

2023

LOK
SABHA
REPLIES

BUDGET SESSION, 2023
[11th SESSION OF 17th LOK SABHA]
[31st January, 2023 to 06th April,
2023]

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 29

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03.02.2023

Reform in Collegium System

AS(A&A)

✓ *29. **PROF. SOUGATA RAY:**

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:

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

- (a) whether the Government has returned proposals for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts in the recent past and if so, the details thereof and the views expressed by the Supreme Court thereon;
- (b) the steps taken to resolve the issue of appointment of judges in the said courts;
- (c) whether any concern/objection has been raised over the functioning of existing collegium system and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to appoint representatives of Centre and States in the Committee for appointment of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, the response of the States and Supreme Court thereon indicating the names of States extending support to the said initiative?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(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. 29 due for answer on 03-02-2023 regarding "Reform in Collegium System"

(a) to (e): Reconsideration of Supreme Court Collegium was sought on the 18 proposals recently. While examining these proposals SCC decided to reiterate 06 cases, in 07 cases SCC desired an updated inputs from the High Court Collegiums, and 05 cases have been decided to be remitted to High Courts.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 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 the existing Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges of High Courts, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal for filling up of vacancies of a Judge in a High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies.

In the year 2021, 09 Judges in the Supreme Court and 120 Judges in the High Courts have been appointed and in the year 2022, 03 Judges in the Supreme Court and 165 Judges in the High Courts have been appointed. As on 01.02.2023 against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, 27 Judges are working in the Supreme Court and recommendations against 07 vacancies have been received from the Supreme Court Collegium recently. In the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1108 Judges, 775 Judges are working and 333 posts of Judges are vacant. Against these vacancies 142 proposals recommended by High Court Collegium are at various stages of processing and recommendations against 191 vacancies in the High Courts are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums.

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 the

State and Centre level. 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 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.

Hon'ble Supreme Court while hearing WP(C) 13 of 2015 in NJAC matter issued detailed Order on 16-12-2015 on supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) and laid down that Government of India may finalize the Memorandum of Procedure by supplementing it in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The Chief Justice of India will take a decision based on the unanimous view of the Collegium comprising of four senior most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The order stated that they shall take the following factors into consideration such as **eligibility criterion, transparency in the appointment process, secretariat, complaint mechanism and miscellaneous matter** considered appropriate for ensuring **transparency and accountability** including interaction with the recommendees, the Collegium of the Supreme Court without sacrificing the confidentiality of appointment.

In pursuance of the above orders, the Government of India, after due diligence sent the revised MoP to Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 22.3.2016 and the response of the Supreme Court Collegium on the revised draft MoP was received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The views of the Government in

response to the views of the SCC was conveyed to the CJI on 03.08.2016. Subsequent comments of SCC on the views of Government on the draft MoP were received on 13.03.2017.

Thereafter, the Supreme Court in judgment dated 04.07.2017 in Suo-Motu Contempt proceedings against a Judge of Calcutta High Court brought out the system's failure of not providing an appropriate procedure for making assessment of the personality of the contemnor at the time of recommending his name for elevation as High Court Judge inter-alia highlighting the need to revisit the process of selection and appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts. The views of the Government on the relevant points was conveyed to Supreme Court of India vide letter dated 11.07.2017.

A two-judge Bench of Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 28.03.2018 in Criminal Appeal No. 470 of 2018, brought out deficiencies in the system and emphasized the need to improve the process of appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts.

In another case, while hearing a matter involving M/s PLR Projects Pvt Ltd. vs Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. and Ors [transfer petition (civil) no: 2419 of 2019] regarding issue of appointment of High Court Judges, the three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, vide order dated 20.04.2021, laid down additional timelines in respect of the time taken by the Government in processing the proposal for appointment of Judges of High Courts. However, these timelines are not yet a part of MoP.

The Supreme Court, while hearing another case No. WP(C) 1236 of 2019 on the matter of appointment of retired judges at sittings of High Courts under Article 224A of the Constitution of India, vide its judgment dated 20.04.2021 has laid down fresh criterion for their appointment. After detailed deliberation, Government has submitted its views to the Chief Justice of India on 18.08.2021 to supplement para 24 of existing MoP which provides for the appointment of retired

judges at the sitting of High Courts under Article 224A. The issue is still under consideration of the Supreme Court.

While sending the proposal for supplementation of MoP on the criteria fixed in Supreme Court order dated 16.12.2015 in W.P.(C) 13 of 2015 in NJAC matter, Government has made suggestions including the need for a Screening-cum- Evaluation Committee at the Supreme Court and High Court levels to assist the Collegiums of Supreme Court and High Courts, respectively. It was proposed that the Committees may screen and evaluate relevant material on the suitability of the prospective candidates and would act as a facilitator. The decision to make recommendations will continue to be exercised by the respective Collegiums of the Supreme Court and High Courts. However, the Supreme Court did not agree to set up such Committees.

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 and *inter-alia* suggested that the Search-cum-Evaluation Committee in respect of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of High Courts should consist of a representative nominated by Government of India. For appointment of Judges in the High Courts, the Committee should consist of a representative nominated by Government of India and a representative of State Government(s) under the jurisdiction of High Court as nominated by the Chief Minister(s). The existing MoP stipulates that if the Chief Minister desires to recommend the name of any person, he/she should forward the same for consideration. However, since this has not been put in actual practice, the names recommended by the Chief Minister can also be received by the Search-cum-Evaluation Committee along with the names taken from senior Judges outside the Collegium and eligible candidates taken from the database (Judicial Officers and Advocates) as maintained by the proposed Secretariat. The High Court Collegium may deliberate upon panel of names drawn up by the said Committee and recommend the names of most suitable candidates for appointment as Judges in the Supreme Court, Chief Justices and Judges of the

High Courts. The Collegium at appropriate level may address the above requirements of drawing up panel of eligible candidates from aforementioned sources and draw up their proceedings by rendering requisite reasons and thereafter send the proposal to the Government with relevant documents. The said Committees will be entrusted to prepare a panel of eligible candidates from which the respective Collegiums will make recommendation.

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 40

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03.02.2023

✓ AS(A&A)

Procedure for Appointment of Judges

***40. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to finalise the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of the judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 40 due for answer on 3-2-2023 regarding "Procedure for Appointment of Judges"

(a) to (c) : Hon'ble Supreme Court while hearing WP(C) 13 of 2015 in NJAC matter issued detailed Order on 16-12-2015 on supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) and laid down that Government of India may finalize the Memorandum of Procedure by supplementing it in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The Chief Justice of India will take a decision based on the unanimous view of the Collegium comprising of four senior most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The order stated that they shall take the following factors into consideration such as **eligibility criterion, transparency in the appointment process, secretariat, complaint mechanism and miscellaneous matter** considered appropriate for ensuring **transparency and accountability** including interaction with the recommendees the Collegium of the Supreme Court without sacrificing the confidentiality of appointment.

In pursuance of the above orders, the Government of India, after due diligence sent the MoP to Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 22.3.2016, the response of the Supreme Court Collegium on the revised draft MoP was received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The view of the Government in response to the views of the SCC was conveyed to the CJI on 03.08.2016. The view of the Government in response to the views of the SCC was conveyed to the CJI on 03.08.2016. Comments of SCC on the views of Government on the draft MoP received on 13.03.2017.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court in judgment dated 4.7.2017 in Suo-Motu Contempt proceedings against a Judge of Calcutta High Court brought out the system's failure of not providing an appropriate procedure for making assessment of the personality of the contemnor at the time of recommending his name for elevation inter-alia highlighted the need to revisit the process of selection and

appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts. The view of the Government on the relevant points was conveyed to Supreme Court of India vide letter dated 11.07.2017. However, the response of Supreme Court is still awaited.

A two-judge Bench of Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 28.03.2018 in Criminal Appeal No. 470 of 2018, brought out deficiencies in the system and emphasized the need to improve the process of appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts.

In another case, while hearing a matter involving M/s PLR Projects Pvt Ltd. vs Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. and Ors [transfer petition (civil) no: 2419 of 2019] regarding issue of appointment of High Court Judges, the three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, vide order dated 20.04.2021, laid down additional timelines in respect of the time taken by the Government in processing the proposal for appointment of Judges of High Courts. However, these timelines are not yet a part of MoP.

The Supreme Court, while hearing another case No. WP(C) 1236 of 2019 on the matter of appointment of retired judges at sittings of High Courts under Article 224A of the Constitution of India, vide its judgment dated 20.04.2021 has laid down fresh criterion for their appointment. After detailed deliberation, Government has submitted its views to the Chief Justice of India on 18.08.2021 to supplement para 24 of existing MoP which provides for the appointment of retired judges at the sitting of High Courts under Article 224A. The issue is still under consideration of the Supreme Court.

In view of various judicial pronouncements and suggestions by the Supreme Court, the Government in its recent communication dated 06.01.2023 to the Chief Justice of India, has emphasized on the need to finalize the MoP. The response is yet to be received from the Supreme Court.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 245
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3rd FEBRUARY, 2023

LAP

JS(WRG)

e-Lok Adalats

✓ 245. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:

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

- (a) the details of e-Lok adalats organised in the country since 2020, State-wise;
- (b) the details of permanent Lok Adalats functioning presently, State-wise;
- (c) the details of funds allocated for the expenses to be incurred in organization of Lok Adalat and e-Lok Adalats;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to organise more Lok Adalats and e-Lok Adalats in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) The Legal Services Authorities under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) moved Lok Adalat to the virtual platform known as e-Lok Adalat. The first e-Lok Adalat was held in Madhya Pradesh on 27.06.2020. The State-wise details of e-Lok Adalats organized in the country since 2020 is at Annexure – A.
- (b) The State-wise details of Permanent Lok Adalats functioning presently is at Annexure – B.

(c) Allocation of funds to State/UT State Legal Services Authorities is made for all activities including expenses to be incurred in organization of Lok Adalat and e-Lok Adalat. During the last and current financial year, Rs. 145 crore and Rs. 190 crore, respectively, has been allocated to NALSA for conduct of their various activities including for Lok Adalats and e-Lok Adalats.

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

Statement as referred in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 245 for answering on 03.02.2023 raised by Shri Margani Bharat, MP – e-Lok Adalats

Statement showing details of e-Lok Adalats organized in the country since 2020							
S. No	Name of the State Authority	Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts		Total	
		Taken Up	Disposal	Taken Up	Disposal	Taken Up	Disposal
1	Andhra Pradesh	661	214	22,072	15,500	22,733	15,714
2	Arunachal Pradesh	141	18	67	23	208	41
3	Bihar	58,182	17,469	9,023	3,078	67,205	20,547
4	Chandigarh	0	0	70	12	70	12
5	Chhattisgarh	13,052	7,739	14,087	8,661	27,139	16,400
6	Delhi	16,167	13,243	95,624	82,099	1,11,791	95,342
7	Goa	0	0	170	65	170	65
8	Gujarat	2,44,476	1,39,067	37,738	20,945	2,82,214	1,60,012
9	Haryana	3,755	3,625	9,565	4,985	13,320	8,610
10	Himachal Pradesh	2,72,292	11,688	416	244	2,72,708	11,932
11	Jammu and Kashmir	2,281	1,575	8,923	6,291	11,204	7,866
12	Jharkhand	1,81,033	1,17,468	58,832	37,411	2,39,865	1,54,879
13	Karnataka	20,558	11,885	3,02,404	1,76,527	3,22,962	1,88,412
14	Kerala	3,985	986	35,541	25,271	39,526	26,257
15	Madhya Pradesh	3,661	312	36,592	8,385	40,253	8,697
16	Maharashtra	2,37,67,045	41,35,134	87,90,833	10,07,872	3,25,57,878	51,43,006
17	Manipur	881	738	172	91	1,053	829
18	Meghalaya	133	33	25	8	158	41
19	Mizoram	1,856	283	168	47	2,024	330
20	Odisha	23,806	1,143	24,272	4,236	48,078	5,379
21	Punjab	5,327	536	9,387	6,639	14,714	7,175
22	Rajasthan	36,725	6,438	57,865	29,674	94,590	36,112
23	Sikkim	1,123	259	225	59	1,348	318
24	Telangana	887	862	12,450	10,408	13,337	11,270
25	Tripura	2,350	505	1,472	169	3,822	674
26	Uttar Pradesh	2,01,382	1,33,926	65,217	40,094	2,66,599	1,74,020
27	Uttarakhand	3,591	408	12,168	4,210	15,759	4,618
28	West Bengal	15,654	1,924	11,997	8,907	27,651	10,831
	Grand Total	2,48,81,004	46,07,478	96,17,375	15,01,911	3,44,98,379	61,09,389

Annexure-B

Statement as referred in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 245 for answering on 03.02.2023 raised by Shri Margani Bharat, MP – e-Lok Adalats

Statement showing details of Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs) functional		
S. No.	Name of the State Authority	PLAs
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	9
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	14
5	Bihar	2
6	Chandigarh	1
7	Chhattisgarh	5
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
9	Daman and Diu	0
10	Delhi	3
11	Goa	1
12	Gujarat	1
13	Haryana	21
14	Himachal Pradesh	1
15	Jammu and Kashmir	0
16	Jharkhand	24
17	Karnataka	6
18	Kerala	3
19	Ladakh	0
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	50
22	Maharashtra	4
23	Manipur	0
24	Meghalaya	0
25	Mizoram	0
26	Nagaland	0
27	Odisha	22
28	Puducherry	0
29	Punjab	22
30	Rajasthan	35
31	Sikkim	0
32	Tamil Nadu	32
33	Telangana	6
34	Tripura	8
35	Uttar Pradesh	71
36	Uttarakhand	4
37	West Bengal	0
	Grand Total	345

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 264
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3rd FEBRUARY, 2023

LDN. Sec. LA

Review of Constitution

264. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has adopted the recommendations of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC);
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations that were accepted and rejected by the Government separately;
- (c) whether a periodical review of the working of the constitution has been felt to get insights into the constitution requirement to pass the test of time;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ;
- (e) whether other countries also carry out such exercises periodically; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (f): The National Commission to review the working of the Constitution (NCRWC) had submitted its report to the Government on 31st March, 2002. The report was forwarded to all Ministries/Departments of the Government, which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations. No details are maintained on the exercise of reviewing of the Constitution in other countries.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †265
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3rd FEBRUARY, 2023

A2J

JS(WKS)

Lok Adalat in Karnal Region

√†265. SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to organise Lok Adalat which works as an important alternative dispute resolution mechanism available to the common people at block and district level in Karnal region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such initiatives are likely to be undertaken there in order to resolve and settle disputes/ cases lying pending in the court of law amicably at the pre-litigation state;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up e-seva Kendra in the district court in coordination with the State Government with the main objective to facilitate litigants as well as lawyers in their services that are useful for functioning of the courts of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) and (b) Yes sir, Lok Adalat is an important alternate dispute redressal system for the common people of the country including Karnal region of Haryana state. Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HLSA) has leveraged the mechanism of 'Lok Adalat' as an effective alternative dispute resolution method for ensuring quick and final consensual disposal of cases binding on the parties/common people, without incurring any extra cost or fees.

HLSA is regularly organizing following Lok Adalats in all the 22 Districts Courts and 33 Sub Divisions of Haryana including Karnal region from time to time.

- Daily Lok Adalat: Every court of the Sessions Division, after court hours, gets converted into Daily Lok Adalat and judicial officers hold sittings for this, depending upon the workload of cases coming for settlement every day in each court, which also includes Karnal region.
- Jail Lok Adalats are conducted on 1st and 3rd Wednesday in all the Jail premises of Haryana including Karnal region.
- National Lok Adalats as per schedule circulated by NALSA are being held on regular basis.

In addition to the above, on the initiative of HSLSA, the Haryana Government sanctioned 15 Permanent Lok Adalats pertaining to public utility services including Karnal region having jurisdiction for 21 Districts of Haryana except District Charkhi Dadri. In these Permanent Lok Adalats, cases relating to Public Utility Services, in which disputes up to the value of Rs. one crore are taken up at the Pre-litigative stage and settled without any expenditure at the earliest, on the basis of conciliation. In case, conciliation fails, the PLA has the power to decide special category of cases on merits on the basis of equity, justice and good conscience, without going into legal technicalities.

The details regarding total number of category-wise cases taken up and settled in Daily Lok Adalats, Jail Lok Adalats and National Lok Adalats as well as Permanent Lok Adalat for Public Utility Services in District Karnal upto 31.12.2022 are at Annexure- A.

- (c) Cases/ disputes are being resolved or compromised on both stages i.e. at pre-litigation or at adjudicating stage in harmonious manner in the Lok Adalats. The matter under section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act, matrimonial and all civil matters are being taken up at initial stage for amicable settlement. Whereas compoundable matters are taken up at adjudication stage in Lok Adalat for compromise/ settlement. If the matter is compromised, the same is disposed of and in case no settlement is arrived, then the parties can approach regular court for remedy of their grievances.

(d) and (e) eSewa Kendras have been rolled out to bridge the digital divide by providing eFiling services to lawyers and litigants. Covering all High Courts and one District Court as pilot project, it is being expanded to cover all court complexes. In Phase-II of e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Government has released Rs. 12.54 crore for setting up of eSewa Kendras. The eSewa Kendras are being set up at the entry point of the court complexes with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and e-filing. For setting up the eSewa Kendras in North-East region, all the Court Complexes have been taken for calculation purpose. All High Court, Benches and one District Court Complex has been taken for the rest of India. As on 31.12.2022, 689 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts.

Annexure - A

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †265 for answering on 03.02.2023 raised by Shri Sanjay Bhatia, MP - Lok Adalat in Karnal Region

Statement containing details of category-wise cases taken up and settled in Daily Lok Adalats, Jail Lok Adalats and National Lok Adalats as well as Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services in District Karnal upto 31.12.2022		
	DAILY LOK ADALAT	NATIONAL LOK ADALAT
Total No. of Lok Adalats	29,873	365
Total No. of cases taken up	3,75,457	2,02,221
Total No. of cases settled	2,04,679	84,784
Criminal Cases	16,552	7,508
Section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act	14,565	4,618
Bank Cases	1,072	1,253
MACT Cases	3,234	790
HM Cases	3,038	621
Labour Cases	373	80
Land Cases	37	0
Civil Cases	20,539	3,017
Revenue Cases	2,303	4,455
Others Cases	1,39,951	5,509
Pre-litigation cases	1,997	7,352

JAIL LOK ADALAT

No. of Jail Lok Adalats held	No. of cases taken up	No. of cases disposed of
128	1,025	505

PERMANENT LOK ADALAT (PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES)

No. of Lok Adalats/Sittings	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases settled
1,813	9,090	8,530

Public Utility Cases	No. of cases settled
Transport Cases	300
Postal/ Telephone Cases	2,272
Supply of Power Cases	266
Public Conservancy Cases	39
Hospital Cases	14
Insurance Cases	470
Banking Cases	4,908
Housing and Financial Cases	261
Total	8,530

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †266
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03RD FEBRUARY, 2023**

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN COURTS

JS (GRR)
✓ †266

SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to increase the number of women in the courts of the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction till date; and**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): Appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and the High Courts is done under provisions of Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. As per Memorandums of Procedure for Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts, 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. All the names recommended by High Court Collegium are sent with the views of the Government to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice.

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. Government appoints only those persons as Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts who are recommended by SCC.

In case of District and Subordinate judiciary, as per proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Governments, in consultation with their High Courts, frame the rules and regulations regarding the issue of appointment, promotion and reservations of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. Hence, in so far as recruitment or reservation of judicial officers in the States is concerned, the Union Government has no role under the Constitution in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District and Subordinate judiciary.

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.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 267
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3RD FEBRUARY, 2023

✓ 35 (PPP)

Digitization of Courts

e-court

- 267. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:
- SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
- SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:
- SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

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

- a) whether the Government has proposed to develop e-court system for operation of various courts including High Courts and District Courts across the country;
- b) if so, the details of courts including High Courts digitally and District courts that have been digitised and are able to conduct trials online as well;
- c) whether all the courts have been connected with video conferencing to deal with the situation like COVID in which physical presence in the court is not possible and if so, the details thereof;
- d) the details of amount sanctioned for infrastructure development including digital infrastructure of the courts during the last three years and the progress made so far by the implementation of the e-court Mission Project; and
- e) whether the Government proposes to bring any new policy to provide cheap, transparent and efficient services to the citizen in district courts?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): The Government has launched the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project in the country for computerization of District and subordinate courts with the objective of improving access to justice using technology. As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the project is under implementation since 2007 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 during 2011-2015. Phase II of the project started in 2015 under which 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerised. The detailed break-up of computerization of court complexes has been attached in Annexure-I.

During Phase II of the eCourts project, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available. Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been acquired. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

(d): Funds released during the last three years for development of digital infrastructure are mentioned below:

Year	Budget Sanctioned	Budget Released
2019-20	180	179.26
2020-21	180	179.31
2021-22	98.82	98.30
Total	458.82	456.88

Following initiatives have been taken under eCourts 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. Case Information Software (CIS) is based on Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. 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.
- iii. 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 21.99 crore cases and more than 20.10 crore orders / judgments (as on 02.01.2023). Open APIs have been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.
- 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 1.50 cr. downloads till 31st October 2022) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022). JustIS mobile app is now available in iOS as well.
- v. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.40 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 32 lakhs (32,62,303) cases online fine of more than Rs. 347.86 crore has been realised till 02.01.2023.
- vi. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 3,79,954 hearings (till 24.12.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (76,62,243 cases and Subordinate Courts 1,68,47,529 cases) have conducted 2.45 crore virtual hearings till 24.12.2022. 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. A sum of Rs. 7.60 crore has been released for procurement of 1732 Document Visualizers.

- vii. 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 31.12.2022.
- viii. 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 31.12.2022.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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.
- xi. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 39 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 25 High Courts.
- xii. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address “skill divide”, a manual on eFiling and a Brochure on “How to register for eFiling” has been made available in English, Hindi and 11 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court services with video

tutorials on eFiling. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes 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): The phase II of the project is nearing its completion and DPR for e-Courts Phase III has been finalized and approved by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. Phase III of the e-Courts project mentions a judicial system that is more affordable, accessible, cost-effective, predictable, reliable, and transparent for every individual who seeks justice or is part of the delivery of justice in India. DPR of eCourts Phase III mentions various new features such as Digital and Paperless Courts aimed at bringing court proceedings under a digital format in a court; Online Court focussing on eliminating the presence of litigants or lawyers in the court ; expansion of scope of Virtual Courts beyond adjudication of Traffic Violations ; use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.267 for 03/02/2023 regarding Digitization of Courts. The details of court complex and computerization of courts under eCourts project Phase-II 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	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of 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

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 272**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03rd FEBRUARY, 2023

Leg. II Sec. LD

REMOTE VOTING MACHINE

- 272. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:
- SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:
- SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
- SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) *whether the Election Commission of India (ECI) has developed a prototype multi constituency Remote Electronic Voting Machines (RVM) and proposes to introduce it for the upcoming election in the country and if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *whether the machines have capacity to handle multiple constituencies from one remote booth and if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *whether the ECI had called an all-party meeting to demonstrate and discuss the RVM for domestic migrant voters and solicited views of electorate for changes in legislation, election procedure and voting method;*
- (d) *if so, the details of the views expressed by various political parties in the said meeting and the outcome thereof;*
- (e) *whether the introduction of RVM would increase fake votes and if so, the manner in which the presiding officer will identify the genuinity of votes; and*
- (f) *whether the RVM is also proposed for the use of NRI voters and if so, the details thereof?*

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJITU)**

- (a): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that M/s. Electronic Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) under the guidance of the ECI and the Technical Expert Committee of the ECI has developed a prototype of Multi Constituency Remote Electronic Voting

Machine (RVM). Further, the ECI has informed that they have not proposed to introduce the RVM for the upcoming election in the country.

- (b): The ECI has informed that the machines have capacity to handle multiple constituencies from one remote booth.
- (c) to (d): The ECI has circulated a Concept Note on improving voter participation of domestic migrants using remote voting dated 28th December, 2022 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 16th January, 2023. The ECI has solicited written views/comments of the Political Parties by 28th February, 2023 on various legal, administrative and technological issues as contained in the Concept Note and beyond.
- (e): The ECI has informed that the introduction of RVM would not increase fake votes. The prototype RVM developed by ECIL is a robust and stand-alone system based on the existing EVMs, under the guidance of the Technical Expert Committee. Independently, various statutes viz. the Representation of People Act, 1950 and the Representation of People Act, 1951, the Conduct of Election Rules, etc. and various guidelines and instructions of the ECI will ensure that the confirmation/genuineness of voter identity is verified.
- (f): The ECI has informed that the RVM is not proposed for the use of NRI voters.

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

LOK SABHA

J-I

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 303

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3RD FEBRUARY, 2023

USE OF REGIONAL LANGUAGES IN HIGH COURTS

✓ JS (WKLs)
303. SHRI NATARAJAN P. R. :

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

- a) the details of High Courts in the country which are using regional languages in their proceedings, State-wise;
- b) whether the Government has received any requests /representations from different High Courts for the use of regional languages in their respective High Courts and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- c) whether the Government has held any meeting with the Bar Councils in various States to develop a mechanism to facilitate the people in court proceedings/cases; and
- d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(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. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), 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.

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 clause (2) of Article 348 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 had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals and it was intimated that the Full Court of the Supreme Court after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

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 and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Justice of India conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations decided not to approve the proposal and reiterated the earlier decisions of the Hon'ble Court.

(c) & (d): Under the aegis of the Ministry of Law & Justice, the Bar Council of India has constituted 'Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti' chaired by former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde. The committee is developing a Common Core Vocabulary close to all Indian languages for the purpose of translating legal material into regional languages.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 306
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3RD FEBRUARY, 2023.**

Leg. III Sec. LD

Uniform Civil Code

306. SHRI HIBI EDEN

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

- (a) whether a need for uniform civil code has been felt in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Law Commission has submitted any report to the Government regarding the Uniform Civil Code in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps in the direction of introducing a law/bill to bring uniform civil code in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

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

- (a) to (c) Article 44 of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. In view of the importance of the subject matter, 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 31st August, 2018. The matter may be taken up by the 22nd Law Commission for its consideration.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 330

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03.02.2023

Guidelines for Appointment of Judges in High Courts

330. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) the details of memorandum or guideline for appointing Judges and Chief Justice of High Courts;
- (b) the details of recommendations for appointment of Judges pending before the Government alongwith the details of vacancies expected to arise due to retirement and elevation of judges to Higher Courts, State-wise; and
- (c) whether the Government has sought any advice from the judiciary in this respect and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): Appointment of Judges in various High Courts is governed by Article 217 of the Constitution of India along with the Manual of Procedure governing the appointment of High Court Judges. As per existing Memorandum of Procedure the initiation of proposal for appointment as Chief Justice of a High Court is done by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) consisting of two senior-most puisne judges of the Supreme Court. After receiving the proposal from the SCC, the views of the State Government are obtained. Upon receiving the approval from the Constitutional Authorities, appointment of Chief Justice of High Court is notified.

