law College, Trivandrum	0	0		1	0

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SL.	State	Name of CLE	The total number of female Vice-chancellor in Government Law Universities including Central and State currently;	The total number of female Registrar in law universities including Central and State Universities;	The total number of female professor in Law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise;	The number of female Assistant professor in law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise; and	The number of female ad-hoc professor in law universities including Central and State Universities, college-wise?
48.	---	Govt. Law College, Thrissur			1	12	3
49.	---	Govt. Law College, Thiruvananthapuram				18	
50.	---	Government Law College, Ernakulam			9		
51.	---	Al Azhar Law college, Thodupuzha			23		
52.	Odisha	National Law University, Odisha	1	0	2	16	0
53.	Punjab	Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala	0	0	2	22	0
54.	Rajasthan	NLU Jodhpur	1	1	0	19	0
55.	---	Jaipur National University	0	0	0	8	0
56.	Telangana	Padala Rama Reddy Law College, Hyderabad			4	13	0
57.	---	Justice Kumarayya College of Law, Karim Nagar				8	
58.	Uttar Pradesh	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow	0	0	0	11	0

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2597
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

FREE LEGAL AID TO POOR

LAP

TS(WKGS)
✓ 2597. DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:

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

- (a) the details of authorities/institutions involved in providing free legal aid to the poor in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to strengthen these authorities/institutions including the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised by these authorities/institutions including NALSA during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor the functioning/performance of these authorities/institutions including NALSA and if so, details thereof and the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has also launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro bono Legal Services) programme and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the number of pro bono advocates and beneficiaries registered thereunder?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) The following Authorities/Institutions are established to provide free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society :-

- i. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at National level
 - ii. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) at Supreme Court level
 - iii. 39 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs) at High Court level
 - iv. 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) at State level
 - v. 703 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at District level
 - vi. 2341 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) at Taluk level
- (b) and (c) The Government extends all support to strengthen the legal services authorities/institutions in the form of Grants-in-Aid. Funds under Grant-in-Aid are allocated and released to NALSA by the Government on yearly basis. During the last 3 years i.e. 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, grants-in-aid of Rs. 100 crore, Rs. 145 crore and Rs. 190 crore respectively have been allocated/released by the Government to NALSA for various legal aid activities like free legal assistance, Lok Adalats, legal awareness programmes across the country etc. For the current year i.e. 2023-24, grants-in-aid of Rs. 200 crore have been allocated to NALSA out of which Rs. 50 crore have been released so far by the Government. The details of funds allocated by NALSA to Legal Services Authorities for organizing legal aid programmes during last three years and the current year are at Annexure – A.
- (d) In order to monitor the performance of the legal services authorities, NALSA receives monthly activity reports from all the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) highlighting all the activities carried out in a particular month. Thereafter, a final activity report on monthly basis is sent by NALSA to the Government which is reviewed and compiled. Apart from monthly activity reports, NALSA also receives Annual Reports from all the SLSAs and prepares its own Annual Report, which is laid before both Houses of the Parliament.

Periodical reviews on different issues are also carried out by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice to assess the working of Legal Aid under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Further, All India Meets and Regional Meets are frequently organized by NALSA to monitor the performance of Legal Services Authorities. In addition, regular meetings are also held between the representatives of NALSA and Department of Justice on various important matters.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. The Government launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Legal Services) with the primary aim of advancing the culture of pro bono and creating a framework for dispensation of offering pro bono legal services across the country. It links the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 with the pro-bono lawyers. Under the programme, practicing advocates, interested in undertaking legal pro bono work, are connected, via mobile application, with eligible marginalised beneficiaries, for delivery of pro bono (free of charge) legal services. As on 30th June, 2023 there are total 10231 advocates registered and 1870 beneficiaries registered on the Nyaya Bandhu mobile application for availing the service of a Pro Bono lawyer.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2597 for answering on 04.08.2023 raised by Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe and others, MPs - Free Legal Aid to Poor

Statement showing details of funds allocated (in Rupees) to Legal Services Authorities for organizing legal aid programmes during the last three years and the current year					
S.No.	Name of State/UT Authority	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (upto 12.07.2023)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	15,00,000	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3,40,00,000	5,00,00,000	4,65,00,000	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,00,00,000	1,40,00,000	5,00,00,000	1,50,00,000
4	Assam	3,70,00,000	6,40,00,000	7,40,00,000	2,00,00,000
5	Bihar	3,70,00,000	7,60,00,000	9,25,00,000	1,75,00,000
6	Chandigarh	80,00,000	55,00,000	60,00,000	25,00,000
7	Chhattisgarh	3,95,00,000	5,25,00,000	6,65,00,000	2,00,00,000
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2,50,000	0	10,00,000	0
9	Daman and Diu	2,50,000	0	0	5,00,000
10	Delhi	5,00,00,000	9,30,00,000	12,25,00,000	0
11	Goa	50,00,000	15,00,000	45,00,000	25,00,000
12	Gujarat	3,45,00,000	5,75,00,000	8,80,00,000	2,00,00,000
13	Haryana	4,50,00,000	6,50,00,000	7,60,00,000	1,50,00,000
14	Himachal Pradesh	1,85,00,000	2,45,00,000	3,90,00,000	1,25,00,000
15	Jammu and Kashmir	3,50,00,000	4,65,00,000	6,60,00,000	2,00,00,000
16	Jharkhand	4,00,00,000	7,35,00,000	7,00,00,000	2,00,00,000
17	Karnataka	6,25,00,000	7,50,00,000	9,20,00,000	2,00,00,000
18	Kerala	5,25,00,000	9,90,00,000	8,00,00,000	0
19	Ladakh	0	65,00,000	45,00,000	10,00,000
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	5,00,000	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	3,00,00,000	5,00,00,000	7,40,00,000	2,50,00,000
22	Maharashtra	6,25,00,000	8,25,00,000	9,60,00,000	0
23	Manipur	1,00,00,000	1,05,00,000	1,90,00,000	50,00,000
24	Meghalaya	50,00,000	50,00,000	2,60,00,000	0
25	Mizoram	50,00,000	1,15,00,000	2,15,00,000	35,00,000
26	Nagaland	50,00,000	1,15,00,000	2,75,00,000	0
27	Odisha	3,25,00,000	4,25,00,000	7,60,00,000	1,50,00,000
28	Puducherry	10,00,000	20,00,000	92,00,000	0
29	Punjab	3,25,00,000	6,40,00,000	6,16,00,000	1,75,00,000
30	Rajasthan	4,55,00,000	7,00,00,000	8,40,00,000	1,75,00,000
31	Sikkim	50,00,000	65,00,000	1,65,00,000	30,00,000
32	Tamil Nadu	4,20,00,000	6,00,00,000	8,10,00,000	2,00,00,000
33	Telangana	3,50,00,000	4,10,00,000	5,05,00,000	2,00,00,000
34	Tripura	2,80,00,000	2,65,00,000	3,40,00,000	75,00,000
35	Uttar Pradesh	6,50,00,000	6,00,00,000	11,80,00,000	2,50,00,000
36	Uttarakhand	2,50,00,000	2,55,00,000	3,55,00,000	75,00,000
37	West Bengal	5,20,00,000	7,00,00,000	8,80,00,000	1,75,00,000
38	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	1,00,00,000	1,00,00,000	90,00,000	0
39	Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee	0	0	1,25,00,000	0
	Total	1,00,00,00,000	1,45,30,00,000	1,92,08,00,000	37,05,00,000

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

LOK SABHA

JR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2598

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH AUGUST, 2023

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES IN UTTAR PRADESH COURTS

†2598. SHRI RAJVEER DILER:

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

- (a) the number of criminal and civil cases pending in the lower courts of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the average time taken to dispose of various criminal and civil cases by lower courts in Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) the details of the vacant posts of judges in the lower courts in Uttar Pradesh and the vacant posts filled during the last three years;
- (d) whether the impact of the vacant posts on the disposal of cases has been assessed recently; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of civil and criminal cases pending in lower courts of Uttar Pradesh are 18,69,280 and 97,84,280 as on 01.08.2023, respectively.
- (b): As per information provided by High Court of Allahabad, the district wise average time taken to dispose off civil and criminal cases, during the year 2022, by District Judiciary/Trial Courts of Uttar Pradesh is given at *Annexure-I*.

(c) : As per information provided by High Court of Allahabad, the cadre-wise details of vacant courts/posts of Judicial Officers in the State of Uttar Pradesh, as on 01.08.2023, is given as under:-

Sl. No.	Cadre	Vacant
1	Higher Judicial Services	448
2	Civil Judge (Senior Division)	389
3	Civil Judge (Junior Division)	394

The number of vacancies filled up during the last three years is given as under:-

Sl. No.		
1	01 January, 2020 to 31 December, 2020	199
2	01 January, 2021 to 31 December, 2021	182
3	01 January, 2022 to 31 December, 2022	05

(d) & (e): The vacancy of judges is not the sole reason for affecting the disposal of cases in courts. The disposal of cases in courts is also affected by several other factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, 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. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

However, the impact of vacant posts on the disposal of cases has not been assessed recently.

ANNEXURE I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2598 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES IN UTTAR PRADESH COURTS.

District wise average time taken to dispose of criminal and civil cases, during the year 2022, by District Judiciary/Trial Courts of Uttar Pradesh.

Sl No	Name of District	Average time taken for disposal during the year 2022(in days)	Average time taken for disposal during the year 2022 (in days)	Average Time taken for disposal of cases during the year 2022 (In Days)
		(for Civil Cases)	(for Criminal Cases)	(Total)
1	Agra	1862	376	500.03
2	Aligarh	547.5	638.75	630.13
3	Allahabad	1685	581	855.45
4	Ambedkar Nagar	3030.41	6989.48	6577.95
5	Auraiya	182.61	438.84	401.61
6	Azamgarh	185	203	198.84
7	Baghpat	830	370	421.33
8	Bahraich	3164.5	4232.4	4069.18
9	Ballia	2514	1056	1392.14
10	Balrampur	2285	2311	2307.46
11	Banda	910	737	762.7
12	Barabanki	2759	1190	1409.59
13	Bareilly	1403.27	737.78	827.85
14	Basti	62	170	150.8
15	Bhadohi	1085	714	759.53
16	Bijnor	1076	612	682.57
17	Budaun	2107	987	1051.88
18	Bulandshahar	1576	1286	1326.26
19	Chandauli	1788	1177	1271.41
20	Chitrakoot	1288	1975	1930.39
21	Deoria	2914	1088	1729.32
22	Etah	80	65	65.86
23	Etawah	1095	730	766.18
24	Faizabad	9646	8738	8840.16
25	Farukhabad	5364	4827	4876.83
26	Fatehpur	5805	5490	5503.7
27	Firozabad	700	988	949.48
28	G. B. Nagar	1405	106	138.45
29	Ghaziabad	3662	3469	3477.9
30	Ghazipur	2130	2246	2238.87
31	Gonda	1891	2998	2805.04
32	Gorakhpur	214.51	30.6	43.29
33	Hamirpur	2108	1784	1799.77
34	Hapur	650.86	1367.01	1313.1
35	Hardoi	1737	888	1076.55
36	Hathras	2083	945	1153.85
37	Jalaun at Orai	1591	635	847.42
38	Jaunpur	3285	1095	1555.47
39	Jhansi	6570	2555	2946.28
40	J. P. Nagar (Amroha)	487	513	509.75

41	Kannauj	749.3	632.8	652.74
42	Kanpur Dehat	911.38	548.82	588.98
43	Kanpur Nagar	4179	143	693.45
44	Kasganj	85.47	48.13	49.8
45	Kaushambi	1046	1621	1517.89
46	Kushi Nagar	2257	2058	2093.97
47	LakhimpurKheri	1417	988	1060.08
48	Lalitpur	1641	861	895.23
49	Lucknow	11167	9265	9478.72
50	Maharajganj	2401	1752	1911.43
51	Mahoba	3873	3268	3322.38
52	Mainpuri	1115	975	995.86
53	Mathura	1737	2796	2732.19
54	Mau	3060.5	2122.71	2295.82
55	Meerut	1489	1892	1868.56
56	Mirzapur	3693	3988	3914.66
57	Moradabad	1866	546	657.72
58	Muzaffar Nagar	1769	1338	1379.57
59	Pilibhit	1659	799	860.08
60	Pratapgarh	2438	1413	1653.61
61	Raebareli	3249	3668	3539.67
62	Rampur	8342	5622	5929.49
63	Saharanpur	650	380	395.42
64	Sambhal	1095.2	912.5	931.32
65	SantKabir Nagar	2239.35	2403.8	2387.21
66	Shahjahanpur	1628	867	946.43
67	Shamli	1450	3512	3302.81
68	Shravasti	6794	8316	8228.66
69	Siddharth Nagar	3260	998	1176.49
70	Sitapur	208	177	182.62
71	Sonbhadra	1140	826	858.58
72	Sultanpur	691.06	451.19	506.3
73	Unnao	1105.96	571.09	669.65
74	Varanasi	1779	481	701.96

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2617**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04.08.2023

Scheme for Transparent Appointment of Judges

SS (Appt.)
✓ †2617. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) whether any scheme has been formulated to bring more transparency in the appointment of judges in the High Court and Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (c) if not, the other steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has reduced paper work by bringing judicial process online and linking it with internet facility; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): In order to make the Collegium system of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts more broad-based, transparent, accountable and for bringing objectivity in the system, the Government brought into force the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f. 13.04.2015. However, both the Acts

were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.10.2015 declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court vide order dated 16.12.2015 directed the Government to finalize the existing MoP by supplementing it in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium (comprising of the Chief Justice of India and 4 senior most pusine judges) taking into consideration eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of secretariat and mechanism to deal with complaints. The Government of India after due deliberations, proposed changes in the existing MoP and the draft MoPs were sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 22.03.2016. Responses of Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) were received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The comments of Government, in response to the views of SCC were conveyed to the Chief Justice of India on 03.08.2016. The SCC provided their comments on the views of the Government on draft MoP on 13.03.2017. The stand of Government with suggestions to resolve issues involved in appointment of Judges was conveyed to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court vide letter dated 11.07.2017 of Secretary (Justice). In order to ensure transparency in appointment procedure, the government emphasised on the need for a more robust evaluation process by setting up a search-cum-evaluation committee.

In its recent communication dated 06.01.2023 to the Chief Justice of India, the Government has emphasized the need to finalize the MoP in view of various judicial pronouncements. In the letter dated 6.01.2023, the Government again requested the Supreme Court to consider various suggestions sent by the Government from time to time for making the system of appointment of judges to the Constitutional Courts more transparent, fair, representative and accountable.

The eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project is a national eGovernance project for ICT enablement of district/subordinate courts of the country with a view to facilitate faster disposal of cases by speeding up court processes and providing transparent on-line flow of information on case status, orders/judgments etc. to the judiciary as well as litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders. With its objective of universal computerisation and Information and Communication Technology enablement of all the District & Subordinate Court complexes, the Department of Justice in close coordination with e-Committee of Supreme Court of India is implementing eCourts Project Phase-II. Till Phase-II, 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized. As part of WAN project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of total Court Complexes across India. Using National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), Lawyers and Litigants can access case status information of 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders/judgments.

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, using video conferencing, the District and Subordinate Courts and High Courts have heard nearly 2.77 crore cases and the Supreme Court had heard nearly 4.82 lakh cases. 22 Virtual Courts have been established in 18 States / UTs to try traffic offences and have realized fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crores. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts. Citizen centric services are provided through 7 platforms or service delivery channels for providing real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/litigants. Live streaming of court proceedings has started in Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh High Courts & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme court of India. Judgment Search Portal has been providing

copies of judgments of High Courts free of cost. eCourts project have been accorded multiple awards of national repute.

In the Union Budget 2023-2024, the Government of India announced Phase-III of e-Courts project with an outlay of Rs.7000 crore. Based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) approved by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 23.02.2023 has approved the eCourts Phase III with a total outlay of Rs.7210 Crore.

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(16)

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2624
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH AUGUST, 2023**

APPROACHABLE JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO COMMON MAN

JS (NM) SR
✓ †2624. **SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:**

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn toward the observations made by the Chief Justice of India in a programme organized by the Karnataka State Bar Council, Bangalore on 18th September, 2021, paying tribute to the late Justice M.M. Shantanagoudar and stressing the need for such judicial systems where the common man do not feel scared and hesitate to speak the truth before the judges/judicial authorities in the court while approaching them given that the central point of any judicial system is the justice to litigant;**
- (b) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and**
- (c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The judiciary is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution. As such, the rules of practice and procedures governing appearance of litigants before the courts are framed by the courts themselves. The Supreme Court and High Courts, in exercise of the powers conferred on them under Article 145 and 225 of the

Constitution of India respectively, make rules for regulating the Court's practice and procedures. The Central Government has no direct role in the said matter.

(c): The Central Government is fully committed to the independence of judiciary and constantly endeavors to provide a conducive environment to aid justice delivery. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary in the task of dispensation of justice to the litigants, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts, including computerization, increase in the strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, and emphasis on human resource development. The details of the multiple steps taken by the Government are as under:-

- i. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10035 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.
- ii. Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 815 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. 22 virtual courts have been set up in 18 States/UTs. As on 31.05.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.113 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 408 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

- iii. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 10.07.2023, 56 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges were appointed and 653 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 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.07.2023	25,246	19,858

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

- iv. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.
- v. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.05.2023, 832 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. Further, the Central Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme.

- vi. With a view 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.
- vii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case 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.
- viii. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last three years are as under:-

x. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services also available on UTMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates have been initiated in 21 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono

Caste Category Wise			
Till 28th Feb, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled
Gender Wise			
Female	15,75,140	34.38	15,35,775
Male	30,06,772	65.62	29,30,601
Caste Category Wise			
General	9,82,636	21.45	9,52,773
OBC	13,28,505	28.99	12,93,153
SC	14,88,971	32.50	14,53,283
ST	7,81,800	17.065	7,67,167
Total	45,81,912		44,66,376

*Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data

ix. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto 17.06.2023)	3,00,11,291	61,88,686	3,61,99,977
Total	6,82,32,800	2,26,81,224	9,09,14,024

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Clubs have been started in 69 select Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.



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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2631**

A25

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 4th AUGUST, 2023

Nyaya Bandhu Scheme

✓ JS (NKG)

2631.DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) the number of Pro Bono Clubs operational under the Nyaya Bandhu scheme in the country;
- (b) whether the officials from Department of Justice regularly visit the law schools to assess the functioning of Pro Bono Clubs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated to the law colleges to develop the standard operating procedure for Pro Bono Clubs from 2021?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (c) Department of Justice (DoJ), Government of India had launched the Pro Bono Club Scheme in the year 2020 with the aim to instill in young legal minds the culture of pro bono legal services. 89 Law schools have been onboarded, since 2020. To assess the functioning of these Pro Bono Clubs, visits to the Law schools have been undertaken by officials from DoJ on periodical basis and on a regular basis interactions with the Pro Bono Club members at the orientation programmes and at the monthly meetings (offline and online) have been held. There is a standard operating procedure (SOP) for conducting various activities under Pro Bono Clubs being run by these Law Schools. It broadly covers providing pro bono litigation assistance to lawyers, dedicating certain number of hours for the pro bono services throughout the year, conducting community legal awareness camps

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in the nearby villages, undertaking research and documentation work and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanism etc. Each Pro Bono Club is given an annual grant of Rs 1 lakh for a period of two years only. Pro Bono Clubs are required to submit report, annually. Till 15th July, 2023, Rs1.18 crore has been disbursed to these Law colleges.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2645

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04-08-2023

Templ. Sec. LA

Law Courses

2645. SHRI BHOLANATH (B.P. SAROJ):

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

(a) the details of total seats available in integrated Law courses, LLB and LLM in the country;

(b) whether there is a huge demand for introducing additional Law courses in Universities/Colleges in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and University/college-wise;

(c) the permission for number of seats granted to universities and colleges during the last three years, the current year and year-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce more distance learning Law Institutes both public and private, including provision of weekend classes, particularly for government and private employees to facilitate law education for a larger number of students in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures being taken by the Government to increase the avenues for education in law in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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(a) to (c) As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the University Grant Commission (UGC) has informed that the total seats/intake available in integrated law courses, LLB and LLM in Higher Education Institutes across the country are as under;

Name of Courses	No. of seats/ intakes
Integrated LLB	71140
LLB (UG)	211763
LLM (PG)	26753

Also, as per the provisions of Sections 7(l)(h) and (i) of the Advocates Act, 1961, the Bar Council of India (BCI), is entrusted with the function *inter-alia* of promoting and laying down the standards of legal education in the country. The BCI has informed that there is a demand for introducing law courses in Universities/colleges in the country. As regards, number of seats granted to universities and colleges during the last three years is concerned; there is no data available with Central Government. However, the BCI has informed that on 31.01.2022, the number of state-wise universities and colleges who are permitted to start new law colleges, new law courses, additional sections for the previous three years is placed at **Annexure- I**. However, the data does not contain the applications of the institutions for the recognition and approval from the period 11.08.2019 to 16.06.2021, *i.e.* when the moratorium was imposed by the BCI against starting of new law colleges, new law courses, additional sections in existing colleges.

(d) The UGC has informed that 'Law' as a subject has been included in the list of subject areas, where programmes are not permitted to be offered in open and distance learning mode and online mode in Higher Education, as per provision 2 (z) of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 (as amended).

(e) There is no specific information in this regard. However, certain measures taken by the UGC for increasing the avenues for education in law in the country are as under:-

- Learning Outcome-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) has been brought out for 'Law' as an optional subject in Undergraduate Programmes (BA) in 2019.
- In April, 2023, the National Credit Framework has been formulated, which can also be adopted for Law stream.

- In order to promote research in different subjects, the UGC is implementing the UGC NET JRF scheme under which financial assistance is provided to Ph.D. students. The performance of the candidates in the subject of Law (58) in the UGC-NET from June 2020 to December 2022 are as under:-

S.No	Exam	Qualified for JRF
1.	June 2020	118
2.	Dec 2020 & June 2021 (merged Cycle)	179
3.	Dec 2021 & June 2022 (Merged Cycle)	288
4.	December 2022	136
Total		721

Sl. No.	State	Number of Colleges/Universities
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3.	Assam	24
4.	Bihar	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Delhi	4
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4
10.	Jharkhand	7
11.	Karnataka	21
12.	Kerala	12
13.	Madhya Pradesh	19
14.	Maharashtra	18
15.	Meghalaya	3
16.	Odisha	7
17.	Punjab & Haryana	31
18.	Rajasthan	31
19.	Tamil Nadu	7
20.	Telangana	5
21.	Uttar Pradesh	68
22.	Uttarakhand	7
23.	West Bengal	11

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2663

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04.08.2023

Vacancy in Telangana High Court

✓ 2663. SHRI VENKATESH NETHA BORLAKUNTA:
DR. G. RANJITH REDDY:

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

- ↳ (Appt.)
- (a) whether it is true that there are 11 vacancies of judges in High Court of Telangana and if so, the details thereof;
 - (b) the details of vacancies of Additional Judges in Telangana High Court;
 - (c) the time since when they are lying vacant;
 - (d) the steps taken by the Government to fill the vacancies;
 - (e) whether there have been demands to increase the number of courts and judges of Telangana High Court; and
 - (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (f): There are 30 Judges [25 Permanent and 05 Additional] working in the Telangana High Court against the sanctioned strength of 42, leaving 12 vacancies [07 Permanent and 05 Additional] as on 31.07.2023. At present, 04 proposals of the Telangana High Court are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. Further recommendations from High Court Collegium are yet to be received in respect of the remaining 08 vacancies in the Telangana High Court. The oldest vacancy of Judge in the Telangana High Court dates back to 03.05.2022.

Judges of various High Courts are appointed under Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in

1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal to fill up the vacancy of a High Court Judge six months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. Government appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium (SCC).

Filling up of vacancies in High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at the State and Centre level. At regular intervals, Government receives names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment as Judges in various High Courts, which are processed for necessary approval as per the provisions of Memorandum of Procedure. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

Additional Benches of High Courts in places other than Principal Seat of High Courts are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No. 379 of 2000 after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to provide necessary expenditure & infrastructural facilities and the recommendation of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day-to-day administration of the High Court. The complete proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

Requests for establishment of High Court Benches have been received from various organizations from time to time. However, at present, no complete proposal regarding setting up of a Bench(es) of the Telangana High Court is pending with the Government.

In the Joint Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers held on 07.04.2013, a decision was taken to increase the number of Judges of the High Courts by 25%. Accordingly, the Judge Strength of the High Court for the State of Telangana was enhanced from 24 to 42 on 09th June 2021.

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(10)

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2692
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH AUGUST, 2023**

MEASURES FOR FILLING UP OF JUDGES POST

✓ SS(WMSR)
2692. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:

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

- (a) the specific measures are being taken to address the shortage of judges in India, considering the significant gap between the sanctioned strength and the actual number of judges, along with the current statistics of the same, itemized, State-wise;**
- (b) whether the Government is planning to expedite the process of filling the vacant positions in high courts, especially those of sanctioned posts of judges which are currently empty and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the current backlog of cases and the strategies being followed to tackle the backlog of cases;**
- (d) the progress made in improving judicial infrastructure, particularly in lower courts during the last nine years; and**
- (e) the steps being taken to ensure efficient utilization of the funds allocated for the development of judicial infrastructure and the allocation of funds & funds spent since 2014, for the purpose, year wise?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts frame the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial

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Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. Thus, the selection and appointment of judicial officers in the Subordinate/District Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter.

As for the filling up of vacancies in High Courts is concerned, it is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at the State and Centre level. Government receives names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment as Judges in various High Courts, which are processed for necessary approval as per the provisions of Memorandum of Procedure. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

As on 31.07.2023, there are 02 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court. As far as the High Courts are concerned, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 778 Judges are working and 336 posts of Judges are vacant. Against these 336 vacancies, 137 proposals recommended by High Court Collegiums are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium and recommendations against remaining 199 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums. The detailed statement of sanctioned, working strength and vacant position of the Supreme Court and High Courts is at *ANNEXURE-I* and for District and Subordinate Courts is at *ANNEXURE-II* respectively.