The initiation of proposal for appointment of High Court Judges is done by the Chief Justice of the High Court in consultation with the High Court Collegium (HCC) consisting of two senior most Judges of the High Court. The views of State Constitutional Authorities on the proposals are also obtained. The Union Minister of Law & Justice considers the recommendations in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The complete material is then forwarded to the Chief Justice of India for his advice. Upon receiving the advice of Supreme Court Collegium and approval from the Constitutional Authorities, appointment of Judge of High Court is notified. Only those recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges in the High Courts.

(b) & (c): As on 01.02.2023, 142 proposals recommended by the High Court Collegiums are at various stages of processing with the Government. Out of these 142 proposals, 4 proposals are pending with the Supreme Court Collegium and 138 proposals are under different stages of processing. A statement showing State-wise details of vacancies expected to arise due to retirement of Supreme Court & High Court Judges in 2023 is placed at Annexure.

Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional 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. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of judges do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in strength of Judges.

Annexure
(As on 31.01.2023)

Statement referred to in part (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 330 regarding "Guidelines for Appointment of Judges in High Courts", showing Court-wise details of vacancies arising due to Judges retiring in 2023.

Sl. No.	No. of Judges retiring in 2023	
A.	Supreme Court of India	8
B.	High Court	
1.	Allahabad	9
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3
3.	Bombay	2
4.	Calcutta	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Delhi	6
7.	Gauhati	3
8.	Gujarat	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1
10.	J&K & Ladakh	1
11.	Jharkhand	-
12.	Karnataka	2
13.	Kerala	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7
15.	Madras	2
16.	Manipur	-
17.	Meghalaya	1
18.	Orissa	4
19.	Patna	2
20.	Punjab & Haryana	9
21.	Rajasthan	3
22.	Sikkim	-
23.	Telangana	3
24.	Tripura	-
25.	Uttarakhand	3
	Total	80

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 334**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 03rd FEBRUARY, 2023

Leg II Sec. LD

ELECTORAL REFORMS

†334. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to bring electoral reforms to improve the existing electoral practices in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to regulate the finances of political parties; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The Government has taken steps, from time to time, to bring electoral reforms to improve the existing electoral practices in the country and recently the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 (49 of 2021) was enacted in order to curb the menace of multiple enrolment of the same person in different places, to expand the voter base and consequently greater participation of eligible voters in the electoral process, to make the statute gender neutral and to streamline the process of conduct of elections with reference to requisitioning of premises for certain purposes. Further, the Electoral reforms are continuous and ongoing process and in order to improve the existing electoral practices in the country, Government after examining the various proposals of the Election Commission of India have been implementing the same through various amendment Acts from time to time.

(c): No Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 336

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03.02.2023

AS(A&A)

Delay in Hearing of Cases in High Courts

✓ †336. **SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there has been delay in trial/hearing of several cases due to insufficient strength of judges in many High courts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of sanctioned strength and vacant posts of judges in High courts of the country alongwith the reasons for non-filling of those vacancies;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the sanctioned strength of judges in the High Courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (b) : The pendency of cases in courts is not only due to shortage of judges in High Courts but also due to various other factors like (i) increase in number of state and central legislations, (ii) accumulation of first appeals, (iii) continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, (iv) appeals against orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, (v) number of revisions/appeals, (vi) frequent adjournments, (vii) indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction, (viii) lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, tracking and bunching of cases for

hearing, (ix) vacation period of Courts, (x) assigning work of administrative nature to the Judges, etc.

As on 01.02.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 1108 Judges in the High Courts, 775 Judges are in position, leaving 333 vacancies of Judges to be filled. At present, 142 proposals are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. Further recommendations from High Court Collegiums are yet to be received in respect of remaining 191 vacancies in High Courts. A statement showing High Court wise vacancy position as on 01.02.2023 is at **Annexure**.

While filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process requiring consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities, vacancies keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. Government is committed to filling up of vacancy expeditiously in time-bound manner.

(c) to (d) : To increase the judge strength of a High Court, the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court as well as the State Government is required since the Chief Justice of that High Court is responsible for day to day administration of the court and the State Government has to provide for infrastructural facilities, salaries of Judges etc. The sanctioned strength of Judges of High Court has increased from 906 in (2014) to 1108 in (2022).

Annexure**(As on 01.02.2023)**

Statement referred to in part (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 336 regarding "Delay in Hearing of Cases in High Courts", showing Court-wise details of sanctioned, working strength and vacancies in the High Courts.

Sl. No.	High Court	Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Vacancies
1.	Allahabad	160	96	64
2.	Andhra Pradesh	37	32	5
3.	Bombay	94	65	29
4.	Calcutta	72	54	18
5.	Chhattisgarh	22	14	8
6.	Delhi	60	45	15
7.	Gauhati	24	23	1
8.	Gujarat	52	26	26
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17	9	8
10.	J&K & Ladakh	17	14	3
11.	Jharkhand	25	20	5
12.	Karnataka	62	51	11
13.	Kerala	47	37	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53	31	22
15.	Madras	75	52	23
16.	Manipur	5	3	2
17.	Meghalaya	4	3	1
18.	Orissa	33	22	11
19.	Patna	53	34	19
20.	Punjab & Haryana	85	66	19
21.	Rajasthan	50	35	15
22.	Sikkim	3	3	0
23.	Telangana	42	32	10
24.	Tripura	5	2	3
25.	Uttarakhand	11	6	5
Total		1108	775	333

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. +339

A2J

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3RD FEBRUARY, 2023

JS (WIKG)

FACILITIES TO RETIRED JUDGES

+339. SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY :

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

- (a) whether retired Chief Justices, Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts of the country are given other facilities apart from pension after retirement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of amount spent on retired Chief Justices and Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts on the said additional facilities during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has prepared or is considering any scheme to provide facilities to retired Judges as is done in the case of senior most retired officers of the Union Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) & (b): There is no provision of post retiral benefits in the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and rules framed thereunder. Post retiral benefits to retired Chief Justices of India and retired Judges of Supreme Court

are granted as per Rule-3B of Supreme Court Judges Rules, 1959. A copy of Rule-3B of Supreme Court Judges Rules, 1959 is at Annexure-I.

(c): As informed by Supreme Court of India, the expenditure on post retiral benefits admissible to the retired Chief Justices and retired Judges of the Supreme Court are met under the Heads "Salaries" and "Office Expenses" and the details of the expenditure on this account are not maintained separately.

(d) & (e): Presently, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 339 FOR ANSWER ON 03.02.2023 REGARDING 'FACILITIES TO RETIRED JUDGES'.

RULE 3B OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES RULES, 1959

3B Post retiral benefits—(1) the following staff shall be deployed with a retired Chief Justice during his lifetime from the establishment of Supreme Court or a High Court with full pay and allowances admissible to regular employees of Supreme Court-

- a) domestic help (equivalent to the level of Junior Court Attendant);
- b) chauffeur (equivalent to the level of Chauffer in the Supreme Court); and
- c) secretarial assistant (equivalent to the level of the Branch Officer in the Supreme Court).

(2) A retired Chief Justice shall be entitled to a security cover round the clock at residence in addition to round the clock personal security guard for a period of five years from the date of retirement.

(3) A retired Judge shall be entitled to a security cover round the clock at residence in addition to round the clock personal security guard for a period of three years from the date of retirement.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in sub rules (2) and (3), if a retired Chief Justice or a retired Judge is already provided with a higher grade security on the basis of threat perception, the higher grade security already provided shall continue.

(5) A retired Chief Justice shall be entitled to a rent free Type-VII accommodation at Delhi (other than the designated official residence) for a period of six months from the date of retirement.

(6) the following staff shall be deployed with a retired Judge during his lifetime from the establishment of Supreme Court or a High Court with full pay and allowances admissible to regular employees of Supreme Court-

- a) domestic help (equivalent to the level of Junior Court Attendant); and
- b) chauffeur (equivalent to the level of Chauffer in the Supreme Court).

(7) A retired Chief Justice or a retired Judge shall be entitled to protocol to extend courtesies at ceremonial lounges at airports.

(8) A retired Chief Justice or a retired Judge shall be entitled to a residential telephone free of cost and reimbursement of telephone call charges of residential telephone or mobile phone or broadband of mobile data or data card not exceeding to Rs.4200/- per month + taxes as applicable.

Provided that reimbursement of telephone call charges shall be made by the Registrar of the Supreme Court of India on furnishing a certificate by the retired Chief Justice or the retired Judge in the form specified by the Registry of the Supreme Court of India.

(9) The post retiral benefits under this rule shall be admissible to the retired Chief Justice or the retired Judges if no such facilities are availed from any High Court or from any other government body where the former Chief Justice or a former Judge has taken up any assignment after retirement.

(4)

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.359
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2023**

Judl. Sec. LA

SETTING UP OF TRIBUNALS

359. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:

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

- (a) the number of tribunals set up in the country under Article 323-A and B of the Constitution, State-wise;
- (b) the number of tribunals set up following legislations or any other method/treaty/agreement, State-wise;
- (c) the number of tribunals presently functioning and those discontinued, State-wise;
- (d) the number of tribunals with vacancies, State-wise; and
- (e) the total expenditure incurred by the Government year-wise over the last five years in operating such tribunals?

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

(a) to (e): As per Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, there are sixteen functional Tribunals, which are administered under respective Acts by different Ministries/Departments/State Governments. Under Article 323A and 323B of the Constitution, the State Governments are also empowered to set up Tribunals for adjudicating disputes in the respective States. The Central Government is not mandated to administer the Tribunals, set up by the State Governments and hence no data on State wise Tribunals and expenses incurred on administering them is maintained by the Central Government.

As per Finance Act, 2017 and the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, thirteen Tribunals have since been discontinued by the Central Government.

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

LOK SABHA

59 (6/RR)

NM

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 370

✓ **TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03RD FEBRUARY, 2023**

Study on Accessibility of Court Complexes to Litigants

370. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to assess the accessibility of court complexes for litigants in terms of approachability through public transport, availability of waiting areas, toilets etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that court complexes are accessible to persons with disabilities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Registry of the Supreme Court of India compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities, as per which 74% of court complexes have separate ladies' toilets and 84% have gents' toilets. The responsibility for the development of infrastructure facilities including accessibility through public transport, provision for waiting areas, toilets etc. rests primarily with the respective State

Governments. The Central Government only supplements the resources of the States in this regard through the CSS for judicial infrastructure.

(c) & (d): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructure facilities for the Judiciary provides for construction of court buildings, residential units, lawyers hall, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants. Funds are released to the States/UTs only when their project proposals mandatorily comply with disable friendly norms/accessibility standards as laid down by CPWD/Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. A certificate to this effect is also asked for from the States as part of the CSS guidelines.

Under the scheme the States have enough liberty to provide for additional facilities including those that could facilitate easy accessibility to the courts.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.374

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03rd FEBRUARY, 2023

Adv. (A & B)
LA

Legal Advice on OBC Quota in Agriculture Universities

374. SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:

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

- (a) whether the Department of Agricultural Research & Education has sought any legal advice from the Ministry of Law and Justice on the implementation of OBC reservation in All India Quota of State Agriculture Universities in line with Supreme court judgement in case of Neil Aurelio Nunes and others vs Union of India; and
- (b) If so, the response of his Ministry thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) & (b) A reference dated 5th August 2022 from the Department of Agricultural Research & Education was received in the Department of Legal Affairs on 30th August 2022, seeking advice as to whether for OBC(NCL) and EWS category, reservation is to be applied across the board including the seats from State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) in the pattern of NEET *vide* public notice dated 30th July 2021 and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notice dated 29th July 2021 and subsequent Hon'ble Supreme Court decision in W.P.(C) No. 961/2021 dated 20th January 2022 in the case of Neil Aurelio Nunes & others vs Union of India & others.

In this regard, the Ld. Solicitor General of India vide Note dated 11th October 2022 has opined that, "The issue of providing reservation to OBC (NCL) and EWS category is a policy decision, which is to be finally settled by the Government and cannot be a subject matter of legal opinion. The prerogative to introduce reservation in AIQ seats vests with the Union Government. Ideally, an appropriate direction/notification may be issued by the concerned authority providing for reservations in the manner the Government deems appropriate to the extent of the AIQ seats."

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 378

NM

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03RD FEBRUARY, 2023

Grants for Infrastructural Development for Judiciary

✓ JSC (GRR)

378. SHRI RAMALINGAM S. :

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 during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the details related to the grants given under Centrally Sponsored scheme for the development of Infrastructure facilities for Judiciary in the States including Tamil Nadu during the last five years, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the subsequent actions taken/being taken by the Government on the proposal of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): As per information made available on Nyaya Vikas portal 02, the details of the projects completed/ongoing under Centrally Sponsored scheme for the development of Infrastructure facilities for Judiciary during the last three years, state-wise is at Annexure-I. The details related to the grants given under Centrally Sponsored scheme for the development of Infrastructure facilities for

Judiciary in the States including Tamil Nadu during the last five years, State/UT-wise is at Annexure-II.

(c): The proposal for setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) was discussed in the conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 30.04.2022, wherein it was resolved not to set up the National Body, and instead it was agreed to form a Committee for Judicial Infrastructure at the State Level in which the Chief Minister of State and Chief Justice of the High Court would be having their nominee and would be working in close coordination.

ANNEXURE-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 378 FOR REPLY ON 03.02.2023.**

Sl. No.	States & Uts	Court Halls Completed			Court Halls Ongoing As on 31.01.2023
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23*	
1	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	3	32	99
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	2
4	Assam	0	0	17	99
5	Bihar	24	31	8	86
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	1
7	Chhattisgarh	18	8	6	25
8	D&N Haveli	0	0	0	0
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	3
10	Delhi	24	0	141	50
11	Goa	0	0	0	28
12	Gujarat	0	0	2	140
13	Haryana	8	14	0	75
14	Himachal Pradesh	0	3	0	14
15	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	46
16	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
17	Karnataka	65	87	51	144
18	Kerala	15	0	18	46
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	34	22	8	412
22	Maharashtra	0	0	0	601
23	Manipur	0	0	0	5
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	30
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	26
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	12
27	Odisha	35	51	0	53
28	Puducherry	7	0	0	0
29	Punjab	7	0	0	72
30	Rajasthan	43	15	6	194
31	Sikkim	0	0	1	0
32	Tamil Nadu	50	8	35	0
33	Telangana	12	12	0	45
34	Tripura	0	10	0	22
35	Uttar Pradesh	0	150	10	289
36	Uttarakhand	0	6	0	70
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	91
TOTAL		343	420	335	2780

As on 31.01.2023

ANNEXURE-II**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 378 FOR REPLY ON 03.02.2023.***(Rs. in lakh)*

Sl. No.	States	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23*	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	1000.00	2000.00	1028.00	0.00	0.00	4028.00
2	Bihar	4290.00	6204.00	8762.00	6572.00	0.00	0.00	25828.00
3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	1968.00	1983.00	784.00	0.00	6000.00	10735.00
4	Goa	0.00	315.00	406.00	380.00	320.00	2500.00	3921.00
5	Gujarat	5000.00	1502.00	1649.00	1350.40	0.00	0.00	9501.40
6	Haryana	1500.00	1191.00	1406.00	2200.00	0.00	0.00	6297.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	408	572	550	0.00	0.00	1530.00
8	Jammu & Kashmir	1000.00	1901.00	1500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4401.00
9	Jharkhand	5000	959	1374	905	600	1250.00	10088.00
10	Karnataka	5000.00	3812.00	4404.00	2972.00	2700.00	8201.00	27089.00
11	Kerala	2500.00	3082.00	1582.00	1300.00	5000.00	0.00	13464.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	5000.00	7942.00	6690.00	4560.00	5500.00	12500.00	42192.00
13	Maharashtra	5000.00	1058.00	6109.00	2311.00	1800.00	10000.00	26278.00
14	Odisha	0.00	2250.00	3569.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5819.00
15	Punjab	5000.00	2647.00	3978.00	1647.60	1650.00	1250.00	16172.60
16	Rajasthan	1734.00	1741.00	6421.00	2990.00	4150.00	7166.00	24202.00
17	Tamilnadu	0.00	609.00	3871.00	1817.00	3566.00	13385.00	23248.00
18	Telangana	0.00	1000.00	565.00	1600.00	0.00	0.00	3165.00
19	Uttarakhand	2500.00	2202.00	2850.00	586.00	8000.00	0.00	16138.00
20	UttarPradesh	7500.00	12806.00	16966.00	11100.00	21900.00	0.00	70272.00
21	West Bengal	1734.00	3522.00	6143.00	3107.00	0.00	0.00	14506.00
	Total	52758.00	58119.00	82800.00	47760.00	55186.00	62252.00	358875.00
North-Eastern States								
1	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	269.00	500.00	409.00	3238.00	4416.00
2	Assam	2000.00	3209.00	3654.00	2500.00	2740.00	0.00	14103.00
3	Manipur	0.00	887.00	966.00	500.00	0.00	1285.25	3638.25
4	Meghalaya	863.00	1482.00	2285.00	771.00	2802.00	5000.00	13203.00
5	Mizoram	2000.00	594.00	524.00	500.00	950.00	0.00	4568.00
6	Nagaland	2000.00	321.00	342.00	500.00	1327.00	0.00	4490.00
7	Sikkim	0.00	257.00	278.00	295.00	0.00	0.00	830.00
8	Triprura	0.00	0.00	1882.00	774.00	0.00	0.00	2656.00
	Total	6863	6750	10200	6340	8228	9523.25	47904.25
Union Territories								
1	A&N Islands	0.00	131.00	16.79	35.36	0.84	0.00	183.99
2	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	D&N 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	2500.00	0.00	4852.21	4500.00	3000.00	0.00	14852.21
6	Jammu & Kashmir				664.64	2000.00	1260.00	3924.64

7	Ladakh				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	331.00	0.00	0.00	955.25	1286.25
	Total	2500	131	5200	5200	5000.838	2215.25	20247.09
	Grant Total	62121.00	65000.00	98200.00	59300.00	68414.84	73990.50	427026.34

*As on 01.02.2023

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 379
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03rd FEBRUARY, 2023

Impl. Sec. LA **Use of Regional Language in Law Courses**

379. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) the details of the feedback received during consultations with the vice-chancellors of the various National Law Universities on UGC's proposal to offer law courses in regional languages;
- (b) whether given that National and International law firms are the foremost recruiters of law graduates from the National Law Universities, the Government has considered its likely impact on the recruitment and career opportunities for students and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether these National Law Universities and other Universities that have been consulted on this proposal have sufficient library and educational resources in regional languages and faculty with proficiency to teach law subjects in regional languages and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) No such consultation with Vice-Chancellors of National Law Universities has been carried out by this Department.
- (b) National and International Law Firms recruit law graduates of National Law Universities (NLUs) on the basis of merits and marks and follow their own criteria/standards for recruiting of law graduates and the Government has no role in such recruitment.
- (c) NLUs are creation of State Legislations and enjoy considerable autonomy in the matters of administration and recruitment of faculty members. The Central Government has no role in such matters. Similarly, proficiency of faculties in regional languages for imparting legal education and enrichment of library of NLUs with regional language resources are matters mainly concerned with respective NLUs and not the Central Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 405
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3rd FEBRUARY, 2023

A25

Legal Aid Programmes

✓ JS(wk6)
405. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

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

- (a) the details of legal aid programmes being implemented by the Government at present;
- (b) the details of the funds allocated/utilised for the purpose during the last three years, State/UT-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the total number of persons belonging to various sections of the society who were provided free legal services during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure easy availability of legal services to the poorest amongst the poor throughout the country; and
- (e) the further steps taken by the Government to establish a nation-wide network for providing free legal services to the weaker sections of the society?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) to (c) 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. Funds under Grant-in-Aid are allocated and sanctioned to NALSA by the Government on yearly basis. The details of funds allocated by NALSA to Legal Services Authorities for organizing legal aid programmes during last three years are at Annexure -- A. The details regarding number of persons who were provided free legal services during last three years are at Annexure -- B.

(d) and (e) To enable 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" has been launched with aim 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; facilitate disposal of 15 year old pending cases at the district level through its Nyaya Mitra 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 supports its intervention and to achieve easy accessibility of legal services to the poor and weakest sections of the society.

Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 405 for answering on 03.02.2023 raised by Shri Achyutananda Samanta, MP - Legal Aid Programme

Statement showing details of funds allocated (in Rupees) to Legal Services Authorities for organizing legal aid programmes during last three years				
S.No.	Name of State/UT Authority	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	2,00,00,000	3,40,00,000	5,00,00,000
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2,00,00,000	1,00,00,000	1,40,00,000
4	Assam	3,00,00,000	3,70,00,000	6,40,00,000
5	Bihar	4,50,00,000	3,70,00,000	7,60,00,000
6	Chandigarh	1,00,00,000	80,00,000	55,00,000
7	Chhattisgarh	6,00,00,000	3,95,00,000	5,25,00,000
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	2,50,000	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	2,50,000	0
10	Delhi	8,00,00,000	5,00,00,000	9,30,00,000
11	Goa	0	50,00,000	15,00,000
12	Gujarat	3,50,00,000	3,45,00,000	5,75,00,000
13	Haryana	9,00,00,000	4,50,00,000	6,50,00,000
14	Himachal Pradesh	4,00,00,000	1,85,00,000	2,45,00,000
15	Jammu & Kashmir	6,00,00,000	3,50,00,000	4,65,00,000
16	Jharkhand	4,00,00,000	4,00,00,000	7,35,00,000
17	Karnataka	7,00,00,000	6,25,00,000	7,50,00,000
18	Kerala	11,00,00,000	5,25,00,000	9,90,00,000
19	Ladakh	0	0	65,00,000
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	4,50,00,000	3,00,00,000	5,00,00,000
22	Maharashtra	6,00,00,000	6,25,00,000	8,25,00,000
23	Manipur	4,00,00,000	1,00,00,000	1,05,00,000
24	Meghalaya	1,00,00,000	50,00,000	50,00,000
25	Mizoram	2,50,00,000	50,00,000	1,15,00,000
26	Nagaland	2,50,00,000	50,00,000	1,15,00,000
27	Odisha	6,00,00,000	3,25,00,000	4,25,00,000
28	Puducherry	0	10,00,000	20,00,000
29	Punjab	10,00,00,000	3,25,00,000	6,40,00,000
30	Rajasthan	6,50,00,000	4,55,00,000	7,00,00,000
31	Sikkim	2,50,00,000	50,00,000	65,00,000
32	Tamil Nadu	5,00,00,000	4,20,00,000	6,00,00,000
33	Telangana	3,50,00,000	3,50,00,000	4,10,00,000
34	Tripura	3,00,00,000	2,80,00,000	2,65,00,000
35	Uttar Pradesh	3,00,00,000	6,50,00,000	6,00,00,000
36	Uttarakhand	2,00,00,000	2,50,00,000	2,55,00,000
37	West Bengal	9,00,00,000	5,20,00,000	7,00,00,000
38	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	0	1,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
	TOTAL	1,42,00,00,000	1,00,00,00,000	1,45,30,00,000

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 405 for answering on 03.02.2023 raised by Shri Achyutananda Samanta, MP - Legal Aid Programme

Statement showing details regarding number of persons who were provided free legal services during last three years				
S. No.	Name of State/UT Authority	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	43	65	79
2	Andhra Pradesh	4,396	4,474	6,371
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3,932	1,984	2,657
4	Assam	8,002	10,027	1,10,254
5	Bihar	60,139	38,653	16,89,158
6	Chandigarh	2,261	1,242	1,781
7	Chhattisgarh	81,713	26,814	42,394
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	28	10	27
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	17
10	Delhi	79,458	82,131	79,055
11	Goa	3,006	875	1,101
12	Gujarat	26,887	8,302	21,953
13	Haryana	19,019	11,059	23,260
14	Himachal Pradesh	4,368	2,083	4,806
15	Jammu & Kashmir	4,961	7,675	8,870
16	Jharkhand	30,530	1,31,691	6,49,481
17	Karnataka	1,45,015	23,211	32,794
18	Kerala	71,058	11,242	16,895
19	Ladakh	0	93	2,408
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2,68,351	87,843	33,43,800
22	Maharashtra	24,060	12,278	22,595
23	Manipur	18,257	56,635	22,651
24	Meghalaya	2,914	2,131	2,346
25	Mizoram	9,473	1,670	3,201
26	Nagaland	3,691	4,231	7,750
27	Odisha	8,025	6,029	8,849
28	Puducherry	1,295	309	884
29	Punjab	1,27,829	27,096	36,404
30	Rajasthan	32,413	12,274	13,833
31	Sikkim	928	702	986
32	Tamil Nadu	35,552	26,491	38,181
33	Telangana	15,145	3,488	6,712
34	Tripura	13,595	2,156	2,671
35	Uttar Pradesh	60,819	3,545	1,32,629
36	Uttarakhand	3,018	2,343	3,775
37	West Bengal	41,956	20,906	29,015
	Total	12,12,137	6,31,758	63,69,643

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †411
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03RD FEBRUARY, 2023**

EXPENSES ON PENDING CASES

✓ JS (GRR)
†411. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending for more than 20 years in the courts across the country and the reasons for such long pendency of court cases; and
(b) whether any study regarding expenses on long pending court cases has been conducted and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJI)

(a): The number of cases pending for more than 20 years in the Supreme Court of India, as per the data retrieved from the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) as on 27.01.2023 is 208 cases. In case of the High Courts there are 2,94,547 cases and 6,71,543 cases in the District and Subordinate Courts that are pending for more than 20 years as per data available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on 01.02.2023.

Further, so far as the reasons for such long pendency of court cases is concerned, the Supreme Court has stated that there is no conspicuous reason which can be depicted for long pendency of cases. Pendency of court cases is a multi-faceted problem. Due to the increase in the population of the country and awareness of their rights amongst the public, filing of fresh cases is also increasing with leaps and bounds year after year. There

are several reasons for large pendency of cases in the courts which, inter-alia, include paucity of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing, 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. In case of pendency of criminal cases, the Criminal Justice System functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Delay in providing assistance by allied agencies also entails delay in disposal of cases.

(b): The disposal of pending cases in courts lies exclusively within the domain of the judiciary. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter. Therefore, no such study regarding expenses on long pending cases has been conducted.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 413

ANSWERED ON 03/02/2023

Vacancies in Allahabad High Court

✓ AS (ALA)

413. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

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

- (a) whether Allahabad High Court has top ranking in having an all time high vacancies and shortage of judges in the country;
- (b) if so, the time by which the vacancies of all judges of Supreme Court and High Courts in the country are likely be on full strength; and
- (c) the reason behind continuously having 30 percent monthly average vacancies of judges in the High Courts out of total 1108 sanctioned strengths thereof and action taken by Government thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c) : Allahabad High Court, is the biggest High Court in terms of sanctioned strength of Judges and also has highest working strength, among all High Courts. As on 01.02.2023, the Allahabad High Court has a sanctioned strength of 160 judges, against which 96 judges are working, leaving 64 vacancies.