(c): The detailed statement of pendency/backlog of cases in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts is at *ANNEXURE-III*.

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In so far as strategies to tackle the backlog of pending cases in District Judiciary and High Courts, the same lies within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and the Central Government has no direct role in the matter. However, the Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases and to reducing pendency. To this end, the Government has taken multiple initiatives the details of which are as under:-

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.

- i. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10035 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.
- ii. Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240

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court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 815 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. 22 virtual courts have been set up in 18 States/UTs. As on 31.05.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.113 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 408 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

- iii. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 10.07.2023, 56 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges were appointed and 653 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 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
01.08.2023	25,246	19,858

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

- iv. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.
- v. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.05.2023, 832 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. Further, the central government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme.

- vi. With a view 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.
- vii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case 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.
- viii. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last three years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto 17.06.2023)	3,00,11,291	61,88,686	3,61,99,977
Total	6,82,32,800	2,26,81,224	9,09,14,024

- ix.** The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

***Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data**

Till 28th Feb, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	15,75,140	34.38	15,35,775	34.39
Male	30,06,772	65.62	29,30,601	65.61
Caste Category Wise				
General	9,82,636	21.45	9,52,773	21.33
OBC	13,28,505	28.99	12,93,153	28.95
SC	14,88,971	32.50	14,53,283	32.54
ST	7,81,800	17.065	7,67,167	17.18
Total	45,81,912		44,66,376	

- x.** Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates have been initiated in 21 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.
- (d) & (e):** The Central Government basically supplements the resources of the State Governments by releasing financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of judicial infrastructure by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between Centre and

States. 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. As against the sanctioned strength of 25,215 and working strength of 19,876 judges/judicial officers there are 21,365 court halls and 18,846 residential units available as on 30.06.2023.

A sum of Rs. 10035.35 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6591.04 crore (65.68 %) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. 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 allocation of funds and released since 2014-15 to 2022-23 is as *ANNEXURE-IV*.

The Government is sensitive to the needs of building better infrastructure for the judicial officers of the lower and subordinate judiciary. For time bound and proper implementation of the scheme, there are monitoring mechanisms in place as per the guidelines of the scheme.

There is a High Court Level Monitoring Committee in the State, chaired by the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts and this also has other stake holders such as, Registrar General of the High Court, portfolio judges, Law/Home Secretary of the State and Secretary of the State PWD as members. This committee meets every six months to review the physical and financial progress of the projects running under the scheme.

Apart from this, there is a Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice, chaired by Secretary (Department of Justice, Government of India) to review the progress of the projects and iron out any issues that hinder the smooth implementation of the scheme.

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Besides, there are regular visits by the officials of the Department of Justice to the States for getting firsthand information on the ground. Regular meetings through video conferencing to sort out the problems of the States/UTs also takes place.

Trainings are also organized (both online and offline) for the State officials on the technical issues relating to Public Financial Management (PFMS) through which funds gets released and utilization is monitored.

ANNEXURE I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2692 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'MEASURES FOR FILLING UP OF JUDGES POST.

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (As on 31.07.2023)

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			32			2		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	73	21	94	46	20	66
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	23	5	28	5	4	9
3	Bombay	71	23	94	40	26	66	31	-3	28
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	33	19	52	21	-1	20
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	4	14	7	1	8
6	Delhi	46	14	60	41	3	44	5	11	16
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	15	9	24	7	-1	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	12	4	16	1	0	1
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	19	1	20	1	4	5
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	38	13	51	9	2	11
13	Kerala	35	12	47	32	2	34	3	10	13
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	33	0	33	6	14	20
15	Madras	56	19	75	47	16	63	9	3	12
16	Manipur	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	0	3	0	1	1
18	Orissa	24	9	33	21	0	21	3	9	12
19	Patna	40	13	53	33	0	33	7	13	20
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	38	22	60	26	-1	25
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	34	0	34	4	12	16
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	25	5	30	7	5	12
24	Tripura	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	8	0	8	1	2	3
	Total (B)	840	274	1114	628	150	778	212	124	336

ANNEXURE II

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2692 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING
'MEASURES FOR FILLING UP OF JUDGES POST.**

Sanctioned, working strength and vacancy position in District and Subordinate Courts (as on 31.07.2023)				
S.no.	States & UTs	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	Andaman and Nicobar*	0	13	-13
2	Andhra Pradesh	618	544	74
3	Arunachal Pradesh	42	33	9
4	Assam	485	443	42
5	Bihar	2016	1554	462
6	Chandigarh	30	29	1
7	Chhattisgarh	556	431	125
8	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
10	Delhi	887	706	181
11	Goa	50	40	10
12	Gujarat	1582	1186	396
13	Haryana	772	576	196
14	Himachal Pradesh	179	160	19
15	Jammu and Kashmir	314	227	87
16	Jharkhand	694	503	191
17	Karnataka	1367	1125	242
18	Kerala	603	523	80
19	Ladakh	17	9	8
20	Lakshadweep	4	3	1
21	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1607	421
22	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
23	Manipur	59	42	17
24	Meghalaya	99	57	42
25	Mizoram	74	41	33
26	Nagaland	34	24	10
27	Odisha	1003	808	195
28	Puducherry	29	11	18
29	Punjab	797	587	210
30	Rajasthan	1616	1358	258
31	Sikkim	35	23	12
32	Tamil Nadu	1364	1046	318
33	Telangana	560	415	145
34	Tripura	128	109	19
35	Uttar Pradesh	3694	2484	1210
36	Uttarakhand	299	277	22
37	West Bengal	1014	918	96
TOTAL		25246	19858	5388

Source: MIS portal, Department of Justice

*Combined Sanctioned Strength of UT Andaman & Nicobar Island and State of WB as shown against State of West Bengal

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ANNEXURE III

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2692 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'MEASURES FOR FILLING UP OF JUDGES POST.

Pendency of Cases in various courts		
Sl. No.	Name of Court	No. of pending cases
1.	Supreme Court*	69,766 (as on 01.07.2023)
2.	High Courts**	60,63,499 (as on 01.08.2023)
3.	District and Subordinate Courts **	4,44,25,209 (as on 01.08.2023)

*Source: - Supreme Court of India

**Source: - NJDG

ANNEXURE IV

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) & (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2692 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'MEASURES FOR FILLING UP OF JUDGES POST.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Revised Estimate	Fund Release
1.	2014-15	936.00	936.00
2.	2015-16	562.99	562.99
3.	2016-17	538.74	538.74
4.	2017-18	621.21	621.21
5.	2018-19	650.00	650.00
6.	2019-20	982.00	982.00
7.	2020-21	593.00	593.00
8.	2021-22	770.14	684.14
9.	2022-23	848.00	857.20

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2694
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH AUGUST, 2023**

N/M

TIME LIMIT FOR DISPOSAL OF CASES

✓ JS (NMTJR)
†2694. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to fix any time limit for disposal of civil and criminal cases increasing in district courts of the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to bring technology based system for quick and speedy disposal of pending cases in district courts; and**
- (d) the details of pending civil and criminal cases in district courts of the country, State-wise?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): No Sir. Disposal of cases or fixing time lines for disposal lies within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and the Central Government has no direct role in the matter. Hence, there is no proposal under contemplation by the Government for fixing timelines for disposal of civil and criminal cases in district courts of the country.

(c): Under the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project, the Government has endeavored for the Information and communications technology (ICT) enablement of district/subordinate courts of the country. This would facilitate faster disposal of cases by

speeding up court processes and providing transparent on-line flow of information on case status, orders/judgments etc. to the judiciary as well as litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders.

With its objective of universal computerization and Information and Communication Technology enablement of all the District and Subordinate Court complexes, the Department of Justice in close coordination with e-Committee of Supreme Court of India is implementing eCourts Project Phase-II. Till Phase-II, 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized. As part of WAN project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of total Court Complexes across India. Using National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), Lawyers and Litigants can access case status information of 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders/judgments. 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, using video conferencing, the District and Subordinate Courts and High courts have heard nearly 2.77 crore cases and the Supreme Court had heard nearly 4.82 lakh cases. 22 Virtual Courts have been established in 18 States / UTs to try traffic offences and have realized fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crores. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts. Citizen centric services are provided through 7 platforms or service delivery channels for providing real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/litigants. Live streaming of court proceedings has started in Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh High Courts & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme court of India. Judgment Search Portal has been providing copies of judgments of High Courts free of cost. eCourts project have been accorded multiple awards of national repute.

In the Union Budget 2023-2024, the Government of India announced Phase-III of e-Courts project with an outlay of Rs.7000 crore. Based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) approved by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 23.02.2023 has approved the eCourts Phase III with a total outlay of Rs.7210 Crore. Further, the Empowered Technology Group chaired by the

Sot

Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister in its meeting held on 21.06.2023 has also recommended to the Cabinet the eCourts Phase III for approval.

(d): The detailed statement showing the pending civil and criminal cases in district courts of the country, State-wise is at *ANNEXURE-I*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2694 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023
REGARDING 'TIME LIMIT FOR DISPOSAL OF CASES.**

Pendency in District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.07.2023				
Sl. No.	State	Civil	Criminal	Both
1	Andaman and Nicobar	3343	5287	8630
2	Andhra Pradesh	417412	437582	854994
3	Arunachal Pradesh	403	984	1387
4	Assam	101498	369244	470742
5	Bihar	526587	2990092	3516679
6	Chandigarh	23257	59160	82417
7	Chhattisgarh	79713	331271	410984
8	Delhi	240630	989172	1229802
9	Diu and Daman	1450	1637	3087
10	DNH at Silvassa	1960	2130	4090
11	Goa	26092	30579	56671
12	Gujarat	409327	1298017	1707344
13	Haryana	458943	1073130	1532073
14	Himachal Pradesh	164105	382918	547023
15	Jammu and Kashmir	100888	218780	319668
16	Jharkhand	88955	437654	526609
17	Karnataka	940836	992795	1933631
18	Kerala	524143	1368494	1892637
19	Ladakh	633	590	1223
20	Madhya Pradesh	403318	1613043	2016361
21	Maharashtra	1629295	3519527	5148822
22	Manipur	8319	4410	12729
23	Meghalaya	4441	11511	15952
24	Mizoram	2555	3297	5852
25	Nagaland	621	2647	3268
26	Odisha	284803	1247904	1532707
27	Puducherry	13461	20603	34064
28	Punjab	398883	519386	918269
29	Rajasthan	561500	1719363	2280863
30	Sikkim	629	1173	1802
31	Tamil Nadu	753954	724220	1478174
32	Telangana	345482	567425	912907
33	Tripura	11689	32928	44617
34	Uttar Pradesh	1869280	9784280	11653560
35	Uttarakhand	45499	293248	338747
36	West Bengal	624148	2291214	2915362
Total		11068052	33345695	44413747

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2708
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 4th August, 2023

Admn. II (L.A)

TWENTY SECOND LAW COMMISSION

2708. DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:

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

- (a) whether the 22nd Law Commission has been constituted/is in the process of being constituted to advise the Government on complex legal issues;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of members and that are appointed in the Commission; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be notified?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The Government has constituted the 22nd Law Commission of India for a period of three year with effect from 21st February, 2020. The term of 22nd Law Commission has since been extended upto 31st August, 2024. The composition of 22nd Law Commission of India as under:

- (i) a full-time Chairperson;
- (ii) four full-time Members (including Member-Secretary);
- (iii) Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as ex officio Member;
- (iv) Secretary, Legislative Department as ex officio Member; and
- (v) not more than five part-time Members.

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The Government has appointed Chairperson, four Full-time Members (including Member-Secretary) and two Part-time Members in the 22nd Law Commission of India.

(d): Does not arise in view of the above.

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

LOK SABHA

JR

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH AUGUST, 2023**

CASES OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

✓ TQ (NWSR)
2710. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

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

- (a) the number of cases including violent crimes against women lying pending in Supreme Court, High Courts, District and other subordinate courts, State/UT, court and category-wise during the last five years along with the reasons identified for pendency;**
- (b) the percentage increase or decrease in such pending cases in the last five years, year-wise and court-wise;**
- (c) the number of cases disposed and average time taken in their disposal, court and State/ UT-wise;**
- (d) whether any study on effect of COVID-19 pandemic on pendency of cases and to introduce Artificial Intelligence in judiciary has been conducted; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Case specific data is not maintained by the Government. However, case status data is maintained on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As per information available on the NJDG, the detailed statement of pending cases in High Courts is at *ANEXURE-I* and for District and Subordinate Courts is at *ANNEXURE-II*. In case of Supreme Court, as per the information available on Integrated Case Management

Information System (ICMIS), the statement of cases pending during the last 5 years is at **ANNEXURE-III**.

Pendency of cases in courts can be contributed to 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. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed time frame by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. However, the disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary, the Central Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts.

(b): The detailed statement showing the percentage increase or decrease in pending cases in the last five years, year-wise for Supreme Court is at **ANNEXURE-IV**, High Courts is at **ANNEXURE-V** and District and Subordinate Courts is at **ANNEXURE- VI**.

(c): The information related to average time taken for disposal of cases is not maintained by the Department as the timely disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. As per the information obtained from Supreme Court of India, the number of cases disposed by the Supreme Court, as per data retrieved from Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) as on 15.03.2023 was 9,602. In case of High Courts and District Courts, as per information available on the NJDG, the number of cases disposed is at **ANENXURE-VII** and **ANNEXURE-VIII** respectively.

(d) & (e): No Sir, no such study on effect of COVID-19 pandemic on pendency of cases and to introduce Artificial Intelligence in judiciary has been conducted by the Department.

ANNEXURE I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'CASES OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Pendency of cases in High Courts during last five years						
Sl.No	High Court	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2018	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2019	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2020	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2021	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022
1	Allahabad High Court	939475	944657	773408	803567	1032228
2	Bombay High Court	287864	305962	559119	569018	610734
3	Calcutta High Court	231576	228060	267431	225449	207898
4	Gauhati High Court	33445	37243	51901	55649	58501
5	High Court for State of Telangana		206413	236852	256518	254089
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	354833	193594	207762	222842	240238
7	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	63574	69316	75836	81001	91184
8	High Court of Delhi	74536	80950	91195	100068	105271
9	High Court of Gujarat	114962	129184	142803	152130	161929
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	36177	54452	73862	82238	91210
11	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	64042	71693	63468	47761	44526
12	High Court of Jharkhand	88932	58272	88445	88371	87992
13	High Court of Karnataka	357604	271929	293259	265946	304444
14	High Court of Kerala	192754	196823	214384	212525	197314
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	331388	357929	362932	413467	429743
16	High Court of Manipur	3062	2468	4374	4817	4865
17	High Court of Meghalaya	782	757	1443	1578	1188
18	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	337231	353888	637148	447690	447886
19	High Court Of Rajasthan	285012	459828	523600	574064	633787
20	High Court of Sikkim	252	234	241	180	165
21	High Court of Tripura	2977	2586	2347	1736	1601
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	34049	35407	38676	41922	45023
23	Madras High Court	293004	272722	580770	579742	550083
24	Orissa High Court	167909	150562	172476	195161	164709
25	Patna High Court	153486	172425	178835	225628	212106
	Total	4448926	4657354	5642567	5649068	5978714

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

ANNEXURE II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'CASES OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Pendency of cases in District and Subordinate Courts during last five years						
Sl.No	States	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2018	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2019	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2020	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2021	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022
1	Andhra Pradesh	1068400	567096	635220	773952	829147
2	Telangana		580193	674301	805622	1059401
3	Andman & Nicobar	10229	9795	0	0	11886
4	Auranchal Pradesh	9652	10658			
5	Assam	291960	301427	357197	417788	488800
6	Bihar	2502204	2714344	3158070	3379229	3445159
7	Chandigerh	56357	62955	57418	69502	79526
8	Chattisgarh	267429	285025	324273	376220	411599
9	Delhi	834813	882366	955850	1082415	1293571
10	Diu and Daman	5468	5344	2777	2878	2901
11	DNH at Silvassa			3502	3681	3770
12	Goa	42783	49049	56545	59370	56375
13	Gujarat	1447459	1595813	1890667	1951550	1743723
14	Haryana	728097	853375	1100904	1281697	1458270
15	Himachal Pradesh	256640	293706	416564	455949	476137
16	Jammu & Kashmir	163520	172769	215803	243026	299716
17	Jharkhand	330607	365642	438567	495108	519156
18	Karnataka	1494508	1531008	1746886	1823103	1893265
19	Kerala	1652509	1614277	1798342	1943255	1933363
20	Ladakh			749	824	1154
21	Madhya Pradesh	1354602	1455435	1690053	1876194	2000268
22	Maharashtra	3531425	3821487	4516311	4881718	4982911
23	Manipur	6216	6516	10794	12802	12269
24	Meghalaya	13584	13673	10403	14622	16135
25	Mizoram	6154	6589	4699	5882	5142
26	Nagaland	4994	3361	1539	2603	2966
27	Orissa	1319031	1433522	1382538	1519106	1559338
28	Puducherry	27161	30094	0	34029	29831
29	Punjab	602014	642327	814538	918858	922360
30	Rajasthan	1732308	1769823	1830462	2029814	2123475
31	Sikkim	1208	1142	1570	1926	1843
32	Tamil Nadu	1084286	1137684	1288573	1363917	1432575
33	Tripura	58261	27491	41032	39204	40012
34	U.T of Lakshadweep	364	397			
35	Uttar Pradesh	6987417	7807863	8572092	9822224	10973480
36	Uttrakhand	232338	195281	260564	301001	327350
37	West Bengal	1950492	2048697	2380633	2589993	2772290
	Total	30074590	32296224	36639436	40579062	43209164

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

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ANNEXURE III

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'CASES OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Pendency of cases in Supreme Court during last five years

Year	Total no. of Pending Cases at the end of the year
2018	57,346
2019	59,859
2020	65,086
2021	70,239
2022	69,768

Source: Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), Supreme Court of India

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'CASES OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Percentage increase or decrease in such pending cases in the last five years in Supreme Court

Year	Total no. of Pending Cases at the end of the year	% Increase(+)/ Decrease(-)
2018	57,346	-
2019	59,859	(+)4.20%
2020	65,086	(+)8.03%
2021	70,239	(+)7.34%
2022	69,768	(-)0.68%

ANNEXURE V

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'CASES OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Percentage increase or decrease in such pending cases in the last five years in High Courts

Sl. No	Pendency Position in High Courts	No. of Pending Cases	% Increase(+)/ Decrease(-)
1	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2018	4448926	-
2	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2019	4657354	(+)4.48%
3	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2020	5642567	(+)17.46%
4	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2021	5649068	(+)0.12%
5	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022	5978714	(+)5.51%

ANNEXURE VI**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'CASES OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN**

Percentage increase or decrease in such pending cases in the last five years in District and Subordinate Courts

Sl. No	Pendency Position in District and Subordinate Courts	No. of Pending Cases	% Increase(+)/ Decrease(-)
1	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2018	30074590	-
2	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2019	32296224	(+)6.88%
3	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2020	36639436	(+)11.85%
4	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2021	40579062	(+)9.71%
5	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022	43209164	(+)6.09%

ANNEXURE VII

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'CASES OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Cases disposed by High Courts as on 02.08.2023

S.NO.	States and UTs	Total Disposed Cases
1	Allahabad High Court	4857565
2	Bombay High Court	3436481
3	Calcutta High Court	1673144
4	Gauhati High Court	554153
5	High Court for State of Telangana	1581234
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	856765
7	High Court of Chhattisgarh	495739
8	High Court of Delhi	755756
9	High Court of Gujarat	1636941
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	478260
11	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	357502
12	High Court of Jharkhand	694037
13	High Court of Karnataka	1756435
14	High Court of Kerala	1732900
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	2577704
16	High Court of Manipur	52832
17	High Court of Meghalaya	14838
18	High Court of Orissa	1475235
19	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	2132556
20	High Court of Rajasthan	2602738
21	High Court of Sikkim	2431
22	High Court of Tripura	43405
23	High Court of Uttarakhand	278481
24	Madras High Court	4476319
25	Patna High Court	2321831
	Total	36845282

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid.

ANNEXURE VIII

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2023 REGARDING 'CASES OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Cases disposed by District and Subordinate Courts as on 02.08.2023

S.NO.	States and UTs	Total Disposed Cases
1	Andaman and Nicobar	38158
2	Andhra Pradesh	3236732
3	Arunachal Pradesh	320
4	Assam	1717234
5	Bihar	3802529
6	Chandigarh	308935
7	Chhattisgarh	1843154
8	Delhi	3709285
9	Diu and Daman	20954
10	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Silvassa	17872
11	Goa	409596
12	Gujarat	12297263
13	Haryana	4902236
14	Himachal Pradesh	2359564
15	Jammu and Kashmir	792918
16	Jharkhand	2155066
17	Karnataka	16238915
18	Kerala	7259091
19	Ladakh	4967
20	Madhya Pradesh	11760416
21	Maharashtra	20075116
22	Manipur	128484
23	Meghalaya	71735
24	Mizoram	28990
25	Nagaland	3114
26	Odisha	2094540
27	Puducherry	192416
28	Punjab	5334190
29	Rajasthan	6715914
30	Sikkim	38297
31	Tamil Nadu	9730967
32	Telangana	3028365
33	Tripura	235708
34	Uttar Pradesh	22529521
35	Uttarakhand	1451816
36	West Bengal	4219181
	Total	148753559

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2723
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 4th August, 2023

Progress of Virtual Courts

e-Court

✓ (PPP)

2723. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:

Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details on the progress made in the establishment of 24/7 virtual courts;
- (b) the current status of this initiative, including any pilot projects or timelines for implementation;
- (c) the criteria that are likely to be used to evaluate the proposals submitted by judicial academies, law universities, IIMs and IITs for the research study on 24/7 virtual courts;
- (d) whether the Government ensures compliance for the introduction of virtual courts, particularly with the involvement of judges and maintains the principles of fairness, transparency, and adherence to due process in virtual courts and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there are any specific guidelines or protocols that are proposed to be put in place to address these concerns and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) : Virtual Courts is a concept, aimed at eliminating the presence of litigant or lawyer in the court and for adjudication of cases on a virtual platform. The concept has been evolved in order to efficiently utilize court resources and to provide litigants with an effective avenue to settle petty disputes. Virtual Court can be administered by a Judge over a virtual electronic platform whose

jurisdiction may extend to the entire State and function 24X7. Currently, the virtual courts are handling cases pertaining to only traffic challan cases, which have not only reduced the costs of litigation but has also simplified the procedure for redressal of traffic challan cases. Over 3.26 crore cases (3,26,14,617) have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more than 39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crore have been realized till 30.06.2023. The detail breakup of cases dealt through virtual courts across India is at Annexure-I. As on 30.06.2023, there are 22 such courts in 18 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

The Department under its Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms periodically invites research proposals from eligible institutions on various topics in the field of justice delivery and judicial reforms. Recently proposals have been invited on "Exploring the scope of expansion of Virtual Courts under the Indian Justice Delivery System". All proposals under Action Research are evaluated as per the stipulated guidelines and are subject to approval of a Project Sanctioning Committee formulated for the said Scheme.

(d) & (e) : The establishment of Virtual Courts is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the judiciary and the respective State Governments, and the Central Government has no direct role to play in the matter.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2723 for 04/08/2023 regarding the detail breakup of cases dealt through Virtual Courts across the country are as under:

Statistics of Virtual Courts 30.06.2023						
S.No	Establishment Name	Received	Proceeding Done	Contested	Paid Challans	Challan Amount
1	ASSAM TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	72415	72413	357	19022	13159081
2	CHHATTISGARH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	101	87	0	37	81500
3	GUJARAT TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	126716	74647	82	2718	171300
4	HARYANA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	821765	681342	1080	16992	12638701
5	HIMACHAL PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	81631	57247	86	1954	4011753
6	JAMMU TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	157590	136152	880	38613	21420590
7	KARNATAKA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	47857	47824	119	40576	338437490
8	KASHMIR TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	356434	356433	9300	75231	41025995
9	KERALA (POLICE DEPARTMENT)	635792	625069	1280	54717	28393893
10	KERALA TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	485190	476054	2971	79969	115151882
11	MADHYA PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	46581	36028	57	1853	1315300
12	MAHARASHTRA TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	40387	24349	20	1449	2348605
13	MEGHALAYA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	437	314	0	33	20000
14	NOTICE BRANCH DELHI TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	14133187	13712402	77223	1344606	954951505
15	Odisha Traffic CTC-BBSR COMMISSIONERATE	333416	307908	627	20615	19894001
16	PUNE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	6080	6056	18	591	114250
17	RAJASTHAN TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	26497	23650	892	9708	6276170
18	TAMIL NADU TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	162337	143042	1333	78188	718829890
19	TRIPURA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	354	353	1	4	2900
20	UTTAR PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	10238520	7569945	28769	501614	298422756
21	VIRTUAL COURT DELHI (TRAFFIC)	4773216	4734431	105500	1624555	1618662492
22	WEST BENGAL TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	67940	64293	76	3360	2039452
Total		32614443	29150039	230671	3916405	4198908506

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Lok Sabha

Unstarred Question No. 2725

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04th August 2023

Judl. Sec. (LA)

Habeas Corpus Petitions in Courts

2725. SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI:

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

- (a) the total number of Habeas Corpus petitions filed in the Jammu & Kashmir High Court and Supreme Court from August 2019 to 30th of June, 2023 from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) whether the disposal of Habeas Corpus petitions challenging detention orders under the Public Safety Act, 1978 in the Union Territory of J&K is being delayed and the petitions in most of the cases outlive the detention orders;
- (c) if so, the details and reasons for such prolonged delay in their disposal; and
- (d) the steps proposed to ensure speedy disposal of the petitions challenging detention orders under the Public Safety Act, 1978 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY
OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a): Sir, 2165 Habeas Corpus Petitions were filed during this period.