While 27 proposals recommended by High Court Collegium of Allahabad High Court for appointment of Judges are under various stages of processing, the recommendation in respect of 37 vacancies is yet to be received from the Allahabad High Court Collegium.

Judges in the High Courts are appointed 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 of vacancy of a High Court Judge six months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. However, this timeline is often not adhered to by the High Courts.

In the year 2022, 3 judges were appointed in the Supreme Court and 165 judges were appointed in the High Courts.

In the case of Supreme Court, as on 01.02.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, 27 Judges are working and recommendation for appointment of 7 judges has been received from the Supreme Court Collegium recently.

As on 01.02.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 1108 judges in the High Courts, 775 judges are working and 333 post of Judges are vacant in the High Courts. Against these vacancies 142 proposals recommended by the High Court Collegiums (HCC) are at various stages of processing and recommendations against 191 vacancies in the High Courts are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums. As per the MoP, proposal for appointment of a judge in the High Court is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Courts who is required to make recommendation as early as possible but at least 6 months before the date of occurrence of the vacancy.

While filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process requiring consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities, vacancies keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. Government is committed to filling up of vacancy expeditiously in time-bound manner.

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

✓ JS(PPP)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 440
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3rd FEBRUARY, 2023

Guidelines for Virtual Hearings in Courts

440. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any operational guidelines or standards for virtual hearings across different courts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of cases disposed in various courts of the country through digital/virtual mode, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the reaction of the people of the country/lawyers/judicial officials with regard to digital hearing of cases and if so, the details and outcomes thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to develop online dispute resolution capabilities in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the amount of funds sanctioned and released for the development of digital infrastructure for strengthening virtual hearings of the courts, State-wise?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(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. To bring about uniformity and standardization in the conduct of VC, an overarching order (Suo Motu Writ (Civil) No. 5/2020) 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. The main features of the guidelines are:

- (i) Video conferencing facilities may be used at all stages of judicial proceedings and proceedings conducted by the Court.
- (ii) All proceedings conducted in a Court by way of video conferencing shall be judicial proceedings and all the courtesies and protocols applicable to a physical Court shall apply to these virtual proceedings.
- (iii) All relevant statutory provisions applicable to judicial proceedings shall apply to proceedings conducted by video conferencing.
- (iv) There shall be no unauthorized recording of the proceedings by any person or entity.
- (v) The required person shall provide identity proof as recognized by the Government of India/State Government/Union Territory.
- (vi) There shall be a Coordinator both at the Court Point and at the Remote Point from which any Required Person is to be examined or heard.
- (vii) Any party to the proceeding or witness, save and except where proceedings are initiated at the instance of the Court, may move a request for video conferencing.

- (viii) Any proposal to move a request to for video conferencing should first be discussed with the other party or parties to the proceeding, except where it is not possible or inappropriate, for example in cases such as urgent applications.
 - (ix) On receipt of request of video conferencing and upon hearing all concerned persons, the Court will pass an appropriate order after ascertaining that the application is not filed with an intention to impede a fair trial or to delay the proceedings.
 - (x) While allowing a request for video conferencing, the Court may also fix the schedule for convening the video conferencing.
 - (xi) Costs, if directed to be paid, shall be deposited within the prescribed time, commencing from the date on which the order convening proceedings through video conferencing is received.
- (c): Number of cases dealt with by High Courts and District Courts through video conferencing is attached at Annexure – I.
- (d): No, Sir. No evaluation exercise has been made in this regard. However, Virtual hearing of the cases by the Courts has helped the entire legal ecosystem including the litigants and lawyers particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic as it enables them to appear before the court from any location of their choice thus leading to considerable saving of time, money and physical efforts.
- (e): The concept of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) in India is developing. The NITI Aayog had constituted a high-level committee in June 2020 under the chairmanship of Justice A K Sikri, retired Judge, Supreme Court of India to develop an action plan for mainstreaming ODR, to create an effective implementation framework of ODR and to promote access to justice through ODR. The report of the committee released on 29.11.2021 recommends measures at three levels in adopting ODR framework in India:

- (i) Structural level- increase digital literacy, improve access to digital infrastructure and train professionals.
- (ii) Behavioural level- adoption of ODR to address disputes involving Government departments and ministries.
- (iii) Regulatory level- a soft-touch approach to ODR platforms and services.

The report stresses on strengthening the existing legislative framework for ODR and offers a phased implementation framework. It has been proposed to provide for provisions enabling online mediation under the Mediation Bill, 2021 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20.12.2021. The online mediation is to be conducted in accordance with the process specified by the Mediation Council of India. The Bill was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, which has since submitted its report and under consideration by the Government of India.

(f): 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, 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. 440 for 03/02/2023 regarding Guidelines for Virtual Hearings in Courts. The High Court and District Court wise details of the cases disposed by different courts through video conferencing are as under:

Number of cases dealt with (virtual hearings) on video conferencing in High Courts and District Courts during the pandemic as on 30 November 2022				
S.No.	High Court	High Court	District Court	Total
1	Allahabad	241335	3877965	4119300
2	Andhra Pradesh	380252	1412298	1792550
3	Bombay	37535	69857	107392
4	Calcutta	137868	80646	218514
5	Chhattisgarh	103054	39950	143004
6	Delhi	317729	3297030	3614759
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	2291	8128	10419
8	Gauhati - Assam	266154	322269	588423
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	3963	13268	17231
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	930	650	1580
11	Gujarat	388928	191558	580486
12	Himachal Pradesh	183904	95523	279427
13	Common High Court for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	257659	452673	710332
14	Jharkhand	218227	637012	855239
15	Karnataka	1086570	119946	1206516
16	Kerala	159316	531438	690754
17	Madhya Pradesh	667410	763500	1430910
18	Madras	1424315	336752	1761067
19	Manipur	38695	15288	53983
20	Meghalaya	2747	24282	27029
21	Orissa	282560	242717	525277
22	Patna	266756	2054005	2320761
23	Punjab and Haryana	581047	1829482	2410529
24	Rajasthan	229014	178520	407534
25	Sikkim	477	9071	9548
26	Telangana	299031	190327	489358
27	Tripura	10576	12070	22646
28	Uttarakhand	73900	41295	115195
	Total	7662243	16847520	24509763

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 445
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2023**

NM

✓ JS (GRR)

CASES PENDING IN COURTS

- 445. MS. CHANDRANI MURMU:**
- SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:**
- SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:**
- SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:**
- SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:**
- SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:**
- SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:**
- SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:**
- SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY:**
- SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:**
- SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether a number of cases including civil and criminal are pending in SC, HCs and Lower Courts with some dating back to 1970s, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, court/case and State/UT-wise;**
- (b) whether pendency of cases in the said courts have exponentially increased during the last three years, if so, the details thereof, court and State-wise;**
- (c) the remedial measures taken in this regard;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up special courts/Tribunals and amend the Civil Procedure Act, 1908 to ensure speedy disposal of matters, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) the details of measures taken/to be taken to reduce the pendency of cases and to ensure faster and timely disposal of cases across different levels of judiciary functioning with optimum capacity and the progress made in this respect?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): As per data retrieved from the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), there are no pending cases in Supreme Court of India for more than 42 years. In

case of the High Courts and the District and Subordinate Courts, there are 3642 and 2979 pending cases respectively, dating back to period 1970-79 as per the data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on 01.02.2023. The detailed statement, showing year-wise number of pending cases since 1970s (1970-1979) in concerned High Courts and State/UT is at *Annexure-I & II* respectively.

(b): On an average, based on the data available with the Department, it is stated that the pendency of cases in the various courts of the country have increased in the last three years i.e. 2020, 2021 and 2022. The detailed statement, as provided by the Supreme Court of India, showing the pendency of cases during the last three years in the Supreme Court, various High Courts and State-wise District & Subordinate Courts is at *Annexure-III, IV and V*.

(c): In so far as the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is concerned, consistent efforts are being made to list maximum number of cases as far as possible. During the COVID-19 pandemic hearing of cases was done through video conferencing mode. The Supreme Court had 3,79,954 hearing through video conferencing since the lockdown upto 24.12.2022. In furtherance of reducing pendency, it was directed to list 10 Transfer Petitions and 10 Bail Matters before each Hon'ble Court on all the five days of the week. Besides this in order to accelerate the listing of fresh as well as other miscellaneous matter, Tuesday of the week has also been fixed for listing such matters. In order to clear the backlog of pending fresh cases, miscellaneous weeks are being declared from time to time so that maximum number of cases can be listed. Special Benches have also been constituted to dispose of old cases relating to Compensation, Direct & Indirect taxes, service and Criminal Cases. On Regular hearing days, old regular hearing matters are being listed before these courts. Multi-pronged endeavors are being launched to reduce pendency of cases in the near future. Similarly, efforts are on in the High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts to reduce pendency at their levels.

(d): In order to reduce pendency and ensure speedy disposal of matters, 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.

In order to strengthen the judicial system in States, Fast Track Courts have been established for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.12.2022, 848 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, 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. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20, Rs. 160 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 and Rs. 134.557 crore has been released during the financial year 2021-22 for the scheme Rs. 186.93 crore has been released during current FY upto December, 2022. 768 FTSC are functional including 418 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,37,000 cases as on 31.12.2022.

(e) Pendency of court cases is a multi-faceted problem. Due to the increase in the population of the country and awareness of their rights amongst the public, filing of fresh cases is also increasing with leaps and bounds year after year. There are several reasons for large pendency of cases in the courts which, inter-alia, include paucity of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing, 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. In case of pendency of criminal cases, the Criminal Justice System functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Delay in providing assistance by allied agencies also entails delay in disposal of cases.

ANNEXURE-I

Detailed Statement showing year-wise number of pending cases since 1970s (1970-1979) in various High Courts

S.No	Name of the High Court	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	Total
1	Allahabad	1	4	2	5	6	11	44	110	212	345	740
2	Rajasthan											0
3	Bombay	2		1	1		5	2			1	12
4	Madras	2	5	7	7	7	7	1	2	11	17	66
5	Punjab and Haryana											0
6	Madhya Pradesh			2								2
7	Karnataka											0
8	Telangana							1	3	3	8	15
9	Andhra Pradesh							1		2	7	10
10	Patna	1	3	3	9	13	37	57	30	149	92	394
11	Calcutta	108	151	124	249	220	222	288	343	313	382	2400
12	Kerala				1						1	2
13	Gujarat											0
14	Orissa											0
15	Delhi											0
16	Chhattisgarh											0
17	Himachal Pradesh											0
18	Jharkhand											0
19	Gauhati											0
20	Uttarakhand											0
21	Jammu and Kashmir										1	1
22	Manipur											0
23	Tripura											0
24	Meghalaya											0
25	Sikkim											0
	Total	114	163	139	272	246	282	394	488	690	854	3642

Source:-National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

ANNEXURE-II

Detailed Statement showing year-wise number of pending cases since 1970s (1970-1979) in District and Subordinate Courts of various States/UTs

Sl.No	States/Uts	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh											0
2	Andman&Nicobar											0
3	Assam								1		1	2
4	Auranchal Pradesh											0
5	Bihar	20	28	22	36	55	26	39	38	73	80	417
6	Chandigarh											0
7	Chattisgarh									1	2	3
8	Delhi			1	1	2		1				5
9	Diu and Daman											0
10	Goa	1	1	1	2	2		4	2	5	4	22
11	Gujarat			1			1	1				3
12	Haryana										1	1
13	Himachal pradesh											0
14	Jammu& Kashmir				1	1						2
15	Jharkhand	1	2	5	1	2	1	1	1	6	3	23
16	Karnataka						2			3	1	6
17	Kerala				1		1	1			3	6
18	Madhya Pradesh	5	1							1	2	9
19	Maharshtra		11	10	18	13	15	16	17	27	28	155
20	Manipur											0
21	Meghalya								1	1	1	3
22	Mizoram											0
23	Nagaland											0
24	Orissa		2		1		2	2	1	5	2	15
25	Puducherry											0
26	Punjab											0
27	Rajasthan	2	4	1	2	3	2	3	5	3	4	29
28	Sikkim											0
29	Silvasa											0
30	Tamil Nadu			1		2		1	2	4	2	12
31	Telangana									1	1	2
32	Tripura											0
33	U.T of lakshadweep											0
34	Uttar Pradesh	80	98	131	134	147	171	205	267	340	390	1963
35	Uttrakhand											0
36	West Bengal	19	11	15	23	20	34	35	37	50	57	301
Total		128	158	188	220	247	255	309	372	520	582	2979

Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

ANNEXURE-III**Pendency of cases during the last three years in the Supreme Court**

Year	No. of Pending Cases in Supreme Court
2020	65086
2021	70239
2022	69768

Source:- Supreme Court of India

ANNEXURE-IV**Pendency of cases during the last three years in various High Courts**

S.No.	Name of the High Court	2020	2021	2022 (till 30.09.2022)
1	Allahabad	993031	1031587	1030538
2	Andhra Pradesh	205556	223783	240569
3	Telangana	223064	240029	236549
4	Bombay	325332	353143	371787
5	Calcutta	237363	234909	223636
6	Chhattisgarh	75836	81001	88089
7	Delhi	91279	101685	106110
8	Gujarat	143167	155006	159711
9	Gauhati	40998	44356	46624
10	Meghalaya	1064	1201	89689
11	Manipur	2849	3218	47323
12	Tripura	2343	1736	86291
13	Himachal Pradesh	74158	82354	258493
14	Jammu & Kashmir	59162	48318	237641
15	Jharkhand	88435	88364	420758
16	Karnataka	249733	246413	241448
17	Kerala	212515	226494	3121
18	Madhya Pradesh	383784	408527	908
19	Madras	269417	259980	170187
20	Orissa	172900	196483	212203
21	Patna	179462	226071	444370
22	Punjab & Haryana	378856	451985	590071
23	Rajasthan	518499	560062	164
24	Sikkim	239	179	1695
25	Uttarakhand	37923	40963	43309
	Total	4966965	5307847	5351284

Source:- Supreme Court of India

ANNEXURE-V**State-wise Pendency of cases during the last three years in District & Subordinate Courts**

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	2019	2020	2021	2022 (till 30.09.2022)
1	Uttar Pradesh	7807863	8781104	9966606	10641073
2	Andhra Pradesh	567096	649157	785379	827790
3	Telangana	580193	691646	790360	822658
4	Maharashtra	3821487	4504573	4800895	4919254
5	Goa	49049	58967	59414	56082
6	Diu and Daman & Silvassa	5344	6281	6523	2857
7	Silvassa				3784
8	West Bengal	2048697	2170788	2384020	2481419
9	Andaman & Nicobar	9795	9839	9321	9163
10	Chhatisgarh	285025	331849	381984	403266
11	Delhi	882366	1018642	1231373	1440149
12	Gujrat	1595813	1917992	1952262	1808627
13	Assam	301427	360753	415024	478356
14	Nagaland	3361	4206	4569	4605
15	Meghalaya	13673	15830	16010	5843
16	Manipur	6516	6957	8183	16029
17	Tripura	27491	44654	43096	504912
18	Mizoram	6589	6338	6304	258228
19	Arunachal Pradesh	10658	12651	14318	499687
20	Himachal Pradesh	293706	420891	464892	1878045
21	Jammu & Kashmir	172769	198771	216245	1992343
22	Jharkhand	365642	427130	490905	539
23	Karnataka	1531008	1709220	1780802	1957175
24	Kerala	1614277	2089289	2089147	7654
25	U.T. Of Lakshadweep	397	453	470	15576
26	Madhya Pradesh	1455435	1727293	1920613	1383865
27	Tamil Nadu	1137684	1263758	1331944	32216
28	Puducherry	30094	33470	32998	1846520
29	Orissa	1433522	1592250	1789677	3434130
30	Bihar	2714344	3016743	3276696	952777
31	Punjab	642327	843791	945609	1445775
32	Haryana	853375	1101330	1313881	88805
33	Chandigarh	62955	70633	72384	2248201
34	Rajasthan	1769823	1947688	2162774	1645
35	Sikkim	1142	1455	1616	38986
36	Uttarkhand	195281	249350	287204	318743
	Total	32296224	37285742	41053498	42826777

Source:- Supreme Court of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

J-II

JS (PPP)

STARRED QUESTION NO.*133

✓ TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th February, 2023

Pending Cases of POCSO

*133. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of increasing number of pending cases related to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) in Fast Track Courts reported during last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to address the issue;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of increasing number of total Cases For Trial (CFT) during 2017-22;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is making any special provisions or planning to expand Fast Track Courts in the country to deal with POCSO cases; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(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. *133 FOR THE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES OF POCSO'

(a) to (e): The Government of India, taking cognizance of the seriousness and sensitivity of the increasing number of pending cases of rape and POCSO Act brought the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018 which amended the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, 1872, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Protection of Children From Sexual Offences, Act, 2012. The Amendment Act increased the minimum punishment for rape to 10 years of imprisonment, extendable to life imprisonment. In cases of rape of girl under 12 years of age, provision of death penalty was introduced. A time limit of 2 months each for investigation and trial was prescribed vide Sections 173(1A) and Section 309 of Cr PC. To ensure time bound disposal of cases, as mandated in the Act and in compliance of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Moto 1/2019 dated 25.7.2019, the Government started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) in October, 2019 for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts in 31 States/UTs. As per the guidelines of the FTSC scheme each court is to dispose of 165 cases per year. The scheme provided for financial assistance to the states in the CSS pattern for salary payment to 1 Judicial officer and 7 Court staff members for each court. Further provision has also been made for a flexi grant to cover office expenses, rental charges etc where needed. To facilitate quick operationalization, liberty has been given for engaging retired judicial officers and other court staff on contract basis. Initially, the Scheme was for 1 year which was further continued

up to 31.03.2023. An amount of Rs. 140 Cr. in FY 2019-20, Rs.160.00 Cr in FY 2020-21, Rs.134.56 Cr., in FY 2021-22 and Rs.186.93 Cr. during the current financial year (up to 31/1/2023) have been released to various States/UTs for functioning of these courts.

As of 31.12.2022, a total of 768 FTSCs including 418 exclusive POCSO Courts are operational in 28 States/UTs which have disposed of more than 1,37,000 cases while 1,98,208 cases were pending. State-wise status of FTSCs including disposal and pendency since, inception of the scheme is placed at **Annexure**. For robust implementation of the scheme, the Department of Justice has been regularly conducting review meetings by the way of Video Conferencing with the Law Secretaries of the States/UTs and Registrar Generals of High Courts and Nodal Officers. In addition, D.O. Letters dated 12.12.2019, 16.03.2020, 16.07.2020, 16.02.2021, 03.08.2021 & 02.09.2022 from Minister of Law & Justice addressed to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts have been issued requesting for early operationalization of earmarked FTSCs and for expediting the disposal of pending cases.

In view of large number of pending cases, the Department of Justice has initiated action for extension of the scheme for three more years i.e., up to 2026.

Status of FTSC - Number of cases disposed and pending during the last three years

S. NO.	State/UT	2020			2021			2022		
		No of functional FTSCs (31.12.2020)	Cases pending (31.12.2020)	Cases Disposed during the Year	No of functional FTSCs (31.12.2021)	Cases pending (31.12.2021)	Cases Disposed during the Year	No of functional FTSCs (31.12.2022)	Cases pending (31.12.2022)	Cases Disposed during the Year
1	Andhra Pr	8	3980	127	10	5483	296	14	7328	1511
2	Assam	7	1211	36	15	3023	818	17	3881	1861
3	Bihar	45	12132	492	45	14002	2127	45	15587	3610
4	Chandigarh	1	176	2	1	235	19	48	220	97
5	Chhattisgarh	15	2721	162	15	2674	1694	15	2745	1393
6	Delhi	0	0	0	16	4410	195	16	4426	552
7	Gujarat	35	5236	888	35	5632	2485	35	6619	3535
8	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	01	51	26
9	Haryana	16	3334	130	16	4373	1373	16	4103	1875
10	Himachal	3	462	40	6	961	148	6	923	378
11	J&K	0	0	0	4	390	49	4	444	66
12	Jharkhand	20	3401	463	22	5380	1330	22	4384	2303
13	Karnataka	14	2729	268	18	3962	1760	30	5532	3424
14	Kerala	23	4629	257	28	7653	3478	52	7213	6356

15	Madhya Pr	66	11196	3422	67	14139	7944	67	12435	7539
16	Maharashtra	25	5624	1270	34	7445	4489	39	8539	5607
17	Manipur	0	0	0	2	171	19	2	130	60
18	Meghalaya	0	0	0	5	946	71	5	995	156
19	Mizoram	0	0	0	3	40	47	3	36	62
20	Nagaland	0	0	0	1	96	39	1	53	9
21	Odisha	15	6119	240	36	10613	2563	44	11754	4244
22	Punjab	3	440	537	12	2009	964	12	1842	1099
23	Rajasthan	45	7938	1421	45	7581	4775	45	6801	4015
24	Tamil Nadu	14	4230	506	14	4684	1703	14	5127	2664
25	Telangana	19	2864	481	25	5031	2979	34	7544	3498
26	Tripura	3	285	17	3	323	94	3	318	92
27	Uttar Pradesh	218	79468	26318	218	72924	31562	218	78238	8561
28	Uttarakhand	4	668	80	4	763	606	4	940	366
	Total	599	158843	37148	700	184943	73627	768	198208	64959

Note- The scheme of FTSC started in October 2019.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1390**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 2023

Leg. II Sec.

ONE NATION ONE VOTER LIST

1390. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

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

- (a) whether the different voter lists for elections to panchayat, municipal corporation, municipality, Vidhan Sabha, Lok Sabha and other elections create confusion and also raise questions on the credibility of the voter lists, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Law Commission of India has suggested preparing a single voter list for all levels of elections in its 255th report and if so, the progress made in this regard so far;
- (c) whether the Government is considering the implementation of 'One Nation, One Voter list' in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any comment from the Government of Kerala in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the steps proposed to be taken/implemented by the Government for the said electoral reforms in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a), (c) and (e): As per section 13D of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the electoral roll for every parliamentary constituency shall consist of electoral rolls for all the assembly constituencies comprised within that parliamentary constituency and it shall be necessary to prepare or revise separately the electoral roll for both Lok Sabha and the State Assembly Elections as of now. Electoral rolls for conduct of elections to the urban local bodies and panchayati raj institutions are prepared by the respective State Election Commissions (SECs). Presently, various State

Governments and Union territories are using the electoral roll data prepared by the ECI for preparing the electoral roll for local bodies/ panchayat elections. As per article 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats and Municipalities vests in the respective SECs. Further, the electoral reforms are continuous and ongoing process and the Government after considering the various proposals/suggestions, *inter-alia*, one nation one voter list, take appropriate steps in consultation with various stake holders to make election process more accountable and transparent.

(b): Yes sir, the Law Commission of India in its 255th report has endorsed/recommended inclusion of common electoral rolls at elections conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the State Election Commissions (SECs).

(d): No sir.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1406

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023

JS (NWSR)

Gram Nyayalayas

JK

✓ **1406. SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH:
SHRI UPENDRA SINGH RAWAT:**

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

- (a) the present status of establishment of permanent 'Gram Nyayalayas' recommended by the 114th Law Commission, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for the State Governments to establish 'Gram Nyayalayas' and appoint new judicial officers to ensure speedy and easy access to judicial system to the most underprivileged citizens living in rural and scheduled tribal areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to revise the "one time incentive" scheme providing financial assistance to the State Governments for establishment of 'Gram Nyayalayas', if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the tentative details including allocation of resources to the "Gram Nyayalayas" that are scheduled to be set up in the coming three years, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether cases pending in lower courts would be considered in these Nyayalayas, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps being taken to provide speedy justice in rural areas?

ANSWER

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

(a): To provide access to justice to the citizen at their door steps, the Central Government has 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 the respective High

Courts. However, the Act does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory.

The State-wise status of Gram Nyayalayas as on date is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Gram Nyayalayas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas Operationalised	Amount released (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Punjab	9	2	25.20
2.	Kerala	30	30	828.00
3.	Maharashtra	36	23	660.80
4.	Rajasthan	45	45	1240.98
5.	Andhra Pradesh	42	0	436.82
6.	Odisha	23	19	524.40
7.	Jharkhand	6	1	75.60
8.	Karnataka	2	2	25.20
9.	Goa	2	0	25.20
10.	Telangana	55	0	693.00
11.	Ladakh	2	0	0.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	20	0	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	89	89	2456.40
14.	Haryana	2	2	25.20
15.	Uttar Pradesh	113	51	1323.20
Total		476	264	8340.00

(b) & (c): No Sir, no such proposal are under consideration.

(d) As per the scheme, the Central Government provides one-time assistance to States towards non-recurring expenses for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. The Central Government also provides assistance towards recurring expenses for operating these Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya per year for the first three years. However, as per the revised guidelines issued in 2021, Gram Nyayalayas funds will be released only after they have been notified as well as made operational alongwith the appointment of Nyayadhikaris and reported on the Gram Nyayalayas Portal of the Department of Justice.

(e) & (f): The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides for establishment of Gram

Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Panchayats. Gram Nyayalayas are deemed to be a Court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class with civil and criminal jurisdiction as provided in the Schedule to the Act. In terms of Section 9 of the Act, the Nyayadhikari shall periodically visit the villages falling under his jurisdiction and conduct trial or proceedings at any place which he/she considers is in close proximity to the place where the parties ordinarily reside or where the whole or part of the cause of action had arisen, provided that where the Gram Nyayalaya decides to hold mobile court outside its headquarters, it shall give wide publicity as to the date and place where it proposes to hold mobile court. Civil and criminal cases pending before District / Session Courts or courts subordinate to them falling within the jurisdiction of the Gram Nyayalayas can be transferred to Gram Nyayalayas. The Central Government has been encouraging the States to set up more Gram Nyayalayas by providing financial assistance.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1431**

Leg II Q.C. TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 2023

**LINKING OF VOTER ID WITH AADHAAR
1431. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:**

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

- (a) the details of voter IDs linked with Aadhaar since the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 came into force;
- (b) whether the linking of Voter IDs is voluntary and linked after taking consent from voters and can it also be deleted if a voter takes back the consent; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the manner in which the consent is obtained from voters?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, allows Electoral Registration Officers to require the existing or prospective elector to provide the Aadhaar number for the Purpose of establishing identity on a voluntary basis. The Election Commission of India (ECI) vide its instruction dated 4th July, 2022, has launched the programme to collect the Aadhaar number of existing and prospective electors on a voluntary basis from 1st August, 2022 in all States and Union territories. It is voluntary to link Aadhaar with Voter ID and consent is obtained from the elector for Aadhaar authentication in Form 6B. There is no provision for withdrawing the consent.