(b) to (d): No, Sir. The Government/Detaining Authorities file requisite pleadings and ensure timely production of available records in the Hon'ble Courts besides ensuring the presence of Counsels on the date of hearings. All other requisite steps, wherever, required, are being taken well within time to ensure early disposal of such petitions by the Hon'ble Courts.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2740

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH AUGUST, 2023

Modernisation of Courts in Ladakh

JS(NWTSR)

JR

✓ **2740. SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL:**

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

- (a) the details of the projects completed/ongoing under centrally sponsored scheme for the development of Infrastructure facilities for Judiciary in Ladakh after the grant of Union Territory (UT) status;
- (b) whether the Government has made efforts to modernize the infrastructure of district courts in Ladakh, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of progress made in this regard in Ladakh after the grant of UT status;
- (d) whether any other assistance is being provided by the Government to the unprivileged people in Ladakh to help them in getting justice, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Lok Adalat is being set up in the UT of Ladakh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a): After the grant of UT status to Ladakh in 2019, construction of New District Court Complex building with residential quarters for Judicial Officers as well as for Judicial Staff is going on at Khurbathan, Kargil. Construction of Munsiff Court Complex with residential quarters is also going on at Drass, Sankoo and Zanskar in the

Kargil district. Further, the construction of Munsiff Court at Khaltsi along with the residential quarter for the judicial officers has been started in the year 2023 in the district Leh, with completion target of two years, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(b): New Court Complexes are being constructed on modern infrastructure techniques with all modern facilities. With the aid and support of the government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for judicial infrastructure, the district judiciary is coming up with new projects with all the modern facilities at Melongthang, Leh under the Special Development Package.

(c): The details of the progress of projects on judicial infrastructure in Ladakh after the grant of UT status is at *Annexure*.

(d) & (e): National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 is providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries under Section 12 of the Act, so as to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities; and is also organizing Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. During last two years (2021-22 and 2022-23) a total of 3119 persons were benefited through various legal services provided by the Ladakh Legal Services Authority.

Apart from the above, 612 Legal Services Camps were also organized by Ladakh Legal Services Authority to make people aware about their legal rights during the same period.

In the UT of Ladakh, two Lok Adalats were held during the current year in district Kargil, for amicable settlement of cases between the parties. The details of Lok Adalats held in Ladakh are as under:

Number of Lok Adalat's Held Post formation of UT.	Number of cases taken up	Number of cases disposed off	Settlement amount
16	3313	2762	Rs. 8,99,32535 /-

Annexure

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2740 for reply on 04.8.2023 and statement of District-wise projects on judicial infrastructure and the present status of construction in Ladakh.

Sl. No.	District	Project	Present status of construction
1.	Kargil	New District Court Complex, Kargil	Frame structure up to Roof level completed and Slab level of ground floor, first and second floor completed.
		New Munsiff /JMIC Court Complex, Drass	Finishing work in progress.
		New Munsiff /JMIC Court Complex, Sankoo	Trenching work and ground floor completed.
		New Munsiff /JMIC Court Complex, Zanskar	Compound wall of court complex and plinth level work under progress.
2.	Leh	Munsiff Court and residential quarter at Khaltsi	Work has just started in the year 2023 with the completion target of two years.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *338

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11th August 2023

OPERATIONAL FAST TRACK COURTS

✓ *338. COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) the details of recent data related to the project for setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs), the quick disposal of cases thereby and the average performance of the operational FTCs out of their total recommended number specifically in the State of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh along with the reasons for delays, if any, in setting up of recommended and more number of FTCs therein;
- (b) the share of funds allocated to the States of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh as envisaged in the recent Finance Commission;
- (c) the steps taken for setting up Nyaya Mitras in the said States and strict monitoring mechanism for time-bound disposal of cases by the FTCs to prevent backlog of cases;
- (d) the State-wise progress report of the Nyaya Bandhu programme under the Pro bono Legal Services scheme; and
- (e) the reasons for not setting up Live streaming mechanism in the High Courts in different States including Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to bring more transparency in court proceedings?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 338 FOR THE 11th AUGUST 2023 REGARDING 'OPERATIONAL FAST TRACK COURTS'

(a) & (b): Fast Track Courts

Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and allocation of funds lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission (2015-2020) had recommended the setting up of 1800 FTCs for disposal of long pending cases pertaining to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. It had urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through increased tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. As per information received from High Courts, there are 843 Fast Track Courts operational as on 30th June 2023.

The details of disposal of cases by these FTCs are as under:

2020	2021	2022	2023 (up to 30 th June, 2023)	Total
2,39,956	4,05,168	5,33,229	6,53,699	18,32,052

Information on funds allocated by the individual States from their State Budget for functioning of FTCs is not maintained centrally. The performance of the Fast Track Courts is monitored by the respective High Courts.

The status of FTCs operational in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh is as under:

State	No. of FTCs operational	Number of cases disposed of				
		2020	2021	2022	2023 (up to 30 th June, 2023)	Total
Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chhattisgarh	23	2877	5324	4158	1519	13878

In addition to Fast Track Courts (FTCs), the Department of Justice is implementing a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and the POCSO Act. As per information received from High Courts, the number of

functional FTSCs State/UT-wise as on 30th June, 2023, is given in **Annexure-I** which includes 45 FTSCs including 30 ePOCSO courts for Rajasthan and 15 FTSCs including 11 ePOCSO courts for Chhattisgarh. Information regarding release of Central Share to Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh during 2020-21 to 2023-24 (up to June, 2023) is given in **Annexure-II**.

For efficient implementation of the scheme, the Department of Justice is conducting regular review meetings through Video Conferencing with the State Governments and High Court officials. Letters have been written by the Minister of Law & Justice to the Chief Ministers of the States/UTs and Chief Justices of High Courts for operationalization of the remaining FTSCs.

To ensure effective monitoring and data collection, a Dashboard has been created to gather detailed information and track the performance of the FTSCs. The performance of FTSCs is also a permanent item on the agenda of Inter-State Zonal Council Meetings.

(c) Nyaya Mitra

Department of Justice launched Nyaya Mitra programme in April, 2017 with the objective to reduce pendency of cases in the Courts. It aimed to facilitate disposal of 10 to 15 years old cases which included civil cases such as matrimonial, accident claim cases and also criminal cases pending in High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Since the introduction of Nyaya Mitra programme, a total of 39 Nyaya Mitras were positioned in various district courts of the States of Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. No Nyaya Mitra could be engaged during the year 2020-2021 due to closure of courts and social distancing protocols caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

In the financial year 2021-2022, the Nyaya Mitra program was reviewed and evaluated. Based on the recommendations and considering its implementation related issues, it was observed that Nyaya Mitra programme could not achieve its envisaged goal of facilitating disposal of old pending cases. Hence, it has been decided to not continue Nyaya Mitra programme during the financial year 2023-2024.

(d) Nyaya Bandhu

The Government launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) in the year 2017 with the overarching vision to advance the culture of pro bono. The Nyaya Bandhu service aims to connect the persons entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. As on 31st July, 2023, 10298 Pro Bono advocates have registered for the scheme across the country through 27 States/UT Bar Councils. Data related to pro bono

advocates are maintained State Bar Council-wise (**Annexure- 'III'**). So far, 1882 beneficiaries have registered on the Nyaya Bandhu mobile application for availing the service of a pro bono lawyer (**Annexure- 'IV'**)

As part of the Nyaya Bandhu programme, Department of Justice initiated a new sub-module called Pro Bono Club Scheme in 2020. The Scheme aims to instill in young legal minds the culture of pro bono legal services. Since 2020, Pro Bono clubs have been constituted in 89 Law schools. There is a standard operating procedure (SOP) for conducting various activities under Pro Bono Clubs being run by these Law Schools. It broadly covers providing pro bono litigation assistance to lawyers, dedicating certain number of hours for the pro bono services throughout the year, conducting community legal awareness camps in the nearby villages, undertaking research and documentation work and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanism etc.

(e) Live streaming of courtcases

Live streaming of court proceedings is an administrative matter which falls within the purview and domain of the judiciary and Central Government has no direct role in this matter. However, Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing lawyers, litigants and other related parties to join the proceedings virtually.

Annexure-I

**Statement as referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Starred Question
No. 338 for answering on 11.08.2023 raised by COL. RAJYAVARDHAN
RATHORE, Hon'ble MP on 'Operational Fast Track Courts'**

State-wise details of Fast Track Special Courts (as on 30.06.2023)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Earmarked Courts		Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme		
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	FTSCs	ePOCSO	Total
1	Chhattisgarh	15	11	15	11	566	3053	3619
2	Gujarat	35	24	35	24	1680	6775	8455
3	Mizoram	3	1	3	1	98	34	132
4	Nagaland	1	0	1	0	48	3	51
5	Jharkhand	22	8	22	16	1702	3135	4837
6	Madhya Pradesh	67	26	67	57	2933	16484	19417
7	Manipur	2	0	2	0	96	0	96
8	Haryana	16	12	16	12	1125	3084	4209
9	Chandigarh	1	0	1	0	174	0	174
10	Rajasthan	45	26	45	30	3239	7290	10529
11	Tamil Nadu	14	14	14	14	0	5316	5316
12	Tripura	3	1	3	1	116	137	253
13	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	218	74	23783	21767	45550
14	Uttarakhand	4	4	4	0	1164	0	1164
15	Delhi	16	11	16	11	351	722	1073
16	Meghalaya	5	5	5	5	0	299	299
17	J&K	4	0	4	2	63	63	126
18	Punjab	12	2	12	3	1247	1521	2768
19	Himachal P	6	3	6	3	200	586	786
20	Karnataka	31	17	31	17	2114	4927	7041
21	Telangana	36	10	36	0	4182	2731	6913
22	Puducherry	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
23	Andhra Pradesh	18	8	16	16	0	2897	2897
24	Assam	27	15	17	17	0	3783	3783
25	Bihar	54	30	46	46	0	7835	7835
26	Goa	2	0	1	1	0	30	30
27	Kerala	56	14	53	14	9247	4142	13389
28	Maharashtra	138	30	34	13	5948	9207	15155
29	Odisha	45	22	39	23	2898	5654	8552
	TOTAL	1023	389	763	412	62974	111475	174449

Annexure-II

Statement as referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 338 for answering on 11.08.2023 raised by COL.RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE, Hon'ble MP on 'Operational Fast Track Courts'						
Amount released towards Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC)						
(Rs. in Crore)						
Sl.No.	States/UTs	Amount released in FY 2019-20	Amount released in FY 2020-21	Amount released in FY 2021-22	Amount released in FY 2022-23	Amount released in FY 2023-24 (up to June, 2023)
1.	Chhattisgarh	3.375	3.375	4.259	3.93	1.488375
2.	Rajasthan	5.85	14.4	19.745	11.895	13.83263

Statement as referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 338 for answering on 11.08.2023 raised by COL.RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE Hon'ble MP on 'Operational Fast Track Courts'		
A State/UT Bar Council-wise Statement containing number of advocates registered for Nyaya Bandhu scheme across the country		
(2017-2023)		
Sl.No.	State/UT Bar Councils	No. of Advocates
1	Andhra Pradesh	651
2	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim	264
3	Bihar	594
4	Chhattisgarh	340
5	Delhi	827
6	Gujarat	188
7	Himachal Pradesh	382
8	Jammu & Kashmir	144
9	Jharkhand	329
10	Karnataka	284
11	Kerala	147
12	Madhya Pradesh	608
13	Maharashtra & Goa	535
14	Manipur	55
15	Meghalaya	48
16	Odisha	283
17	Punjab & Haryana	1960
18	Rajasthan	1116

19	Tamil Nadu	369
20	Telangana	185
21	Tripura	6
22	Uttar Pradesh	651
23	Uttarakhand	154
24	West Bengal	157
25	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
27	Daman & Diu	5
	Grand Total	10298

Annexure-IV

Statement as referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 338 for answering on 11.08.2023 raised by COL.RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE Hon'ble MP on 'Operational Fast Track Courts'

A State/UT- wise Statement containing number of beneficiaries registered for Nyaya Bandhu scheme across the country (2017-2023)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4
2	Andhra Pradesh	94
3	Assam	16
4	Bihar	95
5	Chandigarh	7
6	Chhattisgarh	23
7	Delhi	146
8	Goa	4
9	Gujarat	53
10	Haryana	54
11	Himachal Pradesh	8
12	Jammu & Kashmir	7
13	Jharkhand	43
14	Karnataka	77
15	Kerala	16
16	Madhya Pradesh	65
17	Maharashtra	352
18	Manipur	10
19	Odisha	113
20	Puducherry	1
21	Punjab	29
22	Rajasthan	56
23	Sikkim	3
24	Tamil Nadu	32
25	Telangana	87
26	Tripura	4
27	Uttar Pradesh	285
28	Uttarakhand	24
29	West Bengal	171
30	Nagaland	1
31	Mizoram	1
32	Arunachal Pradesh	0
33	Lakshadweep	0
34	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
35	Daman & Diu	0
36	Meghalaya	1
	Total	1882

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No. 340

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11.08.2023

SS(Apex)

Transfer of High Court Judge

✓ ***340. SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:**

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court Collegium recommendation dated November 16, 2022 and April 19, 2023 on transfer of then acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court was not acted upon by the Union Government till the retirement of the said judge, if so, the reasons for the same; and
- (b) whether the Government seeks IB or RAW report on transfer of High Court Judges and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

: 2 :

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *340 due for answer on 11.08.2023 regarding "Transfer of High Court Judge"

(a): The Supreme Court Collegium, vide its resolution dated 16.11.2022 and on 19.04.2023, recommended the transfer of the then Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court as a Judge of the Rajasthan High Court. While recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium regarding his transfer was under consideration, the said Judge of Madras High Court retired on superannuation on 24.05.2023.