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

LOK SABHA

J-I

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1450
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

DISPOSAL OF CASES IN HINDI AND REGIONAL LANGUAGES

✓ 1450. SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN:

SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI S. VENKATESAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to allow use of regional languages in High Courts of various States and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the extent to which cooperation from various States is being sought for disposal of cases by using Hindi and other regional languages along with or without English;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared a common legal dictionary for the use of courts in legal system of regional languages;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to prepare more virtual courts in the country for speedy trial of pending cases to reduce its number and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): 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. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), 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.

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 clause (2) of Article 348 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 had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals and it was intimated that the Full Court of the Supreme Court after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

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 and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Justice of India conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations decided not to approve the proposal and reiterated the earlier decisions of the Hon'ble Court.

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Law & Justice, the Bar Council of India has constituted 'Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti' chaired by former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde. The committee is developing a Common Core Vocabulary close to all Indian languages for the purpose of translating legal material into regional languages.

(e): 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 traffic challans. Virtual Court can be administered by a Judge over a virtual electronic platform whose jurisdiction may extend to the entire State and function 24X7. As on 01.12.2022, there are 21 such courts in 17 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, 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. Over 2.40 crore cases (2,40,28,319) have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 32 lakhs (32,62,303) cases online fine of more than Rs. 347 (347.86) crores has been realized till 02.01.2023.

However, 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.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1455

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10.02.2023

AS(LAA)

Committee for Appointment of Judges in Higher Judiciary

- ✓1455. **SHRIMATI MALA ROY:**
- DR. G. RANJITH REDDY:**
- SHRIMATI KAVITHA MALOTHU:**
- DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:**
- SHRI VENKATESH NETHA BORLAKUNTA:**
- PROF. SOUGATA RAY:**
- SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**
- SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:**

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

- a) whether the Government envisages to set up a search cum evaluation Committee for the process of appointment of judges in SC and HCs and to include a Government nominee in the decision making process for short listing of the judges in these courts;
- b) if so, the mechanism proposed for the Committee to be set up and if not, the mechanism being presently followed by the Government to select the judges of SC and HCs;
- c) whether such moves are likely to impinge upon the autonomy of the Collegium of the Apex Court and if so, the details thereof;
- d) whether the said moves of the Government have received criticism across the country;
- e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and

f) the present status of the Memorandum of Procedure for the appointment of Judges in SC and HCs?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (f): 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 Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative.

Hon'ble Supreme Court while hearing WP(C) 13 of 2015 in NJAC matter issued detailed Order on 16-12-2015 on supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) and laid down that Government of India may finalize the Memorandum of Procedure by supplementing it in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The Chief Justice of India will take a decision based on the unanimous view of the Collegium comprising of four senior most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The order stated that they shall take the following factors into consideration such as eligibility criterion, transparency in the appointment process, secretariat, complaint mechanism and miscellaneous matter considered appropriate for ensuring transparency and accountability including interaction with the

recommendees by the Collegium of the Supreme Court, without sacrificing the confidentiality of appointment.

In pursuance of the above orders, the Government of India, after due diligence sent the revised MoP to Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 22.3.2016 and the response of the Supreme Court Collegium on the revised draft MoP was received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The views of the Government in response to the views of the SCC were conveyed to the CJI on 03.08.2016. Subsequent comments of SCC on the views of Government on the draft MoP were received on 13.03.2017.

Thereafter, the Supreme Court in judgment dated 04.07.2017 in Suo-Motu Contempt proceedings against a Judge of Calcutta High Court brought out the system's failure of not providing an appropriate procedure for making assessment of the personality of the contemnor at the time of recommending his name for elevation as High Court Judge inter-alia highlighting the need to revisit the process of selection and appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts. The views of the Government on the relevant points was conveyed to Supreme Court of India vide letter dated 11.07.2017.

A two-judge Bench of Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 28.03.2018 in Criminal Appeal No. 470 of 2018, brought out deficiencies in the system and emphasized the need to improve the process of appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts.

In another case, while hearing a matter involving M/s PLR Projects Pvt Ltd. vs Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. and Ors [Transfer Petition (Civil) no: 2419 of 2019] regarding issue of appointment of High Court Judges, the three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, vide order dated 20.04.2021, laid down additional timelines in respect of the time taken by the Government in processing the proposal for

appointment of Judges of High Courts. However, these timelines are not yet a part of MoP.

The Supreme Court, while hearing another case No. WP(C) 1236 of 2019 on the matter of appointment of retired judges at sittings of High Courts under Article 224A of the Constitution of India, vide its judgment dated 20.04.2021 has laid down fresh criterion for their appointment. After detailed deliberation, Government has submitted its views to the Chief Justice of India on 18.08.2021 to supplement para 24 of existing MoP which provides for the appointment of retired judges at the sitting of High Courts under Article 224A. The issue is still under consideration of the Supreme Court.

While sending the proposal for supplementation of MoP on the criteria fixed in Supreme Court order dated 16.12.2015 in W.P.(C) 13 of 2015 in NJAC matter, Government has made suggestions including the need for a Screening-cum-Evaluation Committee at the Supreme Court and High Court levels to assist the Collegiums of Supreme Court and High Courts, respectively. It was proposed that the Committees may screen and evaluate relevant material on the suitability of the prospective candidates and would act as a facilitator. The decision to make recommendations will continue to be exercised by the respective Collegiums of the Supreme Court and High Courts. However, the Supreme Court did not agree to set up such Committees.

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 and *inter-alia* suggested that the Search-cum-Evaluation Committee in respect of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of High Courts should consist of a representative nominated by Government of India. For appointment of Judges in the High Courts, the

Committee should consist of a representative nominated by Government of India and a representative of State Government(s) under the jurisdiction of High Court as nominated by the Chief Minister(s). The existing MoP stipulates that if the Chief Minister desires to recommend the name of any person, he/she should forward the same for consideration. However, since this has not been put in actual practice, the names recommended by the Chief Minister can also be received by the Search-cum-Evaluation Committee along with the names taken from senior Judges outside the Collegium and eligible candidates taken from the database (Judicial Officers and Advocates) as maintained by the proposed Secretariat. The High Court Collegium may deliberate upon panel of names drawn up by the said Committee and recommend the names of most suitable candidates for appointment as Judges in the Supreme Court, Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts. The Collegium at appropriate level may address the above requirements of drawing up panel of eligible candidates from aforementioned sources and draw up their proceedings by rendering requisite reasons and thereafter send the proposal to the Government with relevant documents. The said Committees will be entrusted to prepare a panel of eligible candidates from which the respective Collegiums will make recommendation.

Government is totally committed to uphold the Constitution, its values and importantly the independence of Judiciary which is an integral feature of the Constitution of India. The finalization of MoP is aimed at making the system of appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts more transparent, fair, representative and accountable.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1460
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th FEBRUARY, 2023

LAP

JS(WRG)
Financial Assistance to Tribal Prisoners for Hiring Lawyers

✓ 1460. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that due to financial crisis, Tribal prisoners are not able to hire any Lawyer for their trial and they remain in Jail custody even after completion of their custodial period;
- (b) if so, the details of such type of prisoners in Jharkhand and other tribal dominated areas;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to provide financial assistance or to provide lawyer to such prisoners;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to release such Tribal prisoners after completion of their custodial period; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) Tribals including Prisoners in custody are entitled to get free legal services irrespective of their income under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 vide clause 12 (a) i.e. a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes and vide clause 12 (g) i.e. Persons 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 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).
- (b) The State-wise statements including Jharkhand and other tribal dominated areas, containing the details of Prisoners including Tribals who were provided with panel advocates under the category of 'in custody' during the current financial year 2022-23 (upto November, 22) is at Annexure- A.
- (c) In addition to above, NALSA has framed a Scheme namely NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015 to ensure access to justice to the Tribal population in India. Besides, NALSA has framed another scheme namely NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme, 2015 to ensure access to basic rights and benefits under the Poverty Alleviation Scheme and Programmes of the Government to economically and socially backward sections of the society including Scheduled Tribes by strengthening legal aid and support at all levels.
- (d) and (e) NALSA has prepared a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the smooth functioning of Under Trial Review Committees (UTRCs) with an aim to ensure that Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs) covered under 14 categories including tribal UTPs get benefit without delay. One of the category identified under the UTRC is UTPs (including tribal UTPs) covered under Section 436A Cr.P.C, wherein UTRC recommend to concerned trial court to take up the matter and consider him/her for release on bail if there are no special reasons to deny bail, with or without sureties.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1460 for answering on 10.02.2023 raised by Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak, MP - Financial Assistance to Tribal Prisoners for Hiring Lawyers

Statement showing number of persons provided panel advocates under the category in Custody under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during April, 2022 to November, 2022.

S.No.	SLSAs	In custody
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13
2	Andhra Pradesh	1294
3	Arunachal Pradesh	662
4	Assam	3580
5	Bihar	3768
6	Chandigarh	399
7	Chhattisgarh	2020
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2
9	Daman & Diu	4
10	Delhi	20139
11	Goa	184
12	Gujarat	2555
13	Haryana	5309
14	Himachal Pradesh	285
15	Jammu & Kashmir	281
16	Jharkhand	2418
17	Karnataka	943
18	Kerala	2730
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	4329
21	Maharashtra	4305
22	Manipur	804
23	Meghalaya	631
24	Mizoram	968
25	Nagaland	75
26	Odisha	490
27	Puducherry	94
28	Punjab	6498
29	Rajasthan	2051
30	Sikkim	276
31	Tamil Nadu	3713
32	Telangana	715
33	Tripura	263
34	Uttar Pradesh	505
35	Uttarakhand	1283
36	West Bengal	7916
37	Ladakh	1
	Total	81503

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1463
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2022

Pre Legislative Consultation Policy

Leg. I Sec.

1463. SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

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

- (a) the total number of Bills introduced and rules notified to date since the inception of Pre Legislative Consultation Policy (PLCP) in 2014, of which the number of Bills and Rules complied with guidelines set in PLCP;
- (b) the total number of Bills introduced and Rules notified to date for prior consultation for a period less than 30 days;
- (c) whether there is a non-compliance of PLCP and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the legislative consultation process?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): Sir, Legislative Department does not record information relating to compliance of Pre-Legislative Consultation. Hence, the question of having list of Bills introduced and Rules notified under the Pre Legislative Consultation Policy by Legislative Department does not arise.

Chapter 9 of the Manual of Parliamentary Procedure in the Government of India provides that the concerned Ministry/ Department has to formulate the legislative proposals in consultation with interested persons and authorities concerned, including holding discussion on the necessity for the proposed legislation and on all matters of substance to be embodied therein.

There is no non compliance of Pre Legislative Consultation Policy as paragraph 11 of the Pre-legislative consultation policy (PLCP) also gives sufficient leeway for the Ministry/ Department to eschew PLCP on the ground that it is not feasible or desirable so to do.

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

LOK SABHA

JS (PPP)

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1467

e-coust

✓ **TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th FEBRUARY, 2023**

Time Limit for Disposal of Cases of Offence against Children and Women

**1467. SHRI CHANDESHWAR PRASAD:
SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT:
SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:**

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

- (a) whether many cases of sexual offences/harassments against children and women are pending in various courts of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to fix any time-limit to ensure speedy/early disposal of cases such as rapes, sexual offences and harassments etc. against women and children;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be enforced;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether in view of the increasing number of courts cases, the Government proposes to take any steps to categorise the cases to be disposed of early or in a fixed time period; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a): As per information made available by High Courts, 3,56,491 cases related to rape and offences under POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, were pending as on 31st December 2022 in various courts of the

country. Details of such cases pending in various courts of the country is given at **Annexure –I**.

(b) to (f): To ensure speedy/early disposal of cases related to sexual offences against women & children, a time limit of 2 months each for investigation and trial is prescribed through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 vide Sections 173(1A) and Section 309 of Cr PC. Though investigation and trial comes under the domain of State Governments and Judiciary, efforts are made to ensure compliance of these provisions through regular review meetings taken by Department of Justice with functionaries of States and High Courts and also through Inter-State Council Secretariat Meetings held on regular basis. Further, in pursuance to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, and the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Moto 1/2019 dated 25.7.2019, Union of India started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in October, 2019 for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) in 31 States/UTs for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. Initially, the Scheme was for 1 year which has been continued up to 31.03.2023. As per information received from the High Courts, 768 FTSCs including 418 exclusive POCSO Courts are operationalized in 28 States/UTs as on 31.12.2022 which have disposed more than 1,37,000 Cases. For FTSCs, Central Government has released an amount of Rs.140 Cr. in FY 2019-20, Rs.160.00 Cr in FY 2020-21, Rs.134.56 Cr., in FY 2021-22 and Rs.186.93 Cr. during the current financial year up to 31/1/2023 to various States/UTs. The details of functional FTSCs, State/UT-wise, is placed at **Annexure-II**.

As per the Scheme of FTSCs, each such Court is expected to dispose 165 cases in a year for which State/UT Governments have been kept informed.

Annexure-I

**Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Number 1467 to be replied
on 10/2/2023**

**Details of cases related to sexual offences of rape and POCSO Act, pending in various
courts of the country (As on 31st December, 2022)**

S.No	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Cases pending as on December -2022
1	Andhra Pradesh	9081
2	A&N Island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	490
4	Assam	10939
5	Bihar	22592
6	Chandigarh	233
7	Chhattisgarh	7637
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	58
9	Delhi	11570
10	Diu & Daman	59
11	Goa	177
12	Gujarat	12043
13	Haryana	6807
14	Himachal Pradesh	1729
15	Jammu & Kashmir	2171
16	Jharkhand	6797
17	Karnataka	8008
18	Kerala	13806
19	Ladakh	3
20	Lakshadweep	44
21	Madhya Pradesh	17115
22	Maharashtra	44741
23	Manipur	130
24	Meghalaya	2305
25	Mizoram	354
26	Nagaland	0
27	Odisha	18791
28	Puducherry	353
29	Punjab	2982
30	Rajasthan	18383
31	Sikkim	15
32	Tamil Nadu	22153
33	Telangana	12587
34	Tripura	757
35	Uttar Pradesh	62010
36	Uttarakhand	2625
37	West Bengal	36946
	Total	356491

**Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Number 1467 to be replied
on 10/2/2023**

Status of Functional FTSCs (As on 31/12/2022)

S.NO.	State/UT	FTSCs including ePOCSO	Exclusive POCSO Courts (Out of Col. 3)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Chhattisgarh	15	11
2	Gujarat	35	24
3	Mizoram	3	1
4	Nagaland	1	0
5	Jharkhand	22	16
6	Madhya Pradesh	67	57
7	Manipur	2	0
8	Haryana	16	12
9	Chandigarh	1	0
10	Rajasthan	45	30
11	Tamil Nadu	14	14
12	Tripura	3	1
13	Uttar Pradesh	218	74
14	Uttarakhand	4	0
15	Delhi	16	11
16	Meghalaya	5	5
17	J&K	4	2
18	Punjab	12	3
19	Himachal P	6	3
20	Telangana	34	0
21	Andhra Pradesh	14	14
22	Bihar	48	48
23	Assam	17	17
24	Maharashtra	39	20
25	Karnataka	30	17
26	Kerala	52	14
27	Odisha	44	23
28	Goa	1	1
	TOTAL	768	418

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †1475
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th FEBRUARY, 2023

e-Court

JS(PPP)

Justice through Digital System in Courts

✓

†1475. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:
SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:

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

- (a) the details of benefits accrued/likely to accrue to the common man in getting timely justice through digital system/technique; and
- (b) the courts in the country including Madhya Pradesh where Additional Solicitor General of India are proposed to be appointed along with the functions they have to perform?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The eCourts project is being implemented under the joint partnership of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the project is under implementation since 2007 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". 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, transparent and provide the common man with timely justice, using the digital system/technique.

The Phase-I (2011-2015) implementation started with a total expenditure of Rs. 639.41 crore. Phase I focused on the nuts and bolts of digitisation - setting up hardware, ensuring internet connectivity, digitising case records, and operationalising the e-Courts platform.

The Phase II of the project started in 2015 with an outlay of Rs. 1670 crores focused on ICT facilitation of judicial services to citizens. Total 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerized till this phase. Phase II focused on providing citizen centric services to litigants and lawyers, including development of an end-to end digitisation system (such as Case Information System), portals that enable people to access information about pendency of cases (National Judicial Data Grid) and systems for digital filing and payments (e-filing and e-payments), which revolutionised the way public accessed the services provided by the judiciary.

In the eCourts Project the Government has taken the following 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 22.09 crore cases and more than 20.43 crore orders / judgments (as on 02.02.2023).

- iii. 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 1.59 cr. downloads till 31st December 2022) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022).
- iv. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.40 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 32 lakhs (32,62,303) cases online fine of more than Rs. 347.86 crore has been realized till 02.01.2023.
- v. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 3,79,954 hearings (till 24.12.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (77,01,697 cases) and Subordinate Courts (1,82,20,040 cases) have conducted 2.59 crore virtual hearings till 31.12.2022.
- vi. 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 31.12.2022.
- vii. 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 31.12.2022.

- viii. To bridge the digital divide, 689 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.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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.
- xi. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 39 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 25 High Courts.
- xii. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address "skill divide", a manual on eFiling and a Brochure on "How to register for eFiling" has been made available in English, Hindi and 11 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court services with video tutorials on eFiling. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes 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.

(b): As per the current position there are 11 posts of Additional Solicitor General before the Supreme Court of India. Also, there are 12 posts of Additional Solicitor General for the various High Courts in the country. For the rest of the High Courts

including High Court of Madhya Pradesh, creation of 13 additional posts of Additional Solicitor General is under the consideration of the Government.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1476

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th FEBURARY, 2023

Notary Cell

Appointment of Central Notary/Notary Public

1476. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:

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

- (a) the criteria adopted for selection of Central Notary/Notary Public for the State Governments along with the powers delegated to them and tenure of the services fixed as per the Notary Act;
- (b) the number of applications received from various States and advocates in connection with the appointment of Notaries during the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Maharashtra;
- (c) the number of appointments made and pending along with their present status during the above period, State-wise and the reasons for pendency; and
- (d) whether the procedure for appointment of Notary Public in the country has been disrupted due to COVID-19 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a):Rule 3 of the Notary Rules 1956 provides for eligibility criteria for appointment as Notary Public that in case of General Category,10 years of experience as Legal Practitioner is required and in case of SC/ST/OBC/Women Category, 7 years of experience as Legal Practitioner is required.

With regard to delegation of power to Notary Public it is stated that Section 3 of Notary Act, 1952 deals with the power to appoint Notaries- The Central Government, for the whole or any part of India, and State Government, for the whole or any part of the State, may appoint as notaries any legal practitioners or other persons who possess such qualifications as may be prescribed.

Tenure of the service fixed as per Notary Rules, 1956 is mentioned in Rule 8 (4), according to this sub-rule- Where the application is allowed, the appropriate Government shall appoint the applicant as a Notary and direct his name to be entered in the Register of Notaries maintained by that Government under section 4 of the Act and issue to him a certificate on payment of prescribed fees authorizing him to practise in the area to which the application relates or in such part thereof as the appropriate Government may specify in the certificate, as a Notary for a period of 5 year from the date on which the certificate is issued to him.

(b) to (d): the number of applications received from the various states during last three years and the current year and number of appointment made and pending is placed at **Annexure-I.**

Yes Sir, the procedure for appointment of Notary Public in the country has been disturbed due to COVID-19, position is mentioned as under:-

2020- No interview Boards were constituted for conducting of interview for any of State/UT in this year.

2021- Interviews were conducted for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

2022- Interviews were conducted for the Union Territory of Puducherry in the month of July, 2022, wherein 128 candidates/ applicants were appointed as Notaries by the Central Government

To promote the vision of Hon'ble PM of digital India and taking into consideration the Covid-19 situation and to facilitate the citizens, the Department of Legal Affairs first time conducted Online interviews for the State of Himachal Pradesh, wherein out of 685 applicants 367 were appointed as Notaries by the Central Government. Thereafter online interviews were also conducted for the state of Gujarat, wherein out of 9198 applicants 1236 were appointed as Notaries by the Central Government.

Current Year (2023)- For the State of Karnataka Document Verifications were held for over 5526 candidates and the process of online interviews is scheduled for the month of February, 2023. The process of inviting applications for the appointment of notaries is already done through online mode.

Annexure-I

S. No.	State Name	Number of Applications Received During Last Three Years and in Current Year				Number of Appointment of Notaries During Last 3 Years
		2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	4	0		
2	Andhra Pradesh	284	3578	18		
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	15	16		
4	Assam	2	406	2		
5	Bihar	16	238	630		
6	Chandigarh	10	76	4		
7	Chhattisgarh	595	2682	1		
8	Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And DIU	3	6	0		
9	Delhi	102	989	40		
10	Gao	1	306	2		
11	Gujarat	5483	3016	20		1236
12	Haryana	291	1218	128		
13	Himachal Pradesh	25	656	4		367
14	Jammu And Kashmir	176	0	4		91
15	Jharkhand	29	552	9		
16	Karnataka	399	4788	61		
17	Kerala	85	2048	18		
18	Ladakh	0	9	0		
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	1		
20	Madhya Pradesh	183	3219	34		
21	Maharashtra	1205	15686	22		
22	Manipur	0	0	1		
23	Meghalaya	0	4	7		
24	Mizoram	0	1	0		
25	Nagaland	1	0	5		
26	Odisha	25	456	14		
27	Puducherry	2	221	1		128
28	Punjab	201	1466	39		
29	Rajasthan	526	4756	64		
30	Tamilnadu	197	10035	37		
31	Telangana	43	1969	13		
32	Tripura	3	30	0		
33	Uttar Pradesh	236	3599	40		
34	Uttarakhand	7	138	5		
35	West Bengal	47	1105	8		
TOTAL		10177	63272	1248	NIL	1822

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

LOK SABHA

NM

JS (NMJR)

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1494
✓ TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

REVIEW OF INDIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

1494. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any policy to review Indian Judicial System for making it more indigenous; and**
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): No Sir, at the present there is no specific policy to review the Indian Judicial System for making it more indigenous. However, in order to make the judicial proceedings and judgements more easily comprehensible through local/indigenous language to the common citizen, efforts have been made for translation of proceedings and judgements from English to other local/regional languages. The use of Hindi was authorized in the proceedings of High Court of Rajasthan (Year 1950), Uttar Pradesh (Year 1969), Madhya Pradesh (Year 1971) and Bihar (Year 1972).

As informed by the Registry of the Supreme Court, Hon'ble Supreme Court passes verdicts in many subject categories out of which verdicts passed in 14 subject categories are being translated into any of the related 14 vernacular languages i.e. Assamese, Bengali, Garo, Hindi, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu through respective High Courts.

Further, SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuwad Software) which is an Artificial Intelligence based software has the ability to translate judicial domain documents from English to Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Malayalam, Bengali, Urdu and vice-versa.

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Bar Council of India has constituted "Bhartiya Bhasa Samiti" chaired by former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde. The Committee is developing a common core vocabulary close to all Indian languages for the purpose of translating legal material into regional languages.

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

LOK SABHA

ARJ

JS(NRG)

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1495

✓ **TO BE ANSWERED ON, FRIDAY, THE 10th February, 2023**

Use of Expertise of Advocates and Law Students under Tele Law

1495. SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to utilize the expertise of advocates and law students in order to extend benefits to tribals and weaker sections of the society under the tele law scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to engage law students who have completed their internship under various Government training programmes in the field of law in order to utilize their talent and experience in expediting justice delivery system;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the alternative scheme of the Government in order to utilize talent and experience of such law interns?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government through its Tele-Law initiative provides pre-litigation advice and consultation to the citizens through a cadre of Panel Lawyers via telephone or video conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centers (CSC) and through Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile Application. So far 914 Panel Lawyers have been on-boarded under Tele-Law. Also, in order to maximize the benefits of

Tele-Law to reach to the vulnerable sections of society, law students in particular and students in general are motivated to volunteer and register as Para legal Volunteers (PLVs) on the Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile App.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) conducts 3-week internship programme for law students during summer and winter period of the year. The objective of the internship programme is that law interns get a comprehensive idea of the working of the Legal Services Institutions and the legal services programmes with regional focus. During this internship the students visit Central jail or Sub Jail and interact with the inmates to find out if they are represented by a counsel and find out the difficulties of inmates, observe the working of the Legal Services Clinics, visit Observation Home/Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Committee/Drug Rehabilitation Centre/District Courts including Magisterial, Sessions and Civil courts and police stations and look at the role of the legal services lawyers in these institutions. The students also attend and participate in Legal Literacy/Legal awareness programmes. On successful completion of the internship a certificate is issued to the law interns.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1498

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10.02.2023

AS(A&A)

Division Benches of Supreme Court

✓ **1498. SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:**

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

- (a) whether the Government intends to implement 229th Report of the Law Commission of India which has recommended the division of the Supreme Court into a Constitution Bench at Delhi and Cassation Benches in four regions at Delhi, Chennai/Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of other proposed measures to be taken by the Government to make justice accessible and available for all?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): 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 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.

: 2 :

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who 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.

To make justice accessible and available for all, the Government, in consultation with the Supreme Court, has been implementing e-Courts Mission Mode Project, under which the following initiatives have been implemented:-

- 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 22.09 crore cases and more than 20.43 crore orders / judgments (as on 02.02.2023).
- iii. 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 1.59 cr. downloads till 31st December 2022) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022).

- iv. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.40 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 32 lakhs (32,62,303) cases online fine of more than Rs. 347.86 crore has been realized till 02.01.2023.
- v. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 3,79,954 hearings (till 24.12.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (77,01,697 cases) and Subordinate Courts (1,82,20,040 cases) have conducted 2.59 crore virtual hearings till 31.12.2022.
- vi. 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 31.12.2022.
- vii. 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 31.12.2022.
- viii. To bridge the digital divide, 689 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.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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.

- xi. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 39 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 25 High Courts.

- xii. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address "skill divide", a manual on eFiling and a Brochure on "How to register for eFiling" has been made available in English, Hindi and 11 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court services with video tutorials on eFiling. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes 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.

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

LOK SABHA

J-II

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1499

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 10th FEBRUARY, 2023

Fast Track Special Courts

SS (PPP)

✓ **1499. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:**

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

- (a) the details of number of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilised for FTSCs during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the achievements of these courts indicating the number of cases disposed and pending during the last three years;
- (d) the number of FTSCs functional in Andhra Pradesh against the proposed target; and
- (e) the steps taken to expedite the establishment of remaining FTSCs in the State?

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

(a) & (b): The details of number of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) functioning in the country and funds allocated during the last three years, is given at **Annexure-I**.

(c): As per third party evaluation conducted by National Productivity Council, 17.64% of exclusive POCSO cases reported conviction. FTSCs have disposed off

more than 1, 37,000 cases up to December, 2022. The details of number of pending and disposed off cases during the last three years are given at **Annexure -II**.