Judges of High Courts are transferred as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6th, 1993 (Second Judges Case) read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28th, 1998 (Third Judges Case).

As per the existing MoP, the proposal for transfer of High Court Judges (including Chief Justice) is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with four senior-most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. In the case of transfer of a High Court Judge, the MoP further provides that the Chief Justice of India is also expected to take into account the views of the Chief Justice of High Court from which the judge is to be transferred, as also the Chief Justice of the High Court to which the transfer is to be effected, besides taking into account the views of one or more Supreme Court judges who are in a position to offer views. All transfers are to be made in public interest i.e. for promoting better administration of justice throughout the country.

(b): Government does not obtain I.B. or RAW inputs on transfer of High Court Judges.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JR

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3726
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11TH AUGUST, 2023

Allocation of Funds for Expansion of Courts

✓ †3726. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

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

- (a) the details of the amount allocated for modernization and infrastructural expansion of lower courts, the High Courts and Supreme Court during the last five years and the current year;
- (b) whether the said amount is sufficient and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Government proposes to increase the said amount during the ensuing year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d) : The primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. To supplement the resources of the State Governments/UTs, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary since 1993-94 by providing financial assistance to them in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States. The scheme covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of

District and Subordinate judiciary only. From the year 2021, besides court halls and residential units, new components of digital computer room, lawyers' halls and toilet complexes have also been added under the ambit of the above CSS.

A sum of Rs. 10051 crores has been released under the above CSS, so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6607 crores (66%) has been released since 2014-15. During last five years (2018-19 to 2022-23) an amount of Rs. 3,766 crore has been released to the State/UTs. In the current financial year, against allocated amount of Rs.1051 crore, funds to the tune of Rs. 185 crore has been released to the States/UTs till date.

The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore for this scheme. There are 21,360 number of court halls and 18,863 number of residential units available in the district and subordinate courts against the working strength of 19,858 Judges/Judicial Officers as on 31.07.2023. As per Nyaya Vikas Portal, 2,843 Court Halls and 1,745 residential units are under construction.

Allocation of funds is done year-wise by the Government. In the current financial year Rs. 1051 crore has been allocated for the scheme, against Rs.848 crore allocated for the last financial year which is an increase of 19 percent.

As far as High Court is concerned the provision of infrastructure in High Courts is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. Further the cost of infrastructure facilities for Supreme Court is being met through provisions under the budgetary head of Supreme Court. For the construction of additional office complex of

the Supreme Court of India at land adjoining to Pragati Maidan, New Delhi the following funds were given through CPWD by the Government:

Sl.	Date	Details of work for which approval was given
1.	11.07.2012	Administrative approval issued to CPWD for construction of additional building complex of Supreme Court at estimated cost of ₹.884.30 crore.
2.	27.03.2018	Administrative approval issued for Pneumatic Waste Disposal System of ₹.6.5 crore to CPWD, within savings in the approved estimate.
3.	04.04.2019	Administrative approval given to CPWD to incur additional expenditure of ₹.16.58 crore (₹.7.19 crore for LAN Component and ₹.9.39 crore for VOIP).
4.	11.04.2019	Administrative approval given to CPWD to incur additional expenditure of ₹.30.50 crore for integrated security system.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

Admn. III Sec.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3734
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11-8-2023

CONSTITUTION OF TWENTY SECOND LAW COMMISSION

✓ 3734. SHRI M. SELVARAJ:

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved the constitution of 22nd Law Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the nature of duties and functions of the proposed 22nd Law Commission; and
- (d) the tenure of the Commission?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The Government has constituted the 22nd Law Commission of India (LCI) for a period of three year with effect from 21st February, 2020. The term of 22nd LCI has since been extended upto 31st August, 2024. The para 4 of the order dated 21st February, 2020, constituting the LCI provides its terms of reference, which is as under;

"4. The terms of reference of the Twenty-second Law Commission shall be as under:

A. Review/Repeal of obsolete laws:

(i) Identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed.

(ii) Identify laws which are not in harmony with the existing climate of economic liberalisation and need change.

(iii) Identify laws which otherwise require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment.

(iv) Consider in a wider perspective the suggestions for revision/amendment given by Expert Groups in various Ministries/Departments with a view to coordinating and harmonizing them.

(v) Consider references made to it by Ministries/Departments through the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, in respect of legislations having bearing on the working of more than one Ministry/Department.

(vi) Suggest suitable measures for quick redressal of citizens grievances, in the field of law.

B. Law and Poverty:

(i) Examine the laws which affect the poor and carry out post-audit for socio-economic legislations.

(ii) Take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor.

C. Keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure:

(i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decision should be just and fair.

(ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice.

(iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.

D. Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution.

E. Examine the existing laws with a view for promoting gender equality and suggesting amendments thereto.

F. Revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

G. Recommend to the Government measures for making the statute book up to date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

H. Consider and convey to the Government its views on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).

I. Consider the requests for providing research to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).

J. Examine the impact of globalization on food security, unemployment and recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalised."

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

e-Court
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3736
JS (PPP) **TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11th AUGUST, 2023**

Modernisation of Courts

✓ 3736. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking measures to modernise the courts aligning with the technological requirements, especially equipments for virtual hearings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the budgetary allocation for the same and the timeline, if any for modernisation of courts;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to reform the Revenue courts with necessary resources and infrastructure for their effective and efficient working; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): As a part of the National eGovernance Plan, the Government has launched eCourts Mission Mode Project which is under implementation for ICT development of the District & Sub-ordinate courts in the country based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". It is being implemented by the Department of Justice in association with the e-Committee Supreme Court of

India. Phase I (2011-15) was aimed at basic computerization of courts and providing local network connectivity under which a total expenditure of Rs.639.41 crore was done. It was concluded in 2015 in which 14,249 Court sites were computerized. Phase II of the project started in 2015 with an outlay of Rs. 1,670 crore out of which a sum of Rs.1668.43 crore has been released by the Government which includes a sum of Rs. 111.29 crores released for installation of video conferencing infrastructure. 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerised till Phase II. In the eCourts Project, the Government has taken the following initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all using technology: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.58 crore cases and more than 22.56 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.08.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.88 cr. downloads till 30th

- June 2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,164 downloads till 30th June 2023).
- v. The India emerged as a global leader in Video Conferencing. The High Courts (78,69,708 cases and Subordinate Courts 1,98,67,081 cases) have conducted 2.77 crore virtual hearings till 30.06.2023. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 31.05.2023. One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
 - vi. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
 - vii. 22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 3.26 crore cases have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more than 39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases online fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crores has been realized till 30.06.2023.
 - viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 30.06.2023.
 - ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 30.06.2023.

- x. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling.
- xi. In addition to eSewa Kendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched Tele Law program since 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.
- xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiii. A new “Judgment Search” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all

The eCourts Phase II formally came to an end on 31st March 2023. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. The Government of India, in the Union Budget 2023-2024, announced Rs. 7000 crores for Phase-III of e-Courts project. Based on the Detailed Project Report approved by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 23.02.2023 has recommended eCourts Phase III with a total outlay of Rs.7210 Crore. Further, the Empowered Technology Group chaired by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister in its meeting held on 21.06.2023 has also recommended the eCourts Phase III for approval.

(d) and (e) : The Revenue Courts are not covered under the eCourts Mission Mode Project. They are under the domain of respective State Government and the Government of India has no direct role in their upgradation and modernization.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3742
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2023

LAP

SL (NKG)

FREE LEGAL SERVICES TO SCHEDULED TRIBES

✓ 3742. SHRI NAKUL KAMAL NATH:

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

- (a) whether Scheduled Tribes are being given free legal services under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA); and
- (b) if so, the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes who have been given free legal representation through NALSA, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) and (b) Yes Sir. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 for implementation of legal aid programmes throughout the country. As per Section 12 (a) of the Act, a member of a Scheduled Tribe is entitled to free legal services irrespective of their income. State-wise details of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes who benefited through Legal Services Institutions throughout the country during the financial year 2022-23 is at Annexure-A.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3742 for answering on 11.08.2023 raised by Shri Nakul Kamal Nath, MP - Free Legal Services to Scheduled Tribes

Statement showing details of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes who benefited through Legal Services Institutions throughout the country during the financial year 2022-23		
S. No.	Name of State/UT Authority	Number of persons benefited
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	87
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1923
4	Assam	2310
5	Bihar	1727
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	8960
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
9	Daman and Diu	2
10	Delhi	40
11	Goa	56
12	Gujarat	1625
13	Haryana	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	109
15	Jammu and Kashmir	362
16	Jharkhand	15875
17	Karnataka	3559
18	Kerala	277
19	Ladakh	420
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	17704
22	Maharashtra	990
23	Manipur	11021
24	Meghalaya	1250
25	Mizoram	2493
26	Nagaland	3736
27	Odisha	1003
28	Puducherry	1
29	Punjab	42
30	Rajasthan	117
31	Sikkim	110
32	Tamil Nadu	379
33	Telangana	51
34	Tripura	563
35	Uttar Pradesh	2
36	Uttarakhand	20
37	West Bengal	1742
	Total	78556

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

e-court
JSCPPP **LOK SABHA**
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3748
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11th AUGUST, 2023

Functional e-Courts

✓ **3748. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:**

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

- (a) the number of e-courts functional across the country;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized for the e-court project during the last three years and the current year across the country, State-wise including Assam; and
- (c) the details of the targets set and achievements made so far along with the response received thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The High Court wise details of functional eCourts in the country has been attached at Annexure-I.

(b) to (c): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented by Department of Justice in association with eCommittee Supreme Court of India. Phase I of the eCourts project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-

2023. The Government has taken the following e-initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.58 crore cases and more than 22.56 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.08.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.
- v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.88 crore downloads till 30.06.2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,164 downloads till 30.06.2023).

- vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 1,98,67,081 cases while the High Courts heard 78,69,708 cases (totalling 2.77 crore) till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
- vii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- viii. 22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 3.26 crore cases have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more than 39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases online fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crore has been realized till 30.06.2023.
- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 21 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 30.06.2023.
- x. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 23 High Courts till 30.06.2023.
- xi. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot

- afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- xii. In addition to eSewa Kendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched Tele Law program since 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.
- xiii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiv. A new “Judgment Search” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

Funds released and utilised during the last three years across the country including Assam for infrastructure development of eCourts are given in Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3748 for 11/08/2023 regarding Functional e-Courts. The details of operational eCourts in the country are as under:

S.No	High Court	State	Court Complexes	Courts
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	180	2222
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	218	617
3	Bombay	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3
		Daman and Diu	2	2
		Goa	17	39
		Maharashtra	471	2157
4	Calcutta	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	14
		West Bengal	89	827
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	93	434
6	Delhi	Delhi	6	681
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	14	28
		Assam	74	408
		Mizoram	8	69
		Nagaland	11	37
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	376	1268
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	50	162
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	86	218
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	28	447
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	207	1031
13	Kerala	Kerala	158	484
		Lakshadweep	1	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	213	1363
15	Madras	Puducherry	4	24
		Tamil Nadu	263	1124
16	Manipur	Manipur	17	38
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	7	42
18	Orissa	Odisha	185	686
19	Patna	Bihar	84	1142
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	1	30
		Haryana	53	500
		Punjab	64	541
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	247	1240
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	8	23
23	Telangana	Telangana	129	476
24	Tripura	Tripura	14	84
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	69	271
	Total		3452	18735

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3748 for 11/08/2023 regarding the funds released during the last three years for infrastructure development are:

S.No.	High Courts	2019-2020		2020-21		2021-22	
		Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)	Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)	Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)
1	Allahabad	15.04	13.63	13.79	10.22	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Bombay	0.00	0.00	8.86	8.86	0.00	0.00
4	Calcutta	0.00	0.00	4.93	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	4.44	4.44	2.34	2.34	0.00	0.00
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	3.00	2.85	0.00	0.00
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.98	0.98	1.52	1.52	1.26	1.18
8	Gauhati (Assam)	13.68	13.40	6.11	1.78	3.49	3.46
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.51	0.43	0.72	0.69	0.30	0.25
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.70	0.70	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.84
11	Gujarat*	0.00	0.00	3.48	0.83	0.00	0.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.78	0.00	0.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
14	Jharkhand	5.53	0.35	2.98	0.48	0.00	0.00
15	Karnataka	9.15	9.15	4.29	4.29	0.00	0.00
16	Kerala	0.00	0.00	2.83	2.83	1.58	1.58
17	Madhya Pradesh	11.21	11.06	6.28	6.21	0.00	0.00
18	Madras	0.00	0.00	4.73	2.46	0.00	0.00
19	Manipur	0.61	0.60	1.30	1.28	0.76	0.75
20	Meghalaya	0.92	0.09	2.32	0.51	2.23	0.85
21	Orissa	13.46	13.09	3.37	3.31	0.00	0.00
22	Patna	7.08	6.40	5.44	5.30	0.00	0.00
23	Punjab & Haryana	0.00	0.00	4.55	4.55	0.00	0.00
24	Rajasthan	1.29	1.29	10.58	10.57	1.62	1.62
25	Sikkim	1.61	0.68	1.01	0.92	0.77	0.00
26	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Telangana	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Tripura	2.24	2.19	4.44	4.05	0.96	0.78
28	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.12	0.00	0.00
	Total	88.44	78.50	107.74	80.57	13.80	11.31

*Gujarat High Court surrendered Rs.13.12 crore. Total utilization included surrendered funds.

**Funds released erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court, and both the states shared the available funds in the ration of 58:42 respective.

NOTE: For year the 2022-2023 no funds were released as the total outlay of Phase II amounting to Rs. 1670 Crore has been exhausted.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3814

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 2023

Ldg. II (LD)

Electoral Bonds

✓ 3814. Shri Abdul Khaleque:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the electoral bonds with regard to inflow of black money in electoral politics and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total amount of money collected through electoral bonds till date; and
- (c) the breakup thereof among different parties including the State parties of Assam?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a): The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance has informed that the Electoral Bonds Scheme is, in fact, an unprecedented step towards cleansing the process of funding of political parties and major improvement over conventional practice of funding the political system through donations in cash. The purchaser is allowed to buy electoral bond(s) only on due fulfilment of all the extant instructions regarding KYC norms issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and by making payment from a bank account. All payments for the issuance of the

bond are accepted only in Indian rupees, through demand draft or cheque or through Electronic Clearing System or direct debit to the buyer's account.

(b): As per the information provided by the DEA, the total amount of electoral Bonds sold till date is Rs. 13791.89 crores. The total amount of Electoral Bonds redeemed till date is Rs. 13768.01 crores. Electoral Bonds sold but not encashed, amounting to Rs. 23.88 crores have been deposited in Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

(c): The DEA has informed that the breakup of Electoral Bond encashed, Political Partywise, is not collated centrally at SBI and hence not available.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3820

Leg. II Sec. (LD) **TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 2023**
Use of Facial Recognition Technology in Elections

✓3820. Dr. T. Sumathy (a) Thamizhachi Thangapandian:

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission of India is planning to pilot Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) in the upcoming elections of Union and States;
- (b) whether the FRT has been used both by the ECI and State Election Commissions in the past and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there exists a law under which the ECI derives its power to use FRT in the electoral process;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the use of FRT in Elections without any legal backing; and
- (e) whether the ECI has conducted an assessment of privacy in relation to the safety of the data of the citizens before launching the FRT in the election process and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a): No sir.

(b): Does not arise in respect of Election Commission of India (ECI), in view of reply to (a) above. As far as the State Election Commissions are concerned, the same are not primarily responsible to the Government of India.

(c) to (e) : Does not arise, in view of reply to (a) above.

(10)

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3823

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11.08.2023

SS (APPLS)

Representation of States in Bench of Supreme Court

✓ **3823. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that all States have proportional representation on the Bench of the Supreme Court;
- (b) whether the Government is set to maintain social diversity in higher judiciary, if so, the action taken so far in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action over the demand of Tamil language to be made an official language in Madras High Court as well as its Madurai bench, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (c): Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Further, the procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). It has been laid down in the Second Judges Case that while marking appointment in the Supreme Court along with other factors, such as, proper representation of all sections of the people from all parts of the country, legitimate expectation of the suitable and equally meritorious Judges to be considered in their turn is a relevant factor for due consideration while marking the choice of the most suitable and meritorious amongst them.

As per MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Government appoints only those persons as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium (SCC).

However, the Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in appointment of Judges in High Courts.

Article 348(1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.

Article 348 (2) provides that the Governor of the State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgments or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English. The Official Language Act, 1963 reiterates this and provides under Section 7 that the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of judgments, decrees etc. made by the High Court for that State. No law has been made in this regard by the Parliament so far. Therefore, English continues to be the language for all the proceedings of the Supreme Court.

The 18th Law Commission of India in its 216th Report on “Non-Feasibility of Introduction of Hindi as Compulsory Language in the Supreme Court of India” (2008) has, after detailed discussions with all stake-holders, inter-alia, recommended that the higher judiciary should not be subjected to any kind of even persuasive change in the present societal context. The Government has accepted the stand of the Commission.

The use of Hindi has been authorized long back in the proceedings as well in the judgments, decrees or orders in the High Courts of the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati and Hindi in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court and Chhattisgarh High Court respectively. The advice of the Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals as per a decision taken in 1965. The Chief Justice of India vide his letter dated 16.10.2012 intimated in a meeting held on 11.10.2012, the Full Court that after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals and has reiterated the earlier similar Resolutions of the Full Court of the Supreme Court adopted on 07.05.1997 and 15.10.1999. The Government has abided by the decision of the Supreme Court.

Based on another request from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government requested the Chief Justice of India to review the earlier decisions in this regard to provide greater flexibility for the use of Hindi and regional languages in High Courts vide D.O. letter dated 04.07.2014 and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 18.01.2016 conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations disapproved the proposals and reiterated the Resolution which was adopted on 07.05.1997, on 15.12.1999 and on 11.10.2012.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

Leg. II Sec. (JD)

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3848

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 2023

Verification of Voting through EVMs

3848. Shrimati Sajda Ahmad:

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

- (a) the details of strategies adopted to verify the accuracy and integrity of the voting process through EVMs;
- (b) the details of the EVM models available with the Election Commission of India (ECI) for conducting voting in the upcoming General Election;
- (c) whether the ECI has disposed of the EVMs of Model M-1 and M-2 or they are to be used for conducting voting in the said Election; and
- (d) the security measures are put in place to prevent unauthorized access or manipulation of the EVMs?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that it has adopted elaborate strategies to verify the accuracy and integrity of the voting process through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). With the introduction of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) the ECI EVM system enables voters to immediately verify that their vote is cast as intended by observing the VVPAT ballot slip which contains the name, serial number, and symbol of the candidate for

whom vote is cast. The votes are counted as recorded in Control Unit. The correlation between the ballot slip printed by VVPAT and the vote recorded in the EVM is established statistically with a very high degree of confidence by tallying the electronic count of the Control Unit with the VVPAT slip count of five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency /segment. The matter regarding mandatory verification of VVPAT slips count has already been settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by its order dated 8th April, 2019. In pursuance of that order the ECI has been mandatorily verifying VVPAT slips of randomly selected 5 polling stations per assembly constituency/segment in Parliamentary constituency elections. Further, It is highlighted that apart from the above, verification of VVPAT slips is done at various stages of the election process in the presence of representatives of recognised political parties/candidates.

(b): The ECI has informed that the upcoming General Election will be held by M3 Model of EVMs & VVPATS.

(c): The ECI has informed that The destruction of Model M-1 & M- 2 EVMs (completed their economic life of 15 years) is under process. The same are not to be used in upcoming General Election.

(d): The ECI has informed that it has laid down complete technological measures as well as administrative and security procedures, which ensures no access to EVM/VVPAT to any unauthorised person. Due to these measures/ safeguards ECI EVMs are protected from any tampering/manipulation whether before the polls or during the polls, or after the polls, in storage or transportation from manufacturer to the State/District or vice-versa, or when transported from one state to another etc.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - †3856
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2023

JS(NKG₂)

LAP

LEGAL ADVICE TO POORS

†3856. SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR:

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

- (a) whether there is any arrangement to provide legal aid at district level to poor person for disposal of pending cases in the courts and to provide legal advice to the imprisoned persons and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the criteria for establishment of research centre for doing research in the field of law and establishment of law colleges for legal education;
- (c) whether any proposal regarding establishment of law college in the tribal dominated districts Alirajpur and Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of the Government;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be approved; and
- (e) if not, whether such a proposal is likely to be considered, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act and to organize Lok Adalats across the country. For this purpose, the legal services

institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The following Authorities/Institutions are established to provide free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society :-

- i. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at National level
- ii. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) at Supreme Court level
- iii. 39 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs) at High Court level
- iv. 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) at State level
- v. 703 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at District level
- vi. 2341 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) at Taluk level

During last three financial years viz 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, legal assistance provided to number of person in custody by the Legal Services Institutions are 1,41,925, 2,36,665 and 2,89,969 respectively. In addition, during 1st April 2020 to 31st March, 2023, NALSA through SLSAs and DLSAs organized 30,867 Undertrial Review Committee (UTRC) meetings after which 69,734 inmates were released. NALSA also launched a Campaign namely 'Release_UTRC@75' from 16th July, 2022 to 13th August, 2022, for release of Prisoners by the Under Trial Review Committee under which 37220 identified persons have been released so far.

- (b) The Legal Education Committee of the Bar Council of India (BCI) holds a distinguished and unparalleled position in regulating legal education in India. Established under Section 10(2)(b) of the Advocates' Act, 1961, this statutory committee plays a pivotal role in laying down guidelines and framing rules for the regulation and upliftment of standards in Legal Education across the nation. It serves as the authoritative body for making decisions concerning Centers of Legal Education, including universities, law departments and law colleges, both for existing institutions and new applicants seeking recognition and approval of affiliation from the BCI. National Law Universities (NLU) and Law

colleges are creation of State Laws and are basically State Universities that are established by the State Government with some distinctive characteristics. The Central Government is not administratively concerned with their functioning. However, these NLUs and the Law colleges also undertake research in various fields of law.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal pending with the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3861

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11th AUGUST, 2023

Removal of Portraits and Statues from Court Premises

✓ 3861. DR. K. JAYAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE

विधि और न्याय मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of recent order of the Madras High Court to remove the Portraits and Statues of all leaders except Mahatma Gandhi and saint Thiruvalluvar from the court premises and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the response of the Government on this matter?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) No Sir. As confirmed from Madras High Court vide their letter no.1087/2023/D4 dated 08.08.2023, no such order has been passed to remove the Portraits and Statues of all leaders except Mahatma Gandhi and saint Thiruvalluvar from the court premises.

(b) Question does not arise in view of above.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

~~Leg. II Sec. (LD)~~

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3864

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 2023

Disability Column in Nomination Form

✓3864. Shri Syed Imtiaz Jaleel:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission of India and the State Election Commission don't seek the details of the disability of a person filing their nomination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has urged the ECI to consider including the column on disability in the nomination form, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of disabled people who filed for nomination in the last general election, State-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a) and (b): The Election Commission of India has informed that there is no such column in the Nomination paper and Affidavit in form 26 seeking information about disability of a person filing nomination.
- (c): No sir.
- (d): Does not arise, in view of (a) and (b) above.

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

E-Court

JS(PPP)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3873
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11th AUGUST, 2023

E-Courts in Uttar Pradesh

✓ 3873. SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP:
SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA:

Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of operational e-courts in the State of Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;
- (b) the number of cases that have been disposed of by these e-courts so far;
- (c) whether e-courts have increased or decreased the pendency in cases in comparison to physical hearings of cases, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the advantages of e-courts as noted by Government, especially with regard to the integration of land records for speedy redressal of land disputes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) : As per National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) data, district-wise number of courts covered under eCourts project in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 07.08.2023 is enclosed at Annexure I.

(b) & (c) : As per NJDG data, total number of cases disposed of by the District and Subordinate Courts in the state of Uttar Pradesh from 01.08.2022 till 07.08.2023 is 41,94,609 which includes 4,86,060 civil cases and 37,08,549 criminal cases. No comparative data as such is maintained on the impact of physical hearings of cases vis-à-vis eCourts on the pendency of cases.