(d): As per information provided by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, 14 FTSCs are functional in the State as on 31st December 2022 against 18 FTSCs earmarked to the State.

(e): Regular review meetings have been conducted by the Department of Justice to expedite the robust implementation of the scheme including establishment of remaining FTSCs. The last review meeting was conducted with the State of Andhra Pradesh on 13.01.2023. In addition, Minister of Law and Justice has addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of States/UTs and Chief Justice of High Courts for operationalization of the remaining FTSCs.

Annexure- I

Details of number of FTSCs functioning in the country and funds allocated during last three years

(Rs. in Cr.)

S.No.	State/UT	No. of Functional FTSCs as on 31.12.2022	Amount released (FY 2019-20)	Amount released (FY 2020-21)	Amount released (FY 2021-22)	Amount released (up to 31 st December, 2022)
1	Andhra Pr.	14	1.8	0	0	0
2	Assam	17	2.85625	1.86875	3.375	6.7325
3	Bihar	48	2.025	15.26255	20.25	11.895
4	Chandigarh*	01	0.1875	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	15	3.375	3.375	4.259	3.93
6	Delhi	16	3.6	0	0	4.225
7	Goa	01	0.225	0	0	0.26
8	Gujarat	35	7.875	7.875	0	9.26
9	Haryana	16	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.225
10	Himachal P	06	1.0125	1.51875	0	2.375
11	J&K	04	0.5625	0	2.635	1.58
12	Jharkhand	22	4.95	4.95	0	5.825
13	Karnataka	30	6.975	0	6.635	7.395
14	Kerala	52	8.4	0	0	7.4
15	Madhya Pr.	67	15.075	15.0750	26.175	17.72
16	Maharashtra	39	31.05	0	0	0
17	Manipur	02	0.675	0.675	0.3375	0.785

18	Meghalaya	05	1.6875	0	0	1.977
19	Mizoram	03	1.0125	1.0125	2.02625	1.18
20	Nagaland	01	0.3375	0.3375	0	0.38
21	Odisha	44	5.4	1.3	16.2	11.64
22	Puducherry**	0	0	0	0.1125	0
23	Punjab	12	2.7	0	0	3.1625
24	Rajasthan	45	5.85	14.4	19.745	11.895
25	Tamil Nadu	14	3.15	3.15	2.59	3.7
26	Telangana	34	8.1	0	0	8.9875
27	Tripura	03	1.0125	1.0125	0	1.1725
28	Uttar Pr.	218	13.80625	84.29375	24.525	57.68
29	Uttarakhand	04	2.7	0	2.092	1.53
	NPC (for 3 rd Party Evaluation)	-	-	0.293702	-	-
TOTAL		768	140	160	134.557	186.93

*UT has indicated no requirement of fund under FTSC

**UT became part of the scheme in early 2022

14	Kerala	23	4629	257	28	7653	3478	52	7213	6356
15	Madhya Pr	66	11196	3422	67	14139	7944	67	12435	7539
16	Maharashtra	25	5624	1270	34	7445	4489	39	8539	5607
17	Manipur	0	0	0	2	171	19	2	130	60
18	Meghalaya	0	0	0	5	946	71	5	995	156
19	Mizoram	0	0	0	3	40	47	3	36	62
20	Nagaland	0	0	0	1	96	39	1	53	9
21	Odisha	15	6119	240	36	10613	2563	44	11754	4244
22	Punjab	3	440	537	12	2009	964	12	1842	1099
23	Rajasthan	45	7938	1421	45	7581	4775	45	6801	4015
24	Tamil Nadu	14	4230	506	14	4684	1703	14	5127	2664
25	Telangana	19	2864	481	25	5031	2979	34	7544	3498
26	Tripura	3	285	17	3	323	94	3	318	92
27	Uttar Pradesh	218	79468	26318	218	72924	31562	218	78238	8561
28	Uttarakhand	4	668	80	4	763	606	4	940	366
	Total	599	158843	37148	700	184943	73627	768	198208	64959

Annexure-II

Status of FTSC - Number of cases disposed and pending during the last three years

S. N O.	State/UT	2020			2021			2022		
		No of functional FTSCs (31.12.2020)	Cases pending (31.12.2020)	Cases Disposed during the Year	No of functional FTSCs (31.12.2021)	Cases pending (31.12.2021)	Cases Disposed during the Year	No of functional FTSCs (31.12.2022)	Cases pending (31.12.2022)	Cases Disposed during the Year
1	Andhra Pr	8	3980	127	10	5483	296	14	7328	1511
2	Assam	7	1211	36	15	3023	818	17	3881	1861
3	Bihar	45	12132	492	45	14002	2127	45	15587	3610
4	Chandigarh	1	176	2	1	235	19	48	220	97
5	Chhattisgarh	15	2721	162	15	2674	1694	15	2745	1393
6	Delhi	0	0	0	16	4410	195	16	4426	552
7	Gujarat	35	5236	888	35	5632	2485	35	6619	3535
8	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	01	51	26
9	Haryana	16	3334	130	16	4373	1373	16	4103	1875
10	Himachal	3	462	40	6	961	148	6	923	378
11	J&K	0	0	0	4	390	49	4	444	66
12	Jharkhand	20	3401	463	22	5380	1330	22	4384	2303
13	Karnataka	14	2729	268	18	3962	1760	30	5532	3424

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1533**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 2023

Leg. II Sec.

PRODUCTION OF VOTING MACHINE

1533. SHRI VIJAYAKUMARA (ALIAS) VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any meeting with political parties about production of Remote Voting Machine (RVM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has apprised them about the need of RVM;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJITU)**

- (a): No sir.
- (b) to (e): Does not arise.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1536**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th FEBRUARY 2023

Nyaya Mitra Yojana

✓ JS(WKG)
1536. SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP:

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

- (a) the aims and objective of Nyaya Mitra Yojana ;
- (b) whether assistance is also provided to the poor communities through Nyaya Mitra for redressal of their disputes ;
- (c) if so, the details of measures taken/being taken to provide immediate assistance to the people of tribal areas of Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) the details of Nyaya Mitras proposed to be engaged in the district courts of Uttar Pradesh;
- (e) whether about 100 Nyaya Mitras have been engaged in various district courts of the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c) Nyaya Mitra Yojana was launched in April, 2017 with the objective to reduce pendency of cases in the Courts. It aims to facilitate through the Nyaya Mitra disposal of 10 to 15 years old cases which would include civil cases such as matrimonial, accident claim cases and also criminal cases pending in High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Nyaya Mitra (NM) is a retired judicial officer/executive officer, having legal degree/background located at

High Courts/District Courts. NM in these districts is engaged through inviting nominations from the Registrar General (RGs) of High Courts of the identified States.

(d) to (f) Since the introduction of Nyaya Mitra programme, a total of 39 Nyaya Mitras were positioned in various districts courts of the States of Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. However no Nyaya Mitra could be engaged during the year 2020-2021 due to Covid Pandemic leading to closure of physical courts and observance of other covid appropriate protocol including social distancing. For the year 2021-2022, 11 Nyaya Mitras have been engaged in the 11 District Courts of the country. State/UT-wise details of engaged Nyaya Mitra is at Annexure-A. In the State of Uttar Pradesh, during the year 2017-18, three (3) Nyaya Mitras were engaged one each at Gorakhpur, Meerut and Varanasi District Court. Further, during the year 2019-20, one(1) Nyaya Mitra was engaged at Allahabad District Court and in the year 2021-2022, two(2) Nyaya Mitras were engaged from April 2022 one each at Agra and Allahabad District Court.

Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to part (f) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1536 for answering on 10.02.2023 raised by SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP MP on Nyaya Mitra Yojana							
A State-wise Statement containing number of Nyaya Mitra engaged from 2017-2022							
S.No	State	Year 2017-2018	Year 2018-2019	Year 2019-2020	Year 2020-2021	Year 2021-2022	Total
1	Assam	-	-	-	NIL*	02	02
2	Bihar	01	-	-		-	01
3	Maharashtra	-	-	03		01	04
4	Odisha			02		02	04
5	Rajasthan	04	03	02		02	11
6	Tripura	01					01
7	Uttar Pradesh	05	-	01		02	08
8	West Bengal	04	01	01		02	08
	Total	15	04	09		11	39

*No Nyaya Mitra could be engaged during the year 2020-2021 due to closure of courts and social distancing protocols caused by Covid pandemic.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1549**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 2023

Leg. II Sec.

USE OF DEVICES WITH EVM-VVPAT

1549. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) whether the EVM-VVPAT is connected with some devices after evaluation and approval for the nominations of candidates for the election;
- (b) if so, the details of those devices and their working mechanism; and
- (c) the stage at which the information regarding candidate names and symbols is uploaded to VVPAT?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): The Election Commission of India has informed that EVM-VVPAT is not connected to any network at any stage of the election process. Symbol Loading Unit (SLU), designed specifically to load candidates' details onto VVPATs, is used during time of Commissioning (Preparation) in the presence of candidates/their representatives to load the details. EVMs/VVPATs are randomised two times prior to the stage of Commissioning. SLU, a secure device belonging to the EVM/VVPAT system, loads contesting Candidates' data like Names, Serial numbers and Symbols into the VVPATs at the time of Commissioning. The symbol/candidate details getting loaded onto VVPATs are also displayed in a real time basis on a bigger screen or monitor for the candidates/representatives to simultaneously verify. The Commissioning is carried out after the last date of withdrawal of the candidates, in the presence of candidates/their representatives. Only the authorised engineers of BEL/ECIL, the two PSU manufacturers of EVMs/VVPAT's, are associated in the Commissioning process.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1561
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

LONG PENDING CASES

✓ JS (WMSR)

**1561. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL;
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:**

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

- (a) the number of criminal and civil cases pending in the High Courts and Supreme Court of India separately along with the number of under trials in the country, State-wise;**
- (b) the number of cases pending for less than 10 years, 10 to 20 years and more than 20 years in the country, court and category-wise; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve long pending cases?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India retrieved from the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), there were 69,511 pending cases in the Supreme Court as on 01.02.2023 out of which 55,015 are civil cases and 14,496 are criminal cases.

In the case of High Courts, presently there are total 59,77,361 cases pending out of which there are 42,90,686 civil cases and 16,86,675 criminal cases as per the information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on 7th February, 2023.

The detailed State-wise statement of under trials as provided by Ministry of Home Affairs as retrieved from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in the country as on 31.12.2021 is placed at *Annexure-I*.

(b): The detailed statement of information, category-wise, regarding number of cases pending for less than 10 years, 10 to 20 years and more than 20 years in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts is at *Annexure-II*.

(c): The disposal of pending cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts 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 expeditious disposal of cases by the judiciary. Central Government started 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.

The major steps taken under various initiatives of the Department of Justice to assist in reducing/minimizing the pendency of cases in the courts and their outcomes are as follows:

- i. **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9490.45 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 21,245 as on 30.01.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,726 as on 30.01.2023, under this scheme. In addition, 2,780 court halls and 1652 residential units are under construction (as per Nyaya Vikas Portal). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9,000 crores, out of which the central share will be Rs. 5,307 crores. Besides, the construction of court halls and residential units, it would also cover the construction of lawyer's halls, toilet complexes, and digital computer rooms.

ii. **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for**

improved justice delivery: The Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for information and communication technology 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. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized district and subordinate courts. All stakeholders, including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district & subordinate courts and high courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 02.02.2023, litigants can access the case status of over 22.09 crore cases and 20.43 crore orders/judgments pertaining to these courts. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through the eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centers (JSC) in all computerized courts, the eCourts Mobile App, email service, and SMS push, and pull services. A video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. With a view to handling the COVID- 19 challenges better and

making the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 619 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. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, and Rajasthan to try traffic offences. As on 02.01.2023, these courts have handled more than 2.40 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 347.86 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown began, the district courts heard 1,82,20,040 cases while the high courts heard 77,01,697 cases (total 2.59 crore) via video conferencing till 30.12.2022. The Supreme Court had 3,79,954 hearings since the lockdown period upto 24.12.2022.

- iii. **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 06.02.2023, 52 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 870 new judges were appointed and 626 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 1108 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
06.02.2023	25,135	19,376

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

- iv. **Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:** In pursuance of 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. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in high courts and district courts. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with the Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Ministers of states drawing their attention to the cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department of Justice has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.
- v. **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.12.2022, 848 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh,

Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, 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. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20, Rs. 160 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 and Rs. 134.557 crore has been released during the financial year 2021-22 for the scheme Rs. 186.93 crore has been released during current FY upto December, 2022. 768 FTSC are functional including 418 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,37,000 cases as on 31.12.2022.

- vi. In addition, to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.
- vii. **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) 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. In order to reduce the pendency of cases in

courts and also to settle the disputes at pre-litigation stage, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions at such intervals as it deems fit. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. However, as per Section 19 of the LSA Act, 1987, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions as per requirement. 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 two 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
Total	3,82,21,509	1,64,92,538	5,47,14,047

- 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.

Category	Total Advice Enabled	%
SC	10,00,641	31.62 %
ST	5,62,169	17.77 %
OBC	9,26,006	29.26 %
Women	10,59,373	33.48 %
General	6,75,574	21.35 %
As on 31 st January, 2023	31,64,390	

- 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.

ANNEXURE-I

DETAILED STATE-WISE STATEMENT OF UNDER TRIALS IN THE COUNTRY (as on 31.12.2021)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Undertrial Prisoners
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	5831
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	121
3	ASSAM	7620
4	BIHAR	59577
5	CHHATTISGARH	12288
6	GOA	481
7	GUJARAT	11599
8	HARYANA	18237
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	2024
10	JHARKHAND	16249
11	KARNATAKA	11689
12	KERALA	4892
13	MADHYA PRADESH	29094
14	MAHARASHTRA	31752
15	MANIPUR	513
16	MEGHALAYA	866
17	MIZORAM	640
18	NAGALAND	326
19	ODISHA	18164
20	PUNJAB	19510
21	RAJASTHAN	17954
22	SIKKIM	302
23	TAMIL NADU	11706
24	TELANGANA	4796
25	TRIPURA	598
26	UTTAR PRADESH	90606
27	UTTARAKHAND	4674
28	WEST BENGAL	22577
29	A & N ISLANDS	158
30	CHANDIGARH	718
31	DNH & DAMAN DIU	177
32	DELHI	16665
33	JAMMU & KASHMIR	4531
34	LADAKH	16
35	LAKSHADWEEP	5
36	PUDUCHERRY	209
	TOTAL	427165

Source:- Ministry of Home Affairs.

Detailed statement regarding number of cases pending in the various Courts

Name of Court	Cases pending for less than 10 years			Cases pending for 10 to 20 years			Cases pending for more than 20 years		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
*Supreme Court	58,085			6,652			4,774		
**High Courts	3289243	1261794	4551037	788281	343774	1132055	213162	81107	294269
**District & Subordinate Courts	10041675	29238678	39280353	700124	2778009	3478133	152546	517456	670002

* Source:- Supreme Court of India, data as on 01.02.2023

** Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), data as on 07.02.2023

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

NM

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1564
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023

JSL (NMSTR)

VACANT POSTS OF JUDGES IN DISTRICT COURTS IN UP

✓ †1564. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:

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

- (a) the details of appointments made in the district courts in Uttar Pradesh (UP) during the last five years, district-wise;
- (b) the details of posts of judges lying vacant in the said courts of UP at present, district-wise; and
- (c) the time since when these posts are lying vacant?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The information regarding details of appointments made in the District Courts of Uttar Pradesh of judicial officers, cadre-wise, in last five years, as provided by the High Court of Allahabad, is at *Annexure-I*.

(b): As per information provided by Allahabad High Court, the details of posts of judges lying vacant, district-wise, in the District Courts of Uttar Pradesh at present is at *Annexure-II*.

(c): As per information provided by Allahabad High Court, presently, there are 1124 Courts/Posts of Judicial Officers lying vacant in the District Courts of Uttar Pradesh. These Courts/Posts became vacant on different dates due to various reasons such as retirement, transfer, death etc. of the respective officer(s).

Annexure-I

Cadre-wise appointment made in the Uttar Pradesh Judicial Services in last five years.

Appointments made in the year	Cadre				Total
	Higher Judicial Services		Civil Judge (Senior Division) (Promotion)	Civil Judge (Junior Division) (Direct Recruitment)	
	Direct Recruitment	Promotion			
2018	28	186	0	30	244
2019	70	289	175	580	1114
2020	45	67	37	47	196
2021	28	6	8	140	182
2022	0	1	4	0	5

Annexure-II**District-wise detail consisting number of vacant Courts/Posts of Judicial Officers of Uttar Pradesh as on 06.02.2023**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Vacant Courts/Posts
1.	Agra	32
2.	Aligarh	17
3.	Allahabad	26
4.	Ambedkar Nagar	12
5.	Amethi	6
6.	Amroha	6
7.	Auraiya	8
8.	Azamgarh	26
9.	Baghpat	2
10.	Bahraich	18
11.	Ballia	17
12.	BalramPur	12
13.	Banda	12
14.	Barabanki	12
15.	Bareilly	18
16.	Basti	20
17.	Bhadohi at Gyanpur	13
18.	Bijnor	10
19.	Badaun	20
20.	Bulandshahr	18
21.	Chandouli	11
22.	Chitrakoot	8
23.	Deoria	20
24.	Etah	17
25.	Etawah	10
26.	Faizabad	17
27.	Farrukhabad	21
28.	Fatehpur	9
29.	Firozabad	11
30.	Gautam Buddha Nagar	53
31.	Ghaziabad	14
32.	Ghazipur	26
33.	Gonda	20
34.	Gorakhpur	19
35.	Hamirpur	14
36.	Hapur	8

37.	Hardoi	20
38.	Hathras	11
39.	Jalaun at orai	11
40.	Jaunpur	30
41.	Jhansi	12
42.	Kannauj	9
43.	Kanpur Nagar	18
44.	Kasganj	2
45.	Kaushambi	10
46.	Kushinagar at padrauna	20
47.	Lakhimpur kheri	17
48.	Lallpur	7
49.	Lucknow	16
50.	Maharajganj	16
51.	Mahoba	5
52.	Mainpuri	13
53.	Mathura	13
54.	Mau	14
55.	Meerut	21
56.	Mirzapur	14
57.	Moradabad	12
58.	Muzaffarnagar	17
59.	Pilibhit	8
60.	Pratapgarh	17
61.	Raebareli	14
62.	Ramabai Nagar	18
63.	Rampur	12
64.	Saharanpur	14
65.	Sambhal	8
66.	Santkabir Nagar	9
67.	Shahjahanpur	13
68.	Shamli	7
69.	Shravasti at Bhinga	3
70.	Siddharthnagar	12
71.	Sitapur	21
72.	Sonbhadra	15
73.	Sultanpur	16
74.	Unnao	16
75.	Varanasi	30
76.	Total	1124

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1597
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th FEBRUARY, 2023

LAP

Lok Adalat in Rural Zones

✓ 54 (NKG)

†1597. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

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

- (a) the details of Lok Adalats held in rural zones of the country during the last three years, State-wise and place-wise;
- (b) the details of total number of Lok Adalats likely to be held during the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the details of total cases disposed off in such Lok Adalats, State-wise/year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is striving to make these Lok Adalats more effective; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

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

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

(d) and (e) 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 344.98 lakh cases were taken up and 61.09 lakh cases disposed of.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1597 for answering on 10.02.2023 raised by Shri Arun Kumar Sagar, MP - Lok Adalat in Rural Zones

Statement containing the information of cases disposed of in the State Lok Adalats and benches constituted during the last three years viz. 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 (upto November 2022).

S.No.	Name of the State Authority	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23 (upto Nov.,22)	
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	90	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3585	30461	4874	12123	4086	5118
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6	25	24	91	1	4
4	Assam	6	1	136	13672	0	0
5	Bihar	28	97	1	6	0	0
6	Chandigarh	26	1	69	37	7	534
7	Chhattisgarh	491	3475	187	228	98	89
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	300	195359	250	147103	8	3913
11	Goa	8	777	30	3209	25	898
12	Gujarat	2851	21880	5157	15546	2927	14866
13	Haryana	33774	52789	54762	115797	38716	211039
14	Himachal Pradesh	90	3205	260	22031	112	3456
15	Jammu & Kashmir	125	9469	24	3271	112	45534
16	Jharkhand	607	79649	1310	22954	947	5920
17	Karnataka	1912	121884	412	2524	213	2036
18	Kerala	721	4837	302	19226	427	21579
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	2	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	1714	14903	808	4110	733	2516
21	Maharashtra	22	605	6	28	7	41
22	Manipur	1	21	0	0	4	43
23	Meghalaya	0	0	23	89	0	0
24	Mizoram	27	147	17	204	29	1016
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	239	4628	12	326	0	0
27	Puducherry	24	392	42	262	34	429
28	Punjab	0	0	339	1108	6	15
29	Rajasthan	607	34514	786	845	896	1328
30	Sikkim	110	158	110	636	98	655
31	Tamil Nadu	767	13117	759	13066	723	7291
32	Telangana	1501	24327	2827	7363	1770	8908
33	Tripura	12	6938	93	11624	17	2003
34	Uttar Pradesh	200	100305	57	31414	16	119647
35	Uttarakhand	121	6166	25	8605	87	16500
36	West Bengal	575	13853	774	74999	394	9003
37	Ladakh	0	0	4	32	2	132
	Grand Total	50451	744073	74480	532529	52497	484514

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1597 for answering on 10.02.2023 raised by Shri Arun Kumar Sagar, MP - Lok Adalat in Rural Zones

Statement containing the information of cases disposed in National Lok Adalats during last three years.

S. No.	Name of the State Authority	2020	2021	2022
		Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	248	3997	3310
2	Andhra Pradesh	37896	122839	647956
3	Arunachal Pradesh	104	1054	1071
4	Assam	12188	39642	113989
5	Bihar	66451	151620	305483
6	Chandigarh	2569	16833	15569
7	Chhattisgarh	24464	134548	1125318
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1768	172	1323
9	Daman & Diu	31	113	215
10	Delhi	83006	154992	535025
11	Goa	351	1680	3934
12	Gujarat	41584	748722	1185571
13	Haryana	30298	123413	673487
14	Himachal Pradesh	5971	35556	111150
15	Jammu & Kashmir	13258	166544	390496
16	Jharkhand	53152	232473	1121405
17	Karnataka	334681	1277856	3444607
18	Kerala	15010	68681	136101
19	Lakshadweep	8	7	129
20	Madhya Pradesh	108365	347333	419776
21	Maharashtra	215837	2440375	4754239
22	Manipur	204	794	1343
23	Meghalaya	303	852	956
24	Mizoram	218	790	4432
25	Nagaland	251	941	888
26	Odisha	18329	35557	337065
27	Puducherry	1738	5084	6405
28	Punjab	32528	138175	392256
29	Rajasthan	103060	286834	4572315
30	Sikkim	30	110	232
31	Tamil Nadu	88819	191604	447536
32	Telangana	47560	349902	1611677
33	Tripura	382	1070	4814
34	Uttarakhand	8088	20882	67438
35	Uttar Pradesh	1171022	5551793	18698973
36	West Bengal	28596	133736	788082
37	Ladakh	0	1463	1444
	Grand Total	2548368	12788037	41926010

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1597 for answering on 10.02.2023 raised by Shri Arun Kumar Sagar, MP - Lok Adalat in Rural Zones

Statement containing the information of number of sittings of Permanent Lok Adalats (PUS) and cases settled in these sittings during the years viz. 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 (upto November, 2022)

S. No.	Name of the State Authority	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23 (upto Nov., 22)	
		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
2	Andhra Pradesh	431	1283	927	1406	702	465
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	99	12	141	56	139	26
5	Bihar	977	203	482	221	313	157
6	Chandigarh	246	108	240	687	159	7339
7	Chhattisgarh	346	32	1045	1199	802	1240
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	532	14765	791	17395	520	11175
11	Goa	24	30	2	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	1	105	9	2238	1	8
13	Haryana	3413	9654	3547	30960	2189	45935
14	Himachal Pradesh	6	10	9	11	0	0
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	3554	1943	5144	32514	4068	15878
17	Karnataka	1069	3869	1292	5371	713	2920
18	Kerala	336	248	212	1104	166	1917
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	455	270	886	574	758	349
21	Maharashtra	541	249	918	765	664	970
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	583	1350	742	1561	384	868
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	2868	3987	4538	9967	3302	10293
29	Rajasthan	1123	806	2960	3228	2876	3557
30	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	236	80	671	272	715	377
32	Telangana	66	549	108	6674	79	5629
33	Tripura	1	0	44	81	60	133
34	Uttar Pradesh	2714	383	3961	1087	2564	673
35	Uttarakhand	156	522	484	765	382	372
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	19777	40458	29153	118136	21556	110281

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1602

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10.02.2023

✓ AS (A+A)

Transfer of High Court Judges

1602. SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:

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

- (a) the details of Supreme Court collegium recommendations on transfer of High Court judges pending with the Government; and
- (b) the timeline to be followed as per updated memorandum of procedure for Supreme Court collegium recommendations on transfer of High Court judges?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (b): As on 06.02.2023, proposals for transfer of 10 High Court Judges from one High Court to other High Courts are under various stages of processing.

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 is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with four senior-most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. 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. No timeline has been prescribed in the MoP for transfer of judges from one High Court to another.

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

Impl. Sec. LA

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1610
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th FEBRUARY, 2023**

Nationalisation of Law Universities

**1610. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:
DR. HEENA GAVIT:
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:
PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to nationalize the National Law Universities in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to introduce any new scholarships for the courses in law studies in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has worked out any plan having provisions for introducing students towards the research sector of law and justice and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to introduce schemes to make internships a more engaging and holistic experience for students and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) : The National Law Universities (NLUs) have been established through respective State enactments and the Central Government has no role in the matter.
- (b) : Besides 'Merit cum Means' scholarship, financial aid to law students, to support their education are provided by the Central Government as well as the State Governments. Also, scholarship to students belonging to different categories including SC/ST and physically disabled students are

sanctioned through various Central/State Government schemes. Education loans on very easy terms to students are also provided through various State Government schemes. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to introduce any new scholarships for the courses in law studies.

(c) & (d) : The curriculum of the Law Universities are drawn up by them. The nature and the format of the syllabus besides theoretical classes on various laws and jurisprudence also include interdisciplinary research, clinical courses, internships etc. The structure of the academic year at different Universities are designed in such way that allows students to undertake research and internships for the purpose of gaining professional practical experience, thereby inculcating a holistic understanding of the law in students. Further, the internship component seeks to ensure that students obtain an insight into, and are afforded maximum exposure to the workplace by facilitating students to take internships with judges, senior advocates, law firms, international organisations, NGOs, PSUs, corporate houses, commissions, ministries, state departments etc. The Central Government also organizes internship programme for law students with the purpose to acquaint them and enhance their capacity in the working of the Government, in the field of research and referencing work, legal advice in various specialized fields of law such as constitutional and administrative law, finance sector laws, economic laws, labour laws, conveyancing, arbitration and contract law etc.

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 241

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17.03.2023

AS (A&A)

R&AW Reports on Supreme Court Collegium

***241. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court collegium cited reports by R&AW regarding the sexuality of an advocate, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is the practice of the Government to use R&AW reports for appointment of judges to the Supreme Court, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the sexual orientation of an Indian citizen is legally/constitutionally germane to their nomination as a judge, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government takes into consideration Political leanings and online posts for consideration of appointment of judges, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details regarding the number of times collegium recommendations have been sent back between May 2019 to February 2023?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(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. *241 due for answer on 17.03.2023 regarding “R&AW Reports on Supreme Court Collegium”

(a) to (e):The Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) vide its Minutes dated 18th January, 2023 cited the reports of the Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW), which *inter-alia* mentioned the sexuality of an Advocate whose name has been recommended for appointment as Judge of the Delhi High Court. Generally, it is not a practice to seek R&AW reports on proposals for appointment of judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court except in extraordinary circumstances, involving issues related to national security.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Judges of High Courts, the proposals recommended by the High Court Collegium for appointment as High Court Judges, are to be considered in the light of such other reports/inputs as may be available to the Government for assessing the suitability in respect of the names under consideration. Accordingly, IB inputs are obtained and provided to the SCC for making assessment on the recommendees.

Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 6.10.1993 in Supreme Court Advocate on Record Vs. Union of India (Second Judges Case) *inter-alia* observed that merit selection is the dominant method for judicial selections and the candidates to be selected must possess high integrity, honesty, skill, high order of emotional stability, firmness, serenity, legal soundness, ability and endurance. Besides the above, the hallmarks of the most important personal

qualifications required are moral vigour, ethical firmness and imperviousness to corrupting or venal influences, humility and lack of affiliations, judicial temperament, zeal and capacity to work. In a recent judgment dated 10.02.2023 in WP (Civil) No. 148 of 2023, dismissing the Writ Petitions filed in the matter of appointment of a Judge in the Madras High Court, the Supreme Court observed that political background by itself has not been an absolute bar to appointment of otherwise a suitable person. Similarly, criticism of policies or actions by the persons recommended for elevation has not been held as a ground to treat them as unsuitable.

The Supreme Court Collegium has also opined that political leanings or expression of views by a candidate does not disentitle him to hold a constitutional office so long as the person proposed for judgeship is a person of competence, merit and integrity. The Government, as an important stakeholder in the process of appointment of Judges in the High Courts and as laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure on appointment of High Court Judges provides inputs which mainly contain information on the suitability, competence and integrity of the candidates under consideration for appointment to high constitutional post in the judiciary. The recommendations along with inputs are then submitted to the SCC for advice. It may be mentioned that the Government only appoints those persons who are recommended by the SCC.

Appointment of the Judges of the constitutional 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. The Government can seek reconsideration of the

recommendations made by the SCC under the collaborative process so as to ensure that only the most suitable candidates are appointed as Judges in the High Courts.

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *251
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17th MARCH, 2023

E-Courts Project

e-court

✓ JS(PPP) *251. SHRI A. RAJA:

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

- (a) the status of e-courts project in various High Courts and subordinate courts in the country;
- (b) the amount allotted for the infrastructure development of e-courts during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the number of courts that have started online court hearings having virtual appearance of lawyers and clients;
- (d) whether any training programme has been given to Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts to familiarize them with the technology for conducting online hearings;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *251 FOR 17TH MARCH, 2023 REGARDING E-COURTS PROJECT

(a):The Government has launched the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project in the country for computerization of District and subordinate courts with the objective of improving access to justice using technology. As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the project is under implementation since 2007 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 during 2011-2015. Phase II of the project started in 2015 under which 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerised so far.

Towards enhancement of ICT enablement of Courts, following initiatives have been taken under eCourts project by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice:

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, 2976 court sites have been commissioned with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. Case Information Software (CIS) which forms the basis for the e-Court services is based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. 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.
- iii. 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 22.38 crore cases and more than 20.83 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.03.2023). Open APIs have been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.

- 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 1.64 cr. downloads till 31st January 2023) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022). JustIS mobile app is now available in iOS as well.
- v. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.40 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 33 lakhs (33,57,972) cases online fine of more than Rs. 359.34 crore has been realised till 31.01.2023.
- vi. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 4,02,937 hearings (till 31.01.2023 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (77,67,596 cases and Subordinate Courts 1,84,95,235 cases) have conducted 2.63 crore virtual hearings till 24.12.2022. 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. A sum of Rs. 7.60 crore has been released for procurement of 1732 Document Visualizers.

- vii. 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 31.01.2023. Additionally, under the jurisdiction of 25 High Courts, 19 District Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.01.2023
- viii. 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 ePayments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 21 High Courts till 31.12.2022.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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.
- xi. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 39 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 25 High Courts.
- xii. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address “skill divide”, a manual on eFiling and a Brochure on “How to register for eFiling” has been made available in English, Hindi and 11 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court services with video tutorials on eFiling. The eCommittee of the

Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes 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.

The phase II of the project is nearing its completion and DPR for e-Courts Phase III has been finalized and approved by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India on 21st October 2022. The meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Meeting was held on 23.02.2023. Other, requisite approvals of eCourts Project Phase-III are at advance stage. Phase III of the project envisions facilitation of various new features, few of which are the digital initiatives that encompass Digital and Paperless Courts that aim to bring court proceedings under a digital format in a court; Online Court that focus on eliminating the presence of litigants or lawyers in the court through exploration and adoption of different forms of digitally enabled hearings; expansion of scope of Virtual Courts beyond adjudication of Traffic Violations ; use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc.

(b): Funds released during the last three years for infrastructure development of e-Courts are given in Annexure-I.

(c): The details of courts where virtual hearing is taking place is given in Annexure-II.

(d): Yes Sir, training programmes were organised for Judges of High Court to familiarize them with the technology for conducting online hearings.

(e)& (f):Trainings of High Court Judges is conducted by the National Judicial Academy; Bhopal. The details of academic programmes that were conducted for High Court judges are as follows:

S/N	Prog. No.	Programme Name	Prog. Date	No. of Participants
1	P-1276	Workshop for High Court Justices on ICT enablement of Indian Judiciary through E-Courts Project and the evolving concept of Artificial Intelligence	08 & 09/01/2022	24
2	P-1300	Master Trainer Programme for High Court Judges (e-committee)	21/08/2022	25
3	P-1313	e-committee National Conference (e-committee)	06/11/2022	31
4	P-1334	Ecourts Introductory Programme & Computer Skills Enhancement Programme - Level I & II (e-committee)	05/03/2023	31

In addition to the above exclusive programmes on e-Courts, two sessions are fully dedicated on e-Courts in each of the Regional Conferences being organized by the National Judicial Academy for the current academic year 2022-23. During the current academic year i.e; 2022-23, NJA has scheduled 8 Regional Conferences, of which, 5 programmes have been conducted so far in which the total number of participants was 625 (which includes High Court Justices and Judicial Officers).

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Question No.*251 for 17/03/2023 regarding e-Courts project. The funds released during the last three years for infrastructure development are:

S.No.	High Courts	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Allahabad	15.04	13.79	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	1.96	0.00
3	Bombay	0.00	8.86	0.00
4	Calcutta	0.00	4.93	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	4.44	2.34	0.00
6	Delhi	0.00	3.00	0.00
7 (a)	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.98	1.52	1.26
7 (b)	Gauhati (Assam)	13.68	6.11	3.49
7 (c)	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.51	0.72	0.30
7 (d)	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.70	0.83	0.84
8	Gujarat*	0.00	3.48	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	2.00	0.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	0.00	1.00	0.00
11	Jharkhand	5.53	2.98	0.00
12	Karnataka	9.15	4.29	0.00
13	Kerala	0.00	2.83	1.58
14	Madhya Pradesh	11.21	6.28	0.00
15	Madras	0.00	4.73	0.00
16	Manipur	0.61	1.30	0.76
17	Meghalaya	0.92	2.32	2.23
18	Orissa	13.46	3.37	0.00
19	Patna	7.08	5.44	0.00
20	Punjab & Haryana	0.00	4.55	0.00
21	Rajasthan	1.29	10.58	1.62
22	Sikkim	1.61	1.01	0.77
23	Telangana	0.00	1.79	0.00
24	Tripura	2.24	4.44	0.95
25	Uttarakhand	0.00	1.28	0.00
Total		107.77	107.77	107.77

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

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Question No.*251 for 17/03/2023 regarding e-Courts project. Details of courts where virtual hearing is taking place along with details of cases heard through virtual hearings as on 31 January 2023 are:

Details of courts where virtual hearing is taking place along with details of cases heard through virtual hearings as on 31 January 2023

S. No.	High Court	No. of hearings in High Courts	No. of hearings in District Courts	Total Hearings
1	Allahabad	241390	4114257	4355647
2	Andhra Pradesh	380252	1412770	1793022
3	Bombay	38305	80818	119123
4	Calcutta	139053	81940	220993
5	Chhattisgarh	103097	43160	146257
6	Delhi	317729	4502342	4820071
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	2292	8128	10420
8	Gauhati – Assam	266160	333777	599937
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	3963	13268	17231
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	930	650	1580
11	Gujarat	388929	192808	581737
12	Himachal Pradesh	183904	100200	284104
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	257708	458532	716240
14	Jharkhand	218343	641727	860070
15	Karnataka	1170814	123066	1293880
16	Kerala	160411	541229	701640
17	Madhya Pradesh	668369	782248	1450617
18	Madras	1424427	347900	1772327
19	Manipur	38695	15288	53983
20	Meghalaya	2859	27554	30413

21	Orissa	288674	247949	536623
22	Patna	275754	2116523	2392277
23	Punjab & Haryana	581047	1873547	2454594
24	Rajasthan	229688	179006	408694
25	Sikkim	482	12227	12709
26	Telangana	299031	190327	489358
27	Tripura	10585	12564	23149
28	Uttarakhand	74705	41430	116135
Total		7767596	18495235	26262831

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *254

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 17th MARCH, 2023

Leg. II. Sec.

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

✓ *254. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to hold the Lok Sabha and the State Assembly elections simultaneously;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has held consultations with the Election Commission of India in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) the details of the pros and cons of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in the country; and
- (e) whether these elections are held simultaneously in any country in the world and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PART (a) TO (e) OF
THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *254
DATED 17th MARCH, 2023

(a) to (c): 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 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.

(d): The Simultaneous Elections would result in huge saving to the public exchequer, avoidance of replication of effort on part of administrative and law and order machinery in holding repeated elections and bring considerable savings to political parties and candidates in their election campaigns. Further, asynchronous Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections (including bye-election) result in prolonged enforcement of Model Code of Conduct with its concomitant adverse impact on developmental and welfare programmes. However, major impediments/imperatives for synchronisation for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections are as follows:

- (i) Bringing amendments in not less than five articles of Constitution, namely, article 83 relating to duration of Houses of Parliament, article 85 relating to dissolution of the House of the People by the President, article 172 relating to duration of the State Legislatures, article 174 relating to dissolution of the State

Legislatures and article 356 relating to the imposition of President's Rule in the States.

(ii) Obtaining consensus of all political parties.

(iii) Having regard to the federal structure of our system of governance, it is imperative that consensus of all State Governments is also obtained.

(iv) Requirement of additional number of EVMs/VVPATs, which would cost a huge amount, might be in thousands of crores. Considering that life of machine is only fifteen years, this would imply that machine would be used for about three or four times in its life span, entailing huge expenditure in its replacement after every fifteen years.

(v) Requirement of additional polling personnel and security forces.

(e): The Department Related Parliament Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 79th report had highlighted that in South Africa, elections to national as well as provincial legislatures are held simultaneously for five years and municipal election are held two years later. In Sweden election to national legislature (Riksdag) and provincial legislature/county council (landsting) and local bodies/municipal Assemblies (Kommunfullmaktige) are held on a fixed date i.e. second Sunday in September for four years. Further, in U.K. the term of the Parliament is governed by the Fixed-term Parliament Act, 2011.

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *255
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023**

Adv. (B)

DISPOSAL OF DOWRY CASES

***255. SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up any roadmap for the urgent disposal of pending court cases related to dowry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the institutional mechanism set up, if any, to deal with grievances arising out of dowry and the funds allocated therefor; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to stop the misuse of the Dowry Act?

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

(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. *255 FOR 17.03.2023 ASKED BY SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING DISPOSAL OF DOWRY CASES.

(a) to (d): The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860 have adequate provisions to tackle the menace of Dowry. The Act prohibits and penalizes giving or taking of dowry so as to safeguard women against dowry harassment. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 defines dowry harassment within the purview of domestic violence and provides remedies such as protection order, residential order etc. against it.

Also, the subject of 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and the responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including investigation and prosecution of crime against women rests primarily with the respective State Governments.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development undertakes awareness exercise for safety and security of women from time to time. Further, the Government through institutions like the National Commission for Women and State Women Commissions have been spreading awareness through seminars, workshops etc. to sensitize people about the evils of dowry system and various provisions of related laws etc.

Further, the Government of India has launched "Mission Shakti-integrated women empowerment programme, as umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The One Stop Centre (OSC) is now a component of 'Sambal' sub-scheme under umbrella scheme of 'Mission Shakti'. However, scheme for setting up of OSC is implemented by the Ministry with effect from 1st April, 2015 to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence and in distress, both in private and public spaces under one roof and provide an integrated range of services including medical aid, legal aid and advice, temporary shelter, police assistance, psycho-social counselling to needy women. The OSC, at district level, has provided a dedicated platform to women affected by violence and who are in distress to get necessary help and assistance, which was not available earlier.

With effect from 01.04.2015 to till date, the Government has approved 801 OSCs throughout the country, out of which 733 OSCs have been made functional. These centres have assisted over 6.70 lakh women till December, 2022. For setting of OSCs across the country, the Central Government has released Rs. 728.14 Crore till date.

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.*256

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17.3.2023

Coordination Sec. **Relief to Victims of Human-Animal Conflict**

✓ ***256. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has the details of State and Central Laws that provide relief to those wounded or killed in human-animal conflict;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan/proposal to introduce legislation to make compensation to victims of human-animal conflict a legal right;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering to establish a Tribunal by law, modelled on the lines of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, to ensure speedy distribution of compensation to victims and if so, the details thereof?

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

(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. *256 due for answer on 17.03.2023 regarding “Relief to Victims of Human-Animal Conflict”

(a) to (e):The responsibility for management of wildlife and prevention of human-wildlife conflict primarily falls on the State Governments and the rates of compensation vary from State to State. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial support to States/UTs through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) namely; 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'; 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant'; for carrying out various activities for protection and management of wildlife and towards management of human-wildlife conflict. There is also a provision of financial support for shifting of villages outside from Protected Areas, to reduce human wildlife conflict inside Protected Areas; including financial assistance to States for payment of ex-gratia in case of loss of human life and property.

The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, enacted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, provides for protection of wildlife and its habitats. The Act, however, does not have any provision for providing relief to those wounded or killed in human-animal conflict. The Government is neither considering to introduce any legislation nor creation of a Tribunal for payment of compensation to victims of human-wildlife conflict.

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 257
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023

Impl. Sec. **Legal Education in Hindi and Regional Languages**

+*257. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

(a) whether any scheme has been prepared to provide legal education to the children of India in Hindi and Regional Languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme/taken steps to encourage the courts to conduct hearings and deliver judgements in Hindi and the regional languages so that even common people can read and understand the court decisions, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*257 FOR THE 17TH MARCH, 2023 REGARDING 'LEGAL EDUCATION IN HINDI AND REGIONAL LANGUAGES'.

(a) to (c): The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education has informed that the National Education Policy, 2020 in its para 20.4 states that “Legal education needs to be competitive globally, adopting best practices and embracing new technologies for wider access to and timely delivery of Justice. At the same time, it must be informed and illuminated with Constitutional values of Justice -Social, Economic, and Political and directed towards National reconstruction through instrumentation of democracy, rule of law, and human rights. The curricula for legal studies must reflect socio-cultural contexts along with, in an evidence-based manner, the history 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”.

This Ministry of Law & Justice is emphasizing to promote and enhance use of Hindi and other regional languages in Legal Education and for conducting proceedings of the Supreme Court/High Courts and other judicial fora. Further, a process of digitizing 65000 words Legal glossary to make it available to public and creation of an online platform to crowd-sourcing the coining of legal terminology for Indian Languages is in progress. Also this Ministry is in the process 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 so that the translation of legal documents from one Indian language to another Indian language would be easier. This Ministry is also planning to convene a meeting of Vice Chancellors of Law Universities, representatives of Bar and Judiciary to prepare Ten Year Perspective action Plan for Promotion of Indian Languages in Courts and Legal Education. Further, a committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble (Retd.) Chief Justice of India Shri. S.A. Bobde has 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.

The Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that enabling Constitutional and Legal provisions in this regard are already in place. As per Article 348 of the Constitution and Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 there are provisions of optional use of Hindi and other (Languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution) in proceedings and judgments etc. of the courts. Under the aforementioned provisions, optional use of Hindi in the proceedings of High Courts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar was authorized in the year 1950, 1969, 1971 and 1972 respectively.

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *260

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 17th MARCH, 2023

leg. II Sec.

ELECTORAL REFORMS

***260. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is working out several electoral reforms such as deferring the demonstration/implementation of its recently developed prototype Remote Electronic Voting Machine (REVM) and the recent amendment to the election laws facilitating voter registration throughout the year;
- (b) if so, the details along with the implementation status thereof as on date, State-wise; and
- (c) the timeline drawn for the electoral reforms to be undertaken in the country?

ANSWER

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

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PART (a) TO (c) OF THE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *260 DATED 17th MARCH, 2023**

(a) to (c): No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Further, the Government, after consultation with the Election Commission of India (ECI) has taken steps, from time to time, to bring electoral reforms to improve the existing electoral practices in the country. Recently, the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 (49 of 2021) was enacted, which *inter-alia*, provides for four qualifying dates *i.e.* 1st day of January, 1st day of April, 1st day of July and 1st day of October in a year for voter registration and now, an eligible Indian Citizen can submit application for getting registered in the electoral roll with reference to those dates. The provisions of the said Act have come into force on 01st August, 2022.

The electoral reforms are continuous and ongoing process in order to improve the existing electoral practices in the country, no specific time line can be drawn in this regard.

The ECI has informed that a Concept Note on improving voter participation of domestic migrants using remote voting dated 28th December, 2022 was circulated by them 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 16th January, 2023. The ECI has solicited written views/comments of the political parties by 28th February, 2023 on various legal, administrative and technological issues as contained in the Concept Note and beyond.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2767

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023

Non-Operational Gram Nyayalayas

JK

✓ JS(WMSR)

**2767. SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:**

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

- (a) whether a number of notified Gram Nyayalayas are non-operational in various States;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the non-operability of Gram Nyayalayas across the length and breadth of these States and the Union Territories;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any step to expeditiously operationalise them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b): Yes Sir, as per the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, 477 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by 15 States/UTs, out of which 265 Gram Nyayalayas are functional in 10 States. The State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts but the Act does not make it mandatory for the states to set up the Gram Nyayalayas. As per the information provided by the States/High Courts the main reason for non-operability of Gram Nyayalayas is non-filling of the post of Nyayadhikari in many States, non-availability of public prosecutors, notaries and general shortage of First Class Judicial Magistrates who man these Gram

Nyayalayas. Besides, the issue of overlapping jurisdiction with regular courts is another reason due to which the scheme is not taking off. Moreover, many states have their own parallel systems of village courts functioning at panchayat level.

(c) & (d): Regular correspondence has been made with the States/High Courts concerned for taking expeditious action for making the notified Gram Nyayalayas functional. During the regular meetings of the Central Level Monitoring Committee of Department of Justice, the States are regularly being reminded to expedite operationalization of the notified Gram Nyayalayas.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2776
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17th MARCH 2023**

Functional e-Courts

e-courts

✓ *IS (PPP)*

**2776. SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJUBHAIYA):
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI JAYANT SINHA:
SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:**

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

- (a) the salient features of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project;
- (b) the status of implementation of the project and the number of operational e-Courts in the country, State-wise and district-wise;
- (c) the details of the number of e-Courts functional cross the country and the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized for this project during the last three years and the current year across the country, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the details of the targets set and achievements made under the e-Courts Mission thereof during the said period;
- (e) the number of cases disposed off by thee-Courts during last five years;
- (f) whether the Government has proposed to launch phase-3 of the e-Courts project for efficient administration of justice, if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and targets set there under; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government in popularizing and simplifying the procedural requirements in e-Courts in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government has launched the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project in the country for computerization of District and subordinate courts with the objective of improving access to justice using technology. As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the project is under implementation since 2007 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 during 2011-2015. Phase II of the project started in 2015 under which 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerised so far. The salient features of the e-Courts mission mode projects include:

- Providing IT infrastructure to new courts as well as to existing courts and to provide additional hardware for the courts covered in phase I
- Replacement of the obsolete Laptops provided to judicial officers in Phase-I and provisioning of Laptops and other IT facilities to new judicial officers
- Installation of VC equipment in Courts and Jails
- Provision of laptops, printers, UPS and connectivity to judicial Officers not covered under Phase I and replacement of obsolete hardware provided to Judicial Officers under Phase I
- Installation of hardware in Judicial Academies and training labs
- Computerisation of District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) and Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSC)
- Cloud connectivity in all Court Complexes
- Connecting all courts in the country through WAN
- Solar energy equipment to 5% of the court complexes in order to provide sustained power availability
- Installation and operation of e-Office, Document Management System, Learning Tools Management System and Judicial Knowledge Management System and Localisation Project Management Framework for all courts in the country
- Software development for eCourts Phase II
- Change Management initiatives for training, outreach campaign and awareness programmes to stakeholders

The detailed break-up of operational e-Courts in the country has been attached in Annexure-I. Funds released during the last three years for infrastructure development of e-Courts are given in Annexure-II. The details of the targets of phase II of eCourts Project has been attached in Annexure III. In the eCourts Project the Government has taken the following 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 22.38 crore cases and more than 20.83 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.03.2023).
- iii. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgments 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 1.64 cr. downloads till 31st January 2023) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022).
- iv. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.53 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 33 lakhs (33,57,972) cases online fine of more than Rs. 359.34 crore has been realized till 31.01.2023.
- v. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 4,02,937 hearings (till 31.01.2023 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (77,67,596 cases) and Subordinate Courts (1,84,95,235 cases) have conducted 2.62 crore virtual hearings till 31.01.2023.
- vi. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft e-filing 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 31.01.2023.
- vii. 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 31.12.2022.
- viii. To bridge the digital divide, 689 eSewaKendras 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 e-filing.

- ix. 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.
- x. 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.
- xi. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 39 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 25 High Courts.

(e): As per the data available on NJDG the number of cases disposed during last five years are as follows:-

Year	Total Cases Instituted	Total Cases Disposed
2022	21853647	19521570
2021	18161344	14568227
2020	12577604	7731987
2019	16893238	14951046
2018	15225544	13250054

(f): The phase II of the project is nearing its completion and DPR for e-Courts Phase III has been finalized and approved by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India on 21st October 2022. The meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) was held on 23.02.2023. Other, requisite approvals of eCourts Project Phase-III are at advance stage.

(g): Courts procedures are an administrative matter which strictly comes under the domain of judiciary in which the government has no direct role to play.

To popularize eCourts in the country, the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted 117 trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services provided under the eCourts project. These programmes 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.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2776 for 17/03/2023 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 Question No.2776 for 17/03/2023 regarding Functionale-Courts. The funds released during the last three years for infrastructure development are:

S.No.	High Courts	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
		Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)	Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)	Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)
1	Allahabad	15.04	9.00	13.79	5.11	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	7.91	0.00	0.00
4	Calcutta	0.00	0.00	4.93	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	4.44	4.40	2.34	2.22	0.00	0.00
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.63	0.00	0.00
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.98	0.98	1.52	0.18	1.26	0.00
8	Gauhati (Assam)	13.68	13.40	6.11	1.78	3.49	3.30
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.51	0.31	0.72	0.35	0.30	0.00
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.70	0.33	0.83	0.18	0.84	0.00
11	Gujarat*	0.00	0.00	3.48	0.83	0.00	0.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.24	0.00	0.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.17	0.00	0.00
14	Jharkhand	5.53	0.35	2.98	0.48	0.00	0.00
15	Karnataka	9.15	8.92	4.29	2.49	0.00	0.00
16	Kerala	0.00	0.00	2.83	1.23	1.58	0.00
17	Madhya Pradesh	11.21	5.92	6.28	6.16	0.00	0.00
18	Madras	0.00	0.00	4.73	2.45	0.00	0.00
19	Manipur	0.61	0.36	1.30	0.21	0.76	0.00
20	Meghalaya	0.92	0.09	2.32	0.36	2.23	0.65
21	Orissa	13.46	0.00	3.37	1.63	0.00	0.00
22	Patna	7.08	4.61	5.44	1.67	0.00	0.00
23	Punjab & Haryana	0.00	0.00	4.55	0.64	0.00	0.00
24	Rajasthan	1.29	1.29	10.58	8.99	1.62	1.62
25	Sikkim	1.61	0.68	1.01	0.92	0.77	0.00
26	Telangana	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Tripura	2.24	1.33	4.44	3.82	0.95	0.46
28	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.63	0.00	0.00
Total		88.44	51.77	111.74	52.18	15.80	6.02

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

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Question No.2776 for 17/03/2023 regarding Functionale-Courts. The details of year wise targetare as under:

Year Wise targets and financial targets of Phase II of eCourts MMP (Financials in Rs Crores)											
Sl. No.	Component	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Total Target	Total in Crores
		Physic al	Finan cial	Physic al	Financ ial	Physi cal	Financ ial	Physi cal	Financ ial		
1 (a)	Additional Hardware for 14249 courts (1 + 3 format)	3575	108.8	3550	108.1	7124	216.89	0	0	14249	433.8
1 (b)	Computerisation of new courts (2+6 format)	1000	54.16	1000	54.16	1000	54.16	1013	54.87	4013	217.4
1 (c)	Compt. Of expected courts (2+6)			0		0		1738	94.14	1738	94.14
2 (a)	Technical infrastructure at existing Court Complexes	1000	88.16	1000	88.16	700	61.71		0	2700	238
2 (b)	Technical infrastructure at new Court Complexes	200	25.63	150	19.22	150	19.22	300	38.45	800	102.5
3 (a)	Replacement of obsolete Laptops provided to Judicial Officers in Ph-I	7155	32.43	0	0	0	0	0	0	7155	32.43
3 (b)	Provisioning of Laptops and other IT facilities to new judicial officers	1800	9.86	1630	8.92	1630	8.92	1631	8.93	6691	36.64
4 (a)	Installation of VC equipments in Courts	1000	11	750	8.25	750	8.25	0	0	2500	27.5
4 (b)	Installation of VC equipments in Jails	300	2.1	300	2.1	200	1.4	0	0	800	5.6
5	Installation of hardwares in Jas TLs	17	3.46	3	0.61	0	0	0	0	20	4.07
6 (a)	Computerisation of	400	9.15	222	5.08	0	0	0	0	622	14.23

	DLSAs										
6 (b)	Computerisation of TLSCs	0	0	0	0	1168	16.74	1000	14.33	2168	31.08
7	Cloud Connectivity in all CCs		25	0	25	0	23		0	3500	73
8	WAN Connectivity		38.55		77.11		77.11		38.55		231.3
9	Solar Energy in 5% Court Complexes	0	0	58	8.75	58	8.75	58	8.75	175	26.25
10	Software Development		12.33	0	13.46	0	14.71		2.28		42.78
11	Change Management		5		5		5		5		20
12	Judicial Process Reengineering		5		5		5		5		20
13	JKMS		4.82		4.82		4.82		4.82		19.28
14	Service Delivery		0		0		0		0		0
Total as per plan			435.5		433.7		525.68		275.12		1670

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2805

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17th MARCH, 2023

Legislation for Protection of Witness

Empl. Sec.