(d) : The advantages of eCourts especially with regards to the integration of land records inter alia includes:

- i. The courts will have first-hand information on substantive and authentic evidence of Record of Rights, Cadastral map including geo referenced and legacy data.
- ii. The information is helpful to the courts in deciding admission as well as disposal of the disputes. Courts are /will be able to easily know whether any case relating to a particular property is pending in any court.
- iii. Prospective buyers will be able to know the dispute status in respect of landed property which will enable them to take an informed decision after considering risk factor in transacting such property.
- iv. The system is likely to reduce number of land disputes since prospective buyers/ sellers can take informed decisions as information of land related disputes pending in all courts of law will be readily available. In the long run, it will reduce dubious land transactions and help in dispute containment and reduce clogging of the courts.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3873 for 11/08/2023 regarding E-Courts in Uttar Pradesh. As per data available on NJDG, the district-wise details of courts in the State of Uttar Pradesh covered under eCourts project as on 07.08.2023 are as below:

Sr. No.	District Name	Total Courts
1.	Agra	82
2.	Aligarh	69
3.	Ambedkar Nagar	35
4.	Amroha	29
5.	Auraiya	22
6.	Ayodhya	46
7.	Azamgarh	75
8.	Baghpat	20
9.	Bahraich	52
10.	Ballia	48
11.	Balrampur	27
12.	Banda	31
13.	Barabanki	44
14.	Bareilly	85
15.	Basti	51
16.	Bhadohi SR Nagar	24
17.	Bijnor	52
18.	Budaun	47
19.	Bulandshahr	66
20.	Chandauli	19
21.	Chitrakoot	24
22.	Deoria	51
23.	Etah	29
24.	Etawah	36
25.	Farrukhabad	49
26.	Fatehpur	44
27.	Firozabad	43
28.	Gautam Buddha Nagar	31
29.	Ghaziabad	80
30.	Ghazipur	55
31.	Gonda	53
32.	Gorakhpur	72
33.	Hamirpur	32

34.	Hapur	27
35.	Hardoi	44
36.	Hathras	29
37.	Jalaun	32
38.	Jampur	51
39.	Jhansi	46
40.	Kannauj	23
41.	Kanpur Dehat	48
42.	Kanpur Nagar	100
43.	Kasganj	26
44.	Kaushambi	25
45.	Kushinagar	33
46.	Lakhimpur Kheri	51
47.	Lalitpur	26
48.	Lucknow	138
49.	Maharajganj	19
50.	Mahoba	26
51.	Mainpuri	50
52.	Mathura	49
53.	Mau	39
54.	Meerut	82
55.	Mirzapur	40
56.	Moradabad	59
57.	Muzaffarnagar	61
58.	Pilibhit	36
59.	Pratapgarh	63
60.	Prayagraj	96
61.	Raebareli	52
62.	Rampur	33
63.	Saharanpur	47
64.	Sambhal at Chandausi	21
65.	Santkabit Nagar	19
66.	Shahjahanpur	49
67.	Shamli at Kairana	19
68.	Shravasti	10
69.	Siddhartnagar	26
70.	Sitapur	58
71.	Sonbhadra	23
72.	Sultanpur	53
73.	Unnao	32
74.	Varanasi	89
	Total	3373

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

LOK SABHA

Leg. II Sec. (LD) **UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3876**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 2023

Reintroduction of Ballot System in Elections

3876. Shri Anto Antony:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any representation regarding reintroduction of ballot system in the upcoming assembly elections and general election;
- (b) if so, the details and the response of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has sent nearly six lakh faulty voting machines to laboratories to rectify the fault; and
- (d) if so, the details including major fault of machines identified, if any, so far?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) and (b): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that some representations have been received regarding reintroduction of ballot system. The ECI has been conducting elections using EVMs since 1982. The use of Electronic Voting Machine/Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (EVM/VVPAT) is legally sanctioned by the Parliament in the form of clear provisions in the Representation of the People Act 1951 (43 of 1951) and corresponding Rules and have also been

subjected to Judicial Reviews in number of cases up to Honourable Supreme Court of India. There is no proposal to go back to ballot system.

(c) and (d): As per information provided by the ECI, First Level Checking (FLC) of EVMs and VVPATS is conducted before every election. All such non-functional machines from FLC are sent to factories for repairs, and not to laboratories. Further, the ECI has informed that it sent M2-M3 model of VVPAT's (used with M2 EVMS in LS 2019) to the factories for upgradation to M3 VVPATS.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

JR

JSLNMJR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3878
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11TH AUGUST, 2023

Restoration of Dilapidated Courts

†3878. SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of clean drinking water separate toilets for women, computers on the tables of judges, basic medical assistance, record room and security and security in the premises of courts across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the courts as on date, State-wise;
- (c) whether any step has been taken for the development of judicial infrastructure and restoration of dilapidated structures of courts across the country during the last three years till date; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY
OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d): Information regarding shortage of clean drinking water, separate toilets for women, computers on the tables of judges, basic medical assistance, record room and security is not maintained in the Department. As far as security in the premises of courts across the country is concerned, it is under the exclusive domain of respective State Governments. However, as per data compiled by the Registry of Supreme Court of India on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities in the year 2021,

only 54% court complexes have drinking water facility with purifiers, 74% of court complexes have separate ladies toilets, 27% court rooms have computer placed on the Judge's dais with VC facility, 5% of court complexes are equipped with basic medical facilities, 32% of court rooms have separate record rooms.

However, the infrastructure facilities in the courts are being expanded, upgraded and augmented on a continuous basis. Though, the primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments, the Union Government supplements the resources of the State Governments/UTs, through implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) namely "Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary" since 1993-94. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to State Governments in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States. The scheme covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of district and subordinate judiciary. From the year 2021, besides court halls and residential units, new components of digital computer room, lawyers' halls and toilet complexes have also been added under the ambit of the above CSS. A sum of Rs. 10051 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6607 crores (66%) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore for this scheme. There are 21,360 number of court halls and 18,863 number of residential units available in the district and subordinate courts against the working strength of 19,858 Judges/Judicial Officers as on 31.07.2023. Moreover, as

per Nyaya Vikas Portal, 2,843 Court Halls and 1,745 residential units are under construction.

For time bound and proper implementation of the scheme, there are monitoring mechanisms in place as per the guidelines of the scheme. There is a High Court Level Monitoring Committee in the State, chaired by the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts and this also has other stake holders such as, Registrar General of the High Court, portfolio judges, Law/Home Secretary of the State and Secretary of the State PWD as members. This committee meets at regular intervals to review the physical and financial progress of the projects running under the scheme.

In addition, there is a Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice, chaired by Secretary (Department of Justice, Government of India) to review the progress of the projects and iron out any issues that hinder the smooth implementation of the scheme. Regular meetings are being held by this Committee. Besides, there are regular visits by the officials of the Department of Justice to the States for getting firsthand information on the ground. Regular meetings through video conferencing to sort out the problems of the States/UTs also take place.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

ADR Cell (LA)

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3903
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11-8-2023

Disposal of Cases through Mediation Centres

3903. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage the States to support district mediation centres to resolve the cases particularly related to the poor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases brought to and disposed off by the said mediation centres during the last five years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to expand the facilities of existing mediation centres in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, the Government is committed towards encouraging Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms including mediation, which is expected to reduce the burden on the judiciary and thereby enable timely dispensation of justice to the citizens of the country.

It is the endeavour of the Government that judiciary and legislature work together for encouraging adoption of ADR mechanisms including mediation, for early resolution of disputes.

Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, was inserted through the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, and is effective from 01.07.2002. Section 89 states that where it appears to the Court that there exist elements of a settlement which may be acceptable

to the parties, the Court shall formulate the terms of settlement and give them to the parties for their observations and after receiving the observations of the parties, the Court may reformulate the terms of a possible settlement and refer the same for arbitration; conciliation; judicial settlement including settlement through Lok Adalat; or mediation.

Mediation therefore is one of the modes of ADR, which have been enabled under Section 89 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 and has emerged as a popular and useful method for settlement of disputes. The Legal Service Authorities and court annexed mediation centres are actively involved in getting the disputes settled through mediation and the Government encourages and supports the endeavors.

(c): The details of the cases brought to and disposed of by the Mediation Centres under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), during the last five financial years and the current financial (upto May, 2023), State-wise is as per **Annexure-A**.

(d) & (e): NALSA has allotted grants to the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India, to support mediation activities including training. Further, in order to promote and encourage mediation, awareness campaigns are conducted to make the citizenry aware of mediation as an effective mode of dispute resolution.

The Rajya Sabha on 01.08.2023 and the Lok Sabha on 07.08.2023, has also passed the Mediation Bill, 2023, to enact a standalone law on mediation. The Bill aims to *inter-alia* promote, encourage and facilitate mediation for resolution of disputes, commercial or otherwise and enforce mediated settlement agreements and establish the Mediation Council of India.

Annexure-A

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3903 due for answer on 11-08-2023.

Statement showing the details of cases received and settled through Mediation and during the last five financial years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-2023 and the current financial year 2023-24 (upto May, 2023):

S.NO	SLSA	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2022-23 (upto May, 23)	
		Cases Received	Cases settled through mediation	Cases Received	Cases settled through mediation	Cases Received	Cases settled through mediation	Cases Received	Cases settled through mediation	Cases Received	Cases settled through mediation	Cases Received	Cases settled through mediation
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	84	14	65	15	89	18	103	15	152	31	7	5
2	Andhra Pradesh	5778	1124	4153	922	710	340	2317	590	3160	455	296	61
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	1102	354	1062	402	345	124	482	153	1316	336	295	70
5	Bihar	2884	294	5261	930	1258	209	2113	371	6375	1114	1062	220
6	Chhattisgarh	3221	660	3302	967	683	233	1960	446	2839	745	433	102
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27	14	52	18	56	21	73	24	87	19	18	1
8	Daman & Diu	7	3	66	16	3	3	1	0	33	11	2	0
9	Delhi	2485	802	2385	837	1864	600	2782	793	2677	947	402	117
10	Goa	170	16	573	65	128	7	117	6	181	9	27	3
11	Gujarat	3762	520	6461	654	1630	190	5437	536	13235	1331	1712	272
12	Haryana	13070	2429	17119	2623	2651	474	13370	1941	18966	2477	3210	420
13	Himachal Pradesh	2119	446	1817	326	548	79	1090	178	2109	396	353	90
14	Jammu & Kashmir	820	116	661	84	93	16	227	22	634	100	55	13
15	Jharkhand	20019	8954	17194	8137	6932	2856	12423	3933	23711	9533	3788	1470
16	Karnataka	21493	6515	21386	6753	9403	3494	18275	6619	26050	8397	2798	1021

17	Kerala	36959	12534	39440	13384	8995	3281	25183	7445	49455	16003	5270	1925
18	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	66406	21995	69341	19292	15014	2911	45249	6990	77816	15918	11696	2645
20	Maharashtra	51584	20255	58276	20595	20156	8395	42063	13746	58204	16973	6990	2118
21	Manipur	150	26	183	42	30	10	68	22	517	122	22	11
22	Meghalaya	6	1	5	0	9	2	4	0	15	3	2	0
23	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Odisha	1572	108	1378	90	305	40	734	75	1233	124	638	29
26	Puducherry	323	26	265	20	74	20	82	5	120	10	18	1
27	Punjab	13241	2317	14446	2591	1930	332	10354	1203	20280	2934	3644	669
28	Rajasthan	27729	2548	26410	2219	4070	298	6890	483	6450	483	1197	115
29	Sikkim	107	49	165	73	49	32	118	51	188	80	39	15
30	Tamil Nadu	21392	2460	15851	2379	7226	1019	12373	1615	17131	2664	2288	277
31	Telangana	3779	571	4023	641	1123	284	2647	590	4340	617	421	55
32	Tripura	287	27	283	29	128	9	273	13	316	16	154	12
33	U. T. Chandigarh	1185	362	1821	433	281	43	844	160	1766	559	294	101
34	Uttar Pradesh	43441	8092	44405	7147	6518	2188	43768	4191	64688	7525	10830	1306
35	Uttarakhand	1411	514	1836	517	262	49	410	84	678	84	85	12
36	West Bengal	11034	4820	9147	2664	1927	724	2230	668	8259	2430	365	105
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	8	0	35	0	9	0	5	2
	Grand Total	357647	98966	368832	94865	94498	28301	254095	52968	412990	92446	58416	13263

(10)

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

LOK SABHA

JR

JS (NMJR)

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3906
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11TH AUGUST, 2023**

Infrastructural Problems in Districts Courts

✓ **3906. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a number of districts courts are facing infrastructural problems leading hindrance to provide justice for the all;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any roadmap for taking initiatives to strengthen judicial infrastructure in these courts and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY
OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (c): The primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. To supplement the resources of the State Governments/UTs, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary since 1993-94 by providing financial assistance to them in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States. The scheme covers the

construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of district and subordinate judiciary. From the year 2021, besides court halls and residential units, new components of digital computer room, lawyers' halls and toilet complexes have also been added under the ambit of the above CSS. A sum of Rs. 10051 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6607 crores (66%) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore for this scheme. There are 21,360 number of court halls and 18,863 number of residential units available in the district and subordinate courts against the working strength of 19,858 Judges/Judicial Officers as on 31.07.2023. Moreover, as per Nyaya Vikas Portal, 2,843 Court Halls and 1,745 residential units are under construction.

The Government is sensitive to the needs of building better infrastructure for the judicial officers of the lower and subordinate judiciary. For time bound and proper implementation of the scheme, there are monitoring mechanisms in place as per the guidelines of the scheme.

There is a High Court Level Monitoring Committee in the State, chaired by the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts and this also has other stake holders such as, Registrar General of the High Court, portfolio judges, Law/Home Secretary of the State and Secretary of the State PWD as members. This committee meets at regular intervals to review the physical and financial progress of the projects running under the scheme.

Apart from this, there is a Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice, chaired by Secretary (Department of Justice, Government of India) to review the progress of the projects and iron out any issues that hinder the smooth implementation of the scheme. Regular meetings are being held by this Committee.

Besides, there are regular visits by the officials of the Department of Justice to the States for getting firsthand information on the ground. Regular meetings through video conferencing to sort out the problems of the States/UTs also take place.