2805. SHRI UPENDRA SINGH RAWAT:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enact a legislation for witness protection as suggested by the Law Commission of India;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has informed that there is no proposal for enacting such legislation. However, in compliance of order dated 05.12.2018 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 156 of 2016, a scheme namely 'Witness Protection Scheme, 2018' has been prepared by the MHA, in consultation with the National Legal Service Authority, Bureau of Police Research & Development and State Governments which was circulated to all the States and Union Territories (UTs) for strict compliance and the same occupies the field as 'law' by virtue of article 141/142 of the Constitution. The scheme provides for protection of witnesses based on the threat assessment.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2808
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023**

✓ JS(NWTR) **DELAY IN LISTING OF CASES FOR HEARING**

**2808. SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:
SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:**

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

(a) whether the Government has discussed some key issues with the Supreme Court Bar leaders and some sweeping changes are proposed to help the judges identify, hear and provide relief in cases particularly related to personal liberty or property which need their urgent attention to help litigants and lawyers in getting their cases listed for hearing and avoid procedural delays; and

(b) if so, the details and present implementation status thereof along with the outcome of such discussions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (b): No Sir, no such discussion has been initiated with Supreme Court Bar Leaders as the disposal of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts lies exclusively within the domain of the judiciary. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter. Court proceedings and listing of cases in terms of their priority lies totally within the exclusive domain of the concerned courts.

However, the Central Government started 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 with the judiciary 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.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2812

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 17th MARCH, 2023

CREATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS

Leg. II. Sec.

2812. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

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

- (a) whether several State Legislative Assemblies have adopted resolutions for creation of Legislative Councils in their respective States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Odisha Legislative Assembly has also adopted a unanimous resolution for creation of Legislative Council and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to create such Council under Article 169 of the Constitution;
- (e) if so, the details and the proposed timeline thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): Yes sir. In recent past, different States viz. Odisha, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Assam State Assemblies have adopted a resolution for creation of Legislative Council in the respective States. The said proposals are under examination in consultation with the concerned State Governments, thus, no rigid time frame can be given in the matter.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2814**

e-quest

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 17th MARCH, 2023

ESTABLISHMENT OF COURTS FOR SPEEDY JUSTICE

*35(PPP)
✓*

2814. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to establish courts for providing speedy justice in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of such courts to be established in the country, State-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a to c): Establishment of 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. 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 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. In this regard, the State governments /UTs have, so far till 31.01.2023, set up 843 FTCs, the details of which are given at Annexure-I. Further, in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Department of Justice is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme since October, 2019 for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts to provide speedy justice to the victims of rape and POCSO Act. The Scheme was for a period of one year which has been continued up to 31st March 2023. For further extension of the scheme beyond 31.03.2023, a third party evaluation by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) has been undertaken which has inter-alia recommended for continuation of the scheme. The details of State/UT wise functional FTSCs as on 31/01/2023 are given at Annexure- II.

ANNEXURE-I**STATUS OF STATE /UT WISE FAST TRACK COURTS (FTCs)**

(As on 31/01/2023)

S.No	STATES/UTs	Functional Courts	Cases pending
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	7446
2.	Andaman & Nicobar island	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4.	Assam	18	11049
5.	Bihar	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	23	5349
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0
9.	Delhi	10	4084
10.	Diu & Daman	0	0
11.	Goa	4	2288
12.	Gujarat	51	6730
13.	Haryana	6	668
14.	Himachal Pradesh	3	495
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	691
16.	Jharkhand	34	7813
17.	Karnataka	0	0
18.	Kerala	0	0
19.	Ladakh	0	0
20.	Lakshadweep	0	0
21.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
22.	Maharashtra	111	162135
23.	Manipur	6	351
24.	Meghalaya	0	0
25.	Mizoram	2	230
26.	Nagaland	0	0
27.	Odisha	0	0
28.	Puducherry	0	0
29.	Punjab	7	251
30.	Rajasthan	0	0
31.	Sikkim	2	14
32.	Tamil Nadu	73	107788
33.	Telangana	0	0
34.	Tripura	3	1382
35.	Uttar Pradesh	372	1115130
36.	Uttarakhand	4	932
37.	West Bengal	88	74016
	Total	843	1508842

ANNEXURE-II
STATUS OF STATE/UT WISE FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS (FTSCs)
(AS ON 31.01.2023)

S. NO.	State/UT	Earmarked Courts		Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal (since inception of CSS)		No. of cases pending in ePOCSO courts	Total pendency of cases in FTSCs including ePOCSO courts
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	ePOCSO	Total		
1	Chhattisgarh	15	11	15	11	2653	3067	2059	2700
2	Gujarat	35	24	35	24	5284	6639	5350	6727
3	Mizoram	3	1	3	1	27	109	31	76
4	Nagaland	1	0	1	0	3	51	0	53
5	Jharkhand	22	8	22	16	2353	3820	3276	4480
6	Madhya Pr	67	26	67	57	13626	16258	9600	12056
7	Manipur	2	0	2	0	0	82	0	129
8	Haryana	16	12	16	12	2502	3449	3241	4290
9	Chandigarh	1	0	1	0	0	130	0	215
10	Rajasthan	45	26	45	30	6354	9146	5558	6939
11	Tamilnadu	14	14	14	14	4696	4696	5026	5026
12	Tripura	3	1	3	1	103	189	122	319
13	Uttar Pr	218	74	218	74	19170	41053	47935	78839
14	Uttarakhand	4	4	4	0	0	1012	0	932
15	Delhi	16	11	16	11	531	814	3104	4426
16	Meghalaya	5	5	5	5	255	255	1004	1004
17	J&K	4	0	4	2	63	119	245	440
18	Punjab	12	2	12	3	1308	2194	589	1771
19	Himachal P	6	3	6	3	373	540	417	912
20	Kerala	56	14	56	14	3353	10503	1927	7049
21	Karnataka	31	17	31	17	4198	5506	3037	5577
22	Telangana	36	10	34	0	2731	6211	0	7634
23	Andhra Pr	18	8	13	13	1820	1820	7299	7299
24	Bihar	54	30	45	45	5953	5953	15576	15576
25	Assam	27	15	17	17	2814	2814	3905	3905
26	Maharashtra	138	30	35	17	7387	10598	3494	8292
27	Odisha	45	22	43	23	4639	7111	8124	11850
28	Goa	2	0	1	1	30	30	47	47
29	WB	123	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	A&N	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Arunachal Pr	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	1023	389	764	411	92226	144169	130966	198563

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2831

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023.

Code for Divorce and Alimony

Reg. III Sec.

2831. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the observation made by the Supreme Court with regard to enacting uniform civil code for all religions to bring uniformity in case of divorce and maintenance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued any notice to the Ministry of Law and Justice in this regard and directions have also been issued to the Law Commission to prepare a common civil code related to divorce and alimony in these months; and
- (e) if so, the progress made in this regard?

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

(a) to (e): Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has issued notices to the Union of India in Writ Petition (Civil) Nos. 869 of 2020 and 1144 of 2020, wherein the petitioner has prayed for directions to the respondents to take steps to remove anomalies on the grounds of divorce, maintenance and alimony and also for directions to the Law Commission of India to examine and suggest uniform grounds of divorce, maintenance and alimony within three months in spirit of articles 14, 15, 21 and 44 of the Constitution and international conventions.

The matter is sub-judice.

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

LOK SABHA

**Unstarred Question No. 2855
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 17.03.2023**

Judl- Sec. LA

Government Litigations in Courts

2855. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh:

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

- (a) whether the Government is one of the biggest litigants in courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, along with the number of the cases of the Government which are pending before the SC,HCs, Lower courts and tribunals as on date;
- (c) the top five litigant ministries of the Union Government along with the number of their pending cases; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the Government does not get into the business of unnecessary litigation?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJUJ)**

(a) &(b): As per data available on National Judicial Data Grid, the total number of pending cases in High Courts (6050600) & District Courts (42718466) are 48769066.

Number of cases where Government is party including the estimated pending Criminal Cases are as under: -

S.N	Courts	Criminal Cases
1	High Courts	1699622
2	District & Taluka Courts	31847225

Number of cases where the Central Government is a party (As per data available on LIMBS Portal, which is entered by 57user Ministries /Departments):-

Court wise Pending Cases	
Supreme Court	16776
High Court	242675
Tribunals	257531
Lower Court	118390

(c): As per data available on the LIMBS portal, following Ministries /Departments are the top five litigants:-

Top Five Litigants						
S.N	Ministry	Pending Cases	SC	HC	Tribunal	Lower Court
1	Finance	173377	9062	63030	97329	3956
2	Railways	108287	554	24925	53033	29775
3	Defence	85461	1235	14984	56503	12739
4	Labour & Employment	78249	320	23371	15424	39134
5	Home Affairs	23272	968	18421	1657	2226

(d):With the objective to reduce litigation, Ministries and Departments like Railways and Department of Revenue, involved in a high number of litigations, have been taking several measures for reducing the number of Court cases. Ministry of Railways has issued instructions for effective monitoring of Court cases at all levels. Zonal Railways and Production Units have been asked to take effective steps to reduce the number of cases in which the Government is a party and reduce the burden of courts, expedite finalization of all the cases in all courts at the earliest and to cut down the expenditure in contesting court cases. For achieving this, emphasis has been laid on effective monitoring of cases by having regular meetings with empanelled advocates, for briefing and necessary directions to be given at the highest level, besides ensuring timely submission of replies, Counter replies and necessary documents to the advocates.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) under the Department of Revenue, have issued a slew of instructions and brought in several measures, for reducing litigations and the resultant burden on Courts. While the CBDT has issued circulars directing the field Officers that pending appeals before Income Tax Appellate Tribunals/High Courts/Supreme Court with tax effect below the specified limits may be withdrawn/not pressed, and in the process facilitating a better and concerted focus on high demand litigations. CBDT has also

clarified to the field officers that appeals should not be filed merely because the tax effect in a particular case exceeds the prescribed monetary limits and the filing of an appeal should be decided strictly on the merits of the case.

Similarly, the field formations under the CBIC have been instructed to withdraw appeals pending in High Courts/Customs Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, where the Supreme Court has decided on identical matter. Besides, CBIC has also instructed its field formations not to contest further in appeal where the issue has been lost in two stages of appeals. It has been decided, however, that in cases where it is felt that the issue is fit for further appeal, then on proper justification and approval of the Zonal Chief Commissioner, an appeal can be filed for the third time. Also, the field formation have been instructed to forward only those SLP proposals where in the issue involves substantial question of law or gross perversity or illegality in the appreciation of evidence.

In this direction, both the CBDT and the CBIC have also enhanced the threshold monetary limit for filing appeals, the details of which are as follows:

CBDT:

For filing appeals	Monetary limit
Before Income Tax Appellate Tribunal	Rs. 50 lakhs
Before High Court	Rs.1 Crore
Before Supreme Court	Rs.2 Crore

CBIC:

Monetary limits for filing appeals in cases relating to Central Excise and Service Tax			Monetary limits for filing appeals in cases relating to Customs		
Before CESTAT	Before High Court	Before Supreme Court	Before CESTAT	Before High Court	Before Supreme Court
Rs.50 lakhs	Rs.1 Crore	Rs.2 Crore	Rs. 5 lakhs	Rs.10 lakhs	Rs.25 lakhs

For the purpose of monitoring of litigation of Union of India, a web-platform namely, Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS) was created in the year 2016. LIMBS Ver.2 has been launched in the year 2019 to overcome the then existing technological gaps in the application. The vision of LIMBS Ver.2 is '**to be a single platform for Litigation of Govt along with establishment of a synchronized regime for monitoring of Litigation**' across all Ministries / Departments of Government of India. Details regarding Central Government cases are updated on LIMBS portal by the 57 user Ministries / Departments. Data on LIMBS portal is user based which is entered by user of respective Ministry / Department and not centrally by the Department of Legal Affairs.

The alternative mechanism for the resolution of Inter-Ministerial/Departmental disputes also provide for an institutionalized mechanism for resolution of such disputes, namely, Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Disputes (AMRD). This was framed by the Department of Legal Affairs and circulated *vide* O.M. dated 31.03.2020. This mechanism, applicable to disputes other than taxation disputes, will reduce litigations in courts and resolve the cases outside the court system, where both parties are Govt. Department or where one party is Govt. Department and other is its instrumentalities, (CPSEs/Boards/ Authorities, etc.).

To resolve the commercial disputes between Central Public Sector Enterprises *inter-se* and Central Public Sector Enterprises and Government Departments/Organizations in place of the earlier 'Permanent Machinery of Arbitration', a new scheme, namely, "Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of CPSE Disputes (AMRCD)" evolved by Department of Public Enterprises has been brought into effect w.e.f. 22.05.2018.

The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in 2018 to *inter-alia* provide for Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mechanism. Under this mechanism a party which does not contemplate any urgent interim relief in a subject-matter of commercial dispute of specified value of Rs.3 lakh and above has to first exhaust the remedy of PIMS to be conducted by the authorities constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, before approaching the Court.

Further for facilitating quick disposal of disputes outside the court systems by way of alternate dispute redressal mechanism of mediation, the Mediation Bill, 2021 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha which *inter-alia* providing for pre-litigation mediation by the parties.

Also the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, which was set up in August, 2021 with the twin objective of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standers and capacities. The mission has being pursuing co-ordinate 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 arrears prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2886
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 17th MARCH, 2023**

Leg. II Sec.

DELIMITATION IN MEGHALAYA

2886. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

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

- (a) the details of the delimitation exercise to be undertaken in the State of Meghalaya;
- (b) the reasons for the delimitation exercise being done based on the 2001 census and not on the 2011 census;
- (c) the details and reasons of the decision taken by the Meghalaya Government to merge four districts just before the Delimitation order;
- (d) the details of the guidelines and methodology to be followed for the Delimitation exercise in the State; and
- (e) the number of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies that are expected to increase post the delimitation exercise in the State?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e): At present, no delimitation exercise is being undertaken in the State of Meghalaya.

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

LOK SABHA

JR

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2920
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023**

JS(NMTR)

Disposal of Cases by Gram Nyayalayas

✓ †2920. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

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

- (a) whether Gram Nyayalayas are set up or proposed to be set up to dispose of cases in view of the huge number of cases pending in district courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to dispose of the pending cases in district courts across the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Gram Nyayalayas were set up under the Gram Nyayalayas Act 2008 at the grass root level for the purpose of providing access to justice to the rural citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities. The concerned State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. However, it is not mandatory for the states to set up the Gram Nyayalayas. The state-wise details of Gram Nyayalayas notified and made functional are as follows:

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Gram Nyayalayas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas Functional
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
2	Rajasthan	45	45
3	Kerala	30	30

4	Maharashtra	36	23
5	Odisha	24	20
6	Uttar Pradesh	113	51
7	Karnataka	2	2
8	Haryana	2	2
9	Punjab	9	2
10	Jharkhand	6	1
11	Goa	2	0
12	Andhra Pradesh	42	0
13	Telangana	55	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	20	0
15	Ladakh	2	0
Total		477	265

(c): The steps taken to dispose of the pending cases in the district courts across the country are as under:

The disposal of pending cases in the Courts 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 expeditious disposal of cases by the judiciary. Central Government started 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.

Further, for improving the infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, as on date, Rs. 9812.82 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. As a result, the number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,295 as on 13.03.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,741 as on 13.03.2023, under this scheme. In addition, 2,488 court halls and 1,305 residential units are under construction (as per NyayaVikas Portal).

Besides, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been leveraged for improving justice delivery under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project. As a result, 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. All stakeholders, including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district & subordinate courts and high courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2023, these courts have handled more than 2.53 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 359 crores in fines.

Also, 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.

Vacancies are being filled up in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts regularly. From 01.05.2014 to 07.03.2023, 54 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 887 new Judges were appointed and 646 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
13.03.2023	25,189	19,520

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

Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Government of India established Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 31.01.2023, 843 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. 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.

In addition, to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) is being promoted wholeheartedly. With this aim in view, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018, making it mandatory to go for Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) 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.

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. As per Section 19 of the LSA Act, 1987, LokAdalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions as per requirement. National LokAdalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

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.

Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in 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.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2941
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023**

REPRESENTATION OF WEAKER SECTIONS IN JUDICIARY

✓ (NWR)
2941. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

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

- (a) the steps being taken to ensure adequate representation of SCs, STs and OBCs in the judiciary;**
- (b) the measures being taken to sensitize the judiciary with respect to caste to ensure that no bias creeps into delivery of judgments;**
- (c) the conviction rate under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act;**
- (d) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to sensitize the concerned authorities at every stage of a complaint under this Act and ensure that the cases are properly filed and carried on without any discrimination; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a)& (b): 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.

As per the available information regarding the category/caste of High Court Judges, which is indicated by the recommendee in the biodata w.e.f.2018 at the time of their recommendation for appointment as High Court Judge by the High Court Collegium (HCC), has been compiled by the Department of Justice and the breakup is as under:-

Category	Total (As on 15.03.2023)
General	444
OBC	64
Minority	15
SC	17
ST	09
Information not available	20

In case of District and Subordinate judiciary, as per proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Governments, in consultation with their High Courts, frame the rules and regulations regarding the issue of appointment and reservations of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. Hence, in so far as recruitment or reservation of judicial officers in the States is concerned, the Central Government has no role in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District and Subordinate judiciary.

(c): As reported in the Crime in India Report (2021) which is published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the conviction rate under crime/atrocities against Scheduled Caste (SCs) for the year 2021 is 36.0% whereas in case of Scheduled Tribes (STs) it is 28.1% under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act).

(d) & (e): As per the information made available by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule (List-II) to the Constitution of India and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of all crimes within their jurisdiction including crimes against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The responsibility for the implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and rules made thereunder also lies with the State Government/UT Administrations. The Government at its level issues advisories to the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time for effective implementation of the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989 and Rules made thereunder in the letter and spirit.

For the effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is in force to provide admissible Central assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for inter-alia, Awareness Generation and Publicity as well.

Further, a National Helpline against Atrocities (NHAA) for the members of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has been also launched by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. The objective of the helpline is to generate awareness about the provisions and processes under the Law that are aimed at ending discrimination and provide protection. The NHAA is available on toll-free number '14566' across the country.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2944

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023

A25

BENEFICIARY OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE

✓ 2944. **SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:**

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

- (a) the number of persons who have benefitted from Pro Bono Legal Service under the Nyaya Bandhu scheme in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of advocates registered for this scheme across the country, State-wise; and
- (c) the Law schools that have joined the pro bono club under the said scheme in the country, State-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c) The Government launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services) in the year 2017 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 1st March,2023 , 2180 persons has been benefitted from Pro Bono Legal Services. (State/UT wise details is at **Annexure- ‘A’**). whereas, till date 5954 advocates have registered for the scheme across the country. Since the data related to pro bono advocates are maintained State Bar Council wise the same is given under **Annexure- ‘B’**. Till date, 69 Law schools have joined the pro bono club under the said scheme. (State/UT wise details is at **Annexure- ‘A’**)

Statement as referred to in reply to part (a) & (c) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2944 for answering on 17.03.2023 raised by SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV, MP on Beneficiary of Pro Bono Legal Service

A State-wise Statement containing number of persons have benefitted from Pro Bono Legal Service & Law Schools joined the pro bono club under Nyaya Bandhu (2017-2023)

S. No.	States	No. of Persons Benefitted	Number of Law Schools
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58	01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	02
3.	Assam	7	01
4.	Bihar	77	02
5.	Chandigarh	28	01
6.	Chhattisgarh	25	02
7.	Delhi	401	05
8.	Goa	2	01
9.	Gujarat	73	05
10.	Haryana	117	04
11.	Himachal Pradesh	4	01
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	9	01
13.	Jharkhand	37	01
14.	Karnataka	44	03
15.	Kerala	25	01
16.	Madhya Pradesh	93	03
17.	Maharashtra	379	05
18.	Manipur	7	01
19.	Meghalaya	0	01
20.	Mizoram	0	01
21.	Nagaland	0	01
22.	Odisha	106	03
23.	Punjab	17	02
24.	Rajasthan	33	03
25.	Sikkim	1	01
26.	Tamil Nadu	33	03
27.	Telangana	74	01
28.	Tripura	02	01
29.	Uttar Pradesh	281	07
30.	Uttarakhand	23	02
31.	West Bengal	213	03
32.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	11	00
33.	Lakshadweep	0	00
34.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	00
35.	Daman & Diu	0	00
36.	Puducherry	0	00
	Total	2180	69

Statement as referred to in reply to part (b) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2944 for answering on 17.03.2023 raised by SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV, MP on Beneficiary of Pro Bono Legal Service

A State Bar Council-wise Statement containing number of advocates registered for this scheme across the country (2017-2023)

S. No.	State Bar Councils	No. of Advocates
1	Andhra Pradesh	539
2	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim	100
3	Bihar	426
4	Chhattisgarh	158
5	Delhi	751
6	Gujarat	180
7	Himachal Pradesh	89
8	Jammu & Kashmir	115
9	Jharkhand	150
10	Karnataka	137
11	Kerala	129
12	Madhya Pradesh	517
13	Maharashtra & Goa	462
14	Manipur	24
15	Meghalaya	7
16	Odisha	225
17	Punjab & Haryana	619
18	Rajasthan	194
19	Tamil Nadu	264
20	Telangana	104
21	Tripura	6
22	Uttar Pradesh	557
23	Uttarakhand	71
24	West Bengal	130
	Grand Total	5954

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2971

TO ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17.03.2023

*T/A to Dcl A
✓ further Dcl A eff to LD (Emp. Cell) on 14/03/23*
SC/ST Advocates and Judges

2971. SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:

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

- (a) the details of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) advocates who have been designated as Senior Advocates and Advocates on Record in the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India, court-wise;
- (b) the details of SC and ST judges and advocates who have been proposed to be appointed as judges of High Courts and Supreme Court in the recent past;
- (c) the details of SC and ST judges and advocates actually appointed as judges of High Courts and Supreme Court since independence; and
- (d) the details of High Courts which have special bench to hear matter/appeal under SC ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989?

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

(a): Advocates practicing in the Supreme Court and High Courts are designated as Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court and respective High Courts. The Supreme Court of India and the High Court's seek application for conferment of the designation of Senior Advocate as a part of the Court practice and administration. The Supreme Court of India has laid down norms/guidelines to

govern the exercise of designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court and all High Courts in the country vide its judgment dated 12.10.2017 in WP(C) No. 33 of 2016 and WP(C) No. 819 of 2016. As per the information available in the court websites, as on 11.12.2021 there are 436 designated Senior Advocates and 3041 Advocates-on-Record in the Supreme Court of India. The High Courts have approximately 1,306 designated Senior Advocates. However, no specific detail is maintained with regard to social status as SC/ST of the designated Senior Advocates.

(b) 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. As on 16.03.2023, High Court Collegiums have recommended 124 names for appointment as High Court Judges which are under consideration with the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. Out of these, 04 recommendees belong to SC category and 03 recommendees belong to ST category.

(c): The data regarding social diversity in the appointment of 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). Hence, data since 2018 has been maintained. Out of 569 Judges appointed in the High Courts since 2018, 17 Judges belong to SC category and 09 Judges belong to ST category

(d) The designation of special benches to hear matter/appeal under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 falls within the domain of High Courts.

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

LOK SABHA

JK

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2977
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH MARCH, 2023**

Monitoring of Gram Nyayalayas

SS(WMJK)
✓ **2977. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJI BHAI SOLANKI:**

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

- (a) the number of the States that have been covered so far under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 and the revised guidelines of 2021;
- (b) the details of the fund provided to the States under the central assistance so far, State-wise;
- (c) whether any monitoring committee has been formed to look after the progress of the scheme and usage of the funds properly and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of States which are fully covered under the scheme and has established and operational Gram Nyayalayas there as of now?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)**

- (a): So far 13 States have joined the Gram Nyayalayas 2008 scheme. Among the union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have also implemented the scheme.
- (b) to (d): As per information made available by the State Governments / High Courts, 477 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified so far by 15 States/UTs. Out of these, 265 Gram Nyayalayas are operational in 10 States at present. State-wise details of the Gram Nyayalayas notified, operationalised by the State Governments and status of funds released by this Department is as under:

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Gram Nyayalayas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas Functional	Fund released (Amount in Rs.lakh)
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89	2456.40
2	Rajasthan	45	45	1240.98
3	Kerala	30	30	828.00
4	Maharashtra	36	23	660.80
5	Odisha	24	20	337.40
6	Uttar Pradesh	113	51	1323.20
7	Karnataka	2	2	25.20
8	Haryana	2	2	25.20
9	Punjab	9	2	25.20
10	Jharkhand	6	1	75.60
11	Goa	2	0	25.20
12	Andhra Pradesh	42	0	436.82
13	Telangana	55	0	693.00
14	Jammu & Kashmir	20	0	0.00
15	Ladakh	2	0	0.00
Total		477	265	8153.00

Two monitoring Committees have been constituted at the Central and State respectively each to monitor progress and timely completion of projects and to facilitate coordination between the various Department officials. These Committees hold regular meetings in person or through video conference to review and monitor the progress of the scheme. The composition of the Committees is as follows:

- (i) High Court Level Monitoring Committee in the State: The Committee is chaired by the Chief Justice of the respective High Court and consist of the Registrar General of the High Court, Portfolio Judges, Law/Home Secretary of the State and Secretary of the State PWD. The Committee have the responsibility of overall monitoring of the implementation of the Scheme in the State.
- (ii) Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice: The Committee is chaired by Secretary (Department of Justice, GoI) and comprise representatives from all

States (Department of Law/Home, High Courts and PWD), concerned Joint Secretary (Department of Justice, GoI), Financial Advisor (Ministry of Law and Justice, GoI) and concerned Deputy Secretary (Department of Justice) who acts as the Convener.

Apart from this an online monitoring system namely Gram Nyayalaya portal has been developed by the Department of Justice for better management by enabling data collection from the States/UTs in respect of date of notification/operationlization of the Gram Nyayalayas; their taluk and district wise location; status of release of funds; status of utilization of released funds; data on pending cases, fresh cases instituted and cases disposed in respect of civil and criminal cases in the Gram Nyayalayas, etc. The States/UTs are required to upload/update data regularly on the portal by 5th day of every month.

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

L O K S A B H A

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2988

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 17th MARCH, 2023

IMPORT OF EVM TECHNOLOGY

Ug. II. Sec.

2988. SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED:

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

- (a) whether the Government has purchased the EVM and EVI technology from foreign countries and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the company engaged in manufacturing of the EVM, VVPAT and their paper roll;
- (c) the total numbers of Ballot Unit (BU) and Control Unit (CU) available in the country as on date;
- (d) the details of the model being used presently for voting with full tamperproof technology; and
- (e) whether the Government has made any affidavit in support of the tamper-proofing of the EVM in the court and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that EVMs and VVPATs are designed and manufactured indigenously by M/s. Bharat Electronic Limited (M/s. BEL) (PSU under the Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India) and M/s. Electronic Corporation of India Limited (M/s. ECIL) (PSU under the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India). Paper Roll of the VVPAT is procured by the States/UTs from the manufacturers viz. M/s. BEL and M/s. ECIL.

- (c): The details of total numbers of CUs and BUs available in the country is as under:-

Procurement Year	BU (in Lakhs)	CU (in Lakhs)
2014	3.82	2.50
2018	13.95	10.56
New Procurement (Under production)	13.26	9.09
Total	31.03	22.15

- (d): The ECI has informed that presently, it is using the M-3 Model of EVMs and VVPATS.
- (e): In an election petition filed in Karnataka High Court in the matter of Michael B. Fernandes vs. C.K. Jaffer Sharief, 2004 SCC online Kar 72, the Hon'ble Court had observed that EVMs are fully tamper proof and there is no possibility of manipulation of mischief at the instance of anyone.

Further, in the matter of W.P. (Crl.) No. 41 of 2017 titled as Manohar Lal Sharma vs. The Chief Election Commissioner of India & 4 Ors. filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the ECI had submitted a Counter Affidavit (CA) explaining that the EVMs are tamper proof. The Court took on record the CA of the ECI and disposed off the matter *vide* its order dated 09th August, 2017.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3914

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24.03.2023

Appointment of Retired Supreme Court Judges

✓ ASLARA)
3914. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:

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

- (a) whether a number of retired Supreme Court Judges have been appointed/nominated by the Government in various positions during the last five years; and
- (b) if so, the details of Constitutional and other positions given to them during the said period, position-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (b): Department of Justice is concerned with the service conditions of the sitting Judges of the High Courts/Supreme Court only. Appointments of retired Supreme Court Judges to various Constitutional posts, Commissions, Tribunals etc. are made by different Ministries/Departments as per relevant rules. Therefore, the information is not centrally maintained.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3951
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2023**

COMMITTEE FOR SPEEDY JUSTICE

✓ 34 (NM/23)
3951. 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 LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(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. 9755.51 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 21,271 as on 28.02.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,734 as on 28.02.2023, under this scheme.
- ii. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 07.03.2023, 54 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 887 new Judges were appointed and 646 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
21.03.2023	25,189	19,522

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 wholeheartedly. 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. 689 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. 21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2023, these

courts have handled more than 2.53 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 359 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.

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 31.01.2023, 843 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 (till Feb)	1,75,98,095	30,25,724	2,06,23,819
Total	5,58,19,604	1,95,18,262	7,53,37,866

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 28th Feb, 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
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	

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 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.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3952
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2023**

GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILDREN COURTS

JS(NMJSR)

✓ 3952. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

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

- (a) the details of Government's monetary sanction and allocation for the establishment and maintenance of Children courts during 2019-2022;
- (b) the details of Children courts which are currently in operation;
- (c) the details of Children courts which are currently in the process of sanctioning grants of their establishment; and
- (d) the details of monetary allocation made to the Legal Services Authority (LSA) for establishment and maintenance of observation homes, special homes, Children homes and place of safety and providing legal aid to the children in conflict with law during 2019-2022, year-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): Children court is one of the subordinate court which comes within the domain of the State Governments who in consultation with their respective High Courts open such courts as per their needs and resources. In pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 making the punishment for offences like rape more stringent by including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years and the direction of the Supreme Court of India in Suo Moto 1/2019 dated 25.07.2019 that "in each

district of the country, if there are more than 100 cases under the POCSO Act, an exclusive/designated special Court will be set up, which will try no other offence except those under the POCSO Act". Accordingly, Union of India started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in October 2019 for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Court (FTSC) out of which 389 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts were earmarked for expeditious disposal of cases related to Rape and POCSO Act.

As on date, 28 States and Union Territories (UTs) have joined the scheme. The scheme was initially for one year which has been extended upto March, 2023. As per information made available by the High Courts, 764 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO courts are operational in 28 States/UTs.

(d): No separate funds are earmarked for any particular legal aid scheme/programme. The allocation of funds by the National legal Services Authority to State/UTs Legal Services Authorities is made on consolidated basis for all legal aid related activities as per the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Funds/ grants-in-aid to State Legal Services Authorities are used only for legal aid activities and not for establishment and maintenance of observation homes etc. The statement showing the State wise allotment of funds to the State Legal Services Authorities including Supreme Court Legal Services Committee & Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) during the financial year 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 (upto 10th March, 2023) is given under *Annexure-I*

Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3952 FOR ANSWER ON 24.03.2023 REGARDING 'GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILDREN COURTS'.

FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES INCLUDING SUPREME COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE & MCPC DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23 (As on 10.03.2023).

(In rupees)

S.No.	Name of SLSA	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as on 10.03.2023)
1	Andhra Pradesh	20000000	34000000	50000000	45000000
2	Arunachal Pradesh	20000000	10000000	14000000	25000000
3	Assam	30000000	37000000	64000000	66500000
4	Bihar	45000000	37000000	78000000	84000000
5	Chhattisgarh	60000000	39500000	52500000	66000000
6	Goa		5000000	1500000	2500000
7	Gujarat	35000000	34500000	57500000	82000000
8	Haryana	90000000	45000000	65000000	74000000
9	Himachal Pradesh	40000000	16500000	24500000	37000000
10	J & K	80000000	35000000	46500000	61000000
11	Jharkhand	40000000	40000000	73500000	69000000
12	Karnataka	70000000	62500000	75000000	85000000
13	Kerala	110000000	52500000	99000000	79500000
14	Madhya Pradesh	45000000	30000000	50000000	66000000
15	Maharashtra	60000000	62500000	82500000	94000000
16	Manipur	40000000	10000000	10500000	10000000
17	Meghalaya	10000000	5000000	5000000	15000000
18	Mizoram	25000000	5000000	11500000	13500000
19	Nagaland	25000000	5000000	11500000	16500000
20	Odisha	60000000	32500000	42500000	68000000
21	Punjab	100000000	32500000	64000000	54500000
22	Rajasthan	65000000	45500000	70000000	83500000
23	Sikkim	25000000	5000000	6500000	12500000
24	Tamil Nadu	50000000	42000000	60000000	74000000
25	Telangana	35000000	35000000	41000000	50500000
26	Tripura	30000000	28000000	26500000	26000000
27	Uttar Pradesh	30000000	65000000	60000000	116000000
28	Uttarakhand	20000000	25000000	25500000	30500000
29	West Bengal	90000000	52000000	70000000	85000000
30	And. & Nico. Islands				500000
31	U.T. Chandigarh	10000000	8000000	5500000	5000000
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		250000		
33	Daman & Diu		250000		

34	Delhi	80000000	50000000	93000000	122000000
35	Lakshadweep				500000
36	U.T. Puduchery		1000000	2000000	7200000
37	U.T.Ladakh			6500000	2500000
38	Supreme Court LSC		10000000	10000000	9000000
39	Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC)				12500000
	TOTAL	1420000000	1000000000	1453000000	1751200000

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3960

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2023

Facilities in District Courts

JR

35(NW5R)

✓ 3960. **SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:**
SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the poor condition of courts including courtrooms of judges in District courts of North Eastern States and Satara, Solapur and Pune in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to modernise the said district courts; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of judicial infrastructure is being implemented by the Government since 1993-94. The scheme aims at improving the physical infrastructure of the Subordinate Courts in the country with a view to facilitate better justice delivery. Under the scheme, central share of funds are released in prescribed ratio to the States/UTs which is 60:40 (Centre : States) for all States, except 8 NER States and 2 Himalayan States (Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh) where the ratio is 90:10 and in case of Union Territories, no state share is involved. Till date central share of Rs. 9812.82 crores has been released under the scheme since its inception, out of which Rs. 1022.72 crore have been released to the North Eastern States and Rs. 861.94 crores have been released to the State of Maharashtra.

The above CSS has been extended from time to time and was last extended for five years from 2021 to 2026 and 3 new components of digital computer room, toilet complex and lawyer hall were also brought under the purview of the scheme besides court halls and residential units.

Creation of Judicial Infrastructure for district and subordinate courts and its modernisation is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Government of India on judicial infrastructure only supplements the resources of the State Governments. Regular meetings are held with the States through video conferencing for expeditious utilization of funds for betterment of judicial infrastructure. As per information provided by the States, they are undertaking infrastructure development projects in the district and subordinate courts, including in the North Eastern States and in the districts of Satara, Solapur and Pune in the State of Maharashtra.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3967

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2023

DISPOSAL OF OLD CASES

✓ *TS (NMSR)*
**3967. SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL:
DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:
SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI):**

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

- (a) whether a number of criminal and civil cases are pending in various Courts for more than 30 to 50 years, if so, the number of cases pending for 30 to 40, 40 to 50 and more than 50 years separately;**
(b) whether the Supreme Court has given any directive to Courts to dispose of these old cases in a time bound programme;
(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases disposed of after the said directive of the Supreme Court; and
(d) the steps being taken by the Government to dispose of such old cases?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(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 the High Courts and District Courts, the detailed statement of criminal and civil cases pending for 30 to 40, 40 to 50 and more than 50 years is as under:-

Name of Court	30 to 40 years		40 to 50 years		More than 50 years	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
High Court	45261	23026	14650	1907	1077	1
District & Subordinate Courts	34214	84747	6917	8518	936	371

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

(b): 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 which includes within it, the power to improve the administration of justice in public interest, the Supreme Court issued certain guidelines for sustaining common man's faith in the rule of law and the justice delivery system both being inextricably linked. 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 and reduce pendency of cases in the High Courts and District courts.

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

(d): The disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the exclusive domain of the Judiciary and the Central Government has no direct role in the matter.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3980

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2023

Court Rooms in Lower Courts

✓ JS (WMSR)
3980. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of court rooms available for lower courts in the country is less than the sanctioned strength of judges in the subordinate judiciary, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of infrastructural facilities available and the constraints, if any, being faced by the Government in dealing with infrastructural challenges faced by lower judiciary and the steps taken to address the same; and
- (c) the details of the tangible plan to overcome the gap between sanctioned strength of judges and availability of court halls and gap between sanctioned strength and available residential units?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): As against sanctioned strength of 25,189 and working strength of 19,524 judicial officers, there are 21296 Court Halls and 18741 Residential Units that are available for the District & Subordinate judiciary in the country. Compared with the sanctioned strength of 25189 Judicial Officers, there is a gap of 3893 court halls and 6448 residential units but, when compared with the actual working strength of Judicial Officers, there is no shortage of courts halls, and a small shortage of residential units. However, there are already 1655 number of Residential Units and 2806 number of Court Halls that are under construction. The State-wise details are at *Annexure*.

The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, to augment 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 by providing financial assistance to them in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the 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. 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 crores. 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. 9812.82 crores has been released under the scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6368.51 crores (64.90 %) has been released since 2014-15. Allocation for Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Judicial Infrastructure during 2022-23 is Rs. 848 crore out of which by 20.03.2023 the utilization is Rs. 803 crores and for the coming financial year 2023-24, the allocation is Rs.1051 crore which is 24% increase over the last year. Hence, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Judicial Infrastructure plans to overcome any gap in the availability of requisite infrastructure.

As regards constraints, the COVID-19 pandemic led to general slowdown of the spending on infrastructure projects by the States/UTs. Further, it was observed by the Ministry of Finance that the funds being released to the States/UTs under the CSS' were not being put to use in a time bound manner, resulting in huge unspent balances with the State Governments. The Government introduced a revised Public Financial Management System(PFMS) for release of funds to the CSS' to ensure that the central funds and corresponding state share of funds are used appropriately and are invested solely in that specific scheme. Owing to fulfillment of a number of procedural and technical requirements,

the states/UTs had some problems in on-boarding the PFMS. However, with passages of time all those technical problems were got rectified/settled and all the states have now on-boarded the PFMS and are making expenditure through PFMS only. Besides writing to the States regularly, the Central Level Monitoring Committee of the Department of Justice held bi-monthly meetings on regular basis with the States/UTs during which, all the States and UTs were urged to utilize the unspent balance available with them expeditiously.

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3980 for reply on 24.03.2023, State/UT-wise details of Sanctioned/Working Strength and Court Halls/Residential Units as on 20.03.2023

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Court Halls	Total Residential Units
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	17	10
2	Andhra Pradesh	618	548	647	574
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	33	29	29
4	Assam	485	425	424	371
5	Bihar	2016	1350	1505	1197
6	Chandigarh	30	30	31	30
7	Chhattisgarh	552	436	475	460
8	D & N Haveli	3	2	3	3
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	5	5
10	Delhi	887	709	694	348
11	Goa	50	40	53	26
12	Gujarat	1582	1151	1524	1341
13	Haryana	772	574	561	518
14	Himachal Pradesh	179	163	170	153
15	Jammu and Kashmir	314	222	199	122
16	Jharkhand	694	505	658	609
17	Karnataka	1375	1134	1185	1142
18	Kerala	601	471	564	538
19	Ladakh	17	9	9	6
20	Lakshadweep	4	4	3	3
21	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1642	1543	1681
22	Maharashtra	2190	1940	2350	2055
23	Manipur	59	42	43	16
24	Meghalaya	99	57	53	26
25	Mizoram	74	41	47	37
26	Nagaland	34	24	30	39
27	Odisha	1001	814	814	707
28	Puducherry	28	11	36	29
29	Punjab	797	589	589	625
30	Rajasthan	1587	1249	1338	1137
31	Sikkim	30	23	20	15
32	Tamil Nadu	1343	1061	1215	1343
33	Telangana	560	419	533	475
34	Tripura	128	108	82	91
35	Uttar Pradesh	3694	2494	2758	2349
36	Uttarakhand	299	269	253	210
37	West Bengal	1014	918	836	421
TOTAL		25189	19524	21296	18741

Source: MIS Portal (Department of Justice)

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3990

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24.03.2023

Strength of Judges

✓ AS (ARA)
**3990. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH:
SHRI D.K. SURESH:**

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

- (a) whether around forty percent of posts of judges in Supreme Court (SC) and High Courts are lying vacant and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the sanctioned strength and vacancies, Court-wise;
- (b) whether the disagreement between the Government and the Supreme Court has aggravated the situation of increasing vacancies in the courts, if so, the steps taken to resolve this issue;
- (c) whether the shortage of judges has resulted in further increase in the pendency of cases in the said courts and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any concrete decision/measures on this issue; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e): As on 21.03.2023, there is no vacancy of Judges in the Supreme Court. As far as the High Courts are concerned, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 785 Judges are working and 329 posts of Judges are vacant. Against these 329 vacancies, 119 proposals

recommended by High Court Collegiums are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium and recommendations against remaining 210 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums. The High Court-wise detail of sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy as on 21.03.2023 is at Annexure.

Appointment of Judges in higher judiciary is a collaborative and integrated process involving the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities. Differences of opinion, if any, are mutually reconciled by the executive and the judiciary to ensure that only the apposite person is appointed to the high constitutional post of a Judge.

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. Government is committed to filling up of vacancy expeditiously in time-bound manner.

During the period from May, 2014 to 2023 (till 21.03.2023), 54 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court of India, 893 fresh Judges were appointed in the various High Courts and 646 Additional Judges were appointed as Permanent Judges of High Courts.

The detailed statement of Pendency of Cases in Supreme Court and High Court for the past three years, showing the increase/decrease of pendency of cases in the respective courts is as below:

Year	2020	2021	2022
Supreme Court*	64,429	96,855	69,598
High Courts**	56,42,567	56,49,068	59,78,714

*Source: Supreme Court of India pendency as on 4.12.2020, 6.12.2021 and 1.12.2022 respectively.

**Source: National Judicial Data Grid pendency as on 31st December of respective years i.e. 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The pendency of cases in courts is not only due to shortage of judges in High Courts but also due to various other factors like (i) increase in number of state and central legislations, (ii) accumulation of first appeals, (iii) continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, (iv) appeals against orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, (v) number of revisions/appeals, (vi) frequent adjournments, (vii) indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction, (viii) lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, tracking and bunching of cases for hearing, (ix) assigning work of administrative nature to the Judges, etc.

ANNEXURE

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (As on 21.03.2023)

A.	Supreme Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		34			34			0		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	82	21	103	37	20	57
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	26	5	31	2	4	6
3	Bombay	71	23	94	42	23	65	29	0	29
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	34	19	53	20	-1	19
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	9	4	13	8	1	9
6	Delhi	46	14	60	45	0	45	1	14	15
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	14	9	23	8	-1	7
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	11	4	15	2	0	2
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	20	1	21	0	4	4
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	40	13	53	7	2	9
13	Kerala	35	12	47	31	6	37	4	6	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	31	0	31	8	14	22
15	Madras	56	19	75	47	11	58	9	8	17
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	32	0	32	8	13	21
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	38	27	65	26	-6	20
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	33	0	33	5	12	17
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	30	2	32	2	8	10
24	Tripura	4	1	5	2	0	2	2	1	3
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	5	0	5	4	2	6
	Total	840	274	1114	640	145	785	200	129	329

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4000
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24th MARCH, 2023

Security of Judicial Digitisation Process *e-court*

✓ (PPP) 4000. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:
SHRI COSME FRANCISCO CAITANO SARDINHA:

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

- (a) the steps taken/being taken to digitize the judicial process and ensure data and cyber security during digitization processes in the judiciary;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation of Courts in dealing with cases after the Covid-restrictions/Covid-shock;
- (c) whether the Government has considered the challenges and the opportunities the online-environment provides with regards to the pendency of cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the performance of online-hearings that has been realized in the country; and.
- (f) whether any steps or proposals are being considered to increase the strength of the judiciary and process cases faster and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e) : The Government has launched the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project in the country for computerization of District and subordinate courts with the objective of improving access to justice using technology. As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the project is under implementation since 2007 for ICT enablement 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 during 2011-2015. Phase II of the project started in 2015 and 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerised till phase II. The Government has taken the following digital initiatives under eCourts Project 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 22.38 crore cases and more than 20.83 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.03.2023).
- 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 1.64 cr. downloads till 31st January 2023) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022). JustIS mobile app is now available in iOS as well.

- v. The India emerged as a global leader in Video Conferencing. The High Courts (77,67,596 cases and Subordinate Courts 1,84,95,235 cases) have conducted 2.63 crore virtual hearings till 31.01.2023. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,02,937 hearings through video conferencing till 31.01.2023. 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.
- vi. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.53 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 33 lakhs (33,57,972) cases online fine of more than Rs. 359.34 crore has been realized till 31.01.2023.
- vii. 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 31.01.2023.
- viii. 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 31.12.2022.
- ix. To bridge the digital divide, 689 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.
- x. 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.

- xi. 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.
- xii. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address “skill divide”, a manual on eFiling and a Brochure on “How to register for eFiling” has been made available in English, Hindi and 11 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court services with video tutorials on eFiling. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes 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.

The Supreme Court in its decision in Justice K S Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India has held that right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms governed by Part III of the Constitution. To balance the right of privacy, right to information and data security, a Sub-Committee consisting of six judges of the High Courts, assisted by technical working group members consisting of domain experts, has been constituted by the Chairperson of the e-Committee to suggest/recommend secure connectivity and authentication mechanisms for data protection to preserve the right to privacy. The Sub-Committee is mandated to critically assess and examine the digital infrastructure, network and service delivery solutions created under the e- Courts project for giving solutions for strengthening data security and for protecting the privacy of citizens.

During the COVID period, a COVID-19 Management Patch was developed in the CIS to help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to

retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. In addition to above initiatives the Department of Justice along with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India have emphasised the utilization of the initiatives undertaken under eCourts Project to improve the situation of Courts in dealing with cases post Covid.

Virtual hearing has served a significant purpose of ensuring access to justice. Though there are some of the challenges pertaining to virtual hearing but following benefits accrued outweigh the challenges:

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

Thus online hearing leads to faster adjudication of cases thereby reducing pendency of cases.

(f): In so far as the steps/proposal for increasing the strength of the judiciary is concerned, The Union Government does not have any role in the selection, appointment and/or increase in strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate judiciary. In so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States. As provided under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution which empowers the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, to frame the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue of

increase in strength and/or appointment of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service.

Regarding the steps/proposals for processing of cases faster, 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. 9755.51 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 21,271 as on 28.02.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,734 as on 28.02.2023, 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. 689 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. 21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2023, these courts have handled more than 2.53 crore cases and realized more than Rs.

359 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 01.07.2014 to 21.03.2023, 54 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 887 new Judges were appointed and 646 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
20.03.2023	25,189	19,522

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 31.01.2023, 843 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 wholeheartedly. 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 (till Feb)	1,75,98,095	30,25,724	2,06,23,819
Total	5,58,19,604	1,95,18,262	7,53,37,866

- 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 28 th Feb, 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
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 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 instil Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4018
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2023

CASES PENDING IN SC AND HCS

NM

✓ JS (NMTSR)
†4018. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

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

- (a) the details of pending cases in the Supreme Court (SC) as on 1st of March 2023;
- (b) the details of pending cases in High Courts (HCs) across the country as on 1st of March 2023; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken/plans being formulated by the Government to reduce the pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): As per data retrieved from Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), the number of pending cases as on 01st March, 2023 at Supreme Court of India is 69,379. As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), details of pending cases in High Courts, across the country as on 1st of March 2023 is given under *Annexure*.

(c): While disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the exclusive domain of the judiciary, and the Central Government has no direct role in the matter, several steps

have been taken as detailed below, in collaboration with all the stakeholders including judiciary to facilitate reduction in pendency.

- 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. 9755.51 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 21,271 as on 28.02.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,734 as on 28.02.2023, 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. 689 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. 21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2023, these courts have handled more than 2.53 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 359 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 07.03.2023, 54 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 887 new Judges were appointed and 646 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:

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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 31.01.2023, 843 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 wholeheartedly. 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:-

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- 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.

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- 5 -

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4018 FOR ANSWER ON 24.03.2023 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN SC AND HCS'.

Pendency in High Court as on 01.03.2023		
Sl.No	High Court	Total No. of Cases
1	Allahabad High Court	1029326
2	Bombay High Court	685727
3	Calcutta High Court	206501
4	Gauhati High Court	58576
5	High Court for state of Telangana	252339
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	242280
7	High Court of Chattisgarh	91812
8	High Court of Delhi	106391
9	High Court of Gujarat	161480
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	92133
11	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	44663
12	High Court of Jharkhand	86388
13	High Court of Karnataka	304553
14	High Court of Kerala	194559
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	431508
16	High Court of Manipur	4942
17	High Court of Meghalaya	1165
18	High Court of Orissa	156570
19	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	440784
20	High Court of Rajasthan	642720
21	High Court of Sikkim	173
22	High Court of Tripura	1366
23	High Court of Uttarakhand	46115
24	Madras High Court	551552
25	Patna High Court	212647
Total		6046270

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4033

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24.03.2023

Suggestion for Socially Inclusive Judiciary

✓ ASLARA)
4033. SHRI TAPIR GAO:

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

- (a) whether the Government collects any data regarding the social representation of Judges in the Higher Judiciary and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any way forward suggestion is made to the Higher Judiciary by the Government to make the judiciary more socially inclusive by ensuring the adequate representation of the Minorities, SCs, STs and OBCs while appointing the judges; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): Information on social background is being provided by the recommendees as per the revised Annexure (revised in 2018) wherein they have to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Therefore, data since 2018

is available. As per information provided by the recommendees, out of 575 High Court Judges appointed since 2018 till 20.03.2023, 67 Judges belong to the OBC category, 17 Judges belong to the SC category, 09 Judges belong to ST category and 18 Judges belong to Minority.

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.

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

Lok Sabha

**Unstarred Question No. 4046
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24th March, 2023**

Panel for Selection of Election Commissioners

Adm. I (L)

4046. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has held that the selection of the Chief Election Commissioner and the members of the Commission to be made by a panel comprising the PM, the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) and the Chief Justice of India (CJI) as the Government has failed to enact a Law as per the Article 324(2) of the Constitution for the purpose; and
(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) and (b): Sir, in Writ Petition (Civil) No.104 of 2015, *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India*, with Writ Petition (Civil) No.1043 of 2017, 569 of 2021 and 998 of 2022, the Supreme Court of India has *inter alia* held in its judgment dated the 02 March, 2023 that until the Parliament makes a law in consonance with Article 342(2) of the Constitution the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners shall be made on the recommendations made by a three-member Committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha and in case no Leader of Opposition is available, the Leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha in terms of numerical strength and the Chief Justice of India.

The judgement of Supreme Court is being examined by the Government and appropriate action will be taken.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

SR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4047

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2023

National Judicial Infrastructure Fund

✓ JS (UNSTARRED)
4047. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS:

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

- (a) the details of the current vacancy in the high courts and lower judiciary across the country, State-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated and utilised under the National Judicial Infrastructure Fund since its inception by both the central and State Governments; and
- (c) the total number of courts in India which currently have digital computers, centralized filing centres, waiting areas for litigants, rented premises and separate toilets for women?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a): The details of current vacancy in the high courts and lower judiciary across the country, State-wise is at *Annexure-I and Annexure II* respectively.
- (b): There is no National Judicial Infrastructure Fund. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of judicial infrastructure is being implemented by the Government since 1993-94. The scheme aims at improving the physical infrastructure of the District and Subordinate Courts in the country with a view to facilitate better justice delivery. Under the scheme, central share of funds are released in prescribed ratio to the States/UTs which is 60:40 (Centre : States) for all States, except 8 NER States and 2 Himalayan States (Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh) where the ratio is 90:10 and in case of Union Territories,

no state share is involved. Till date, Central share of Rs. 9812.82 crores has been released under the scheme since its inception, out of which Rs. 6368.51 crores (64.90%) has been released since 2014-15. Against the release of central funds of Rs. 9812.51 crore till date, as on date the states are having unspent balance of Rs. 983.51 crore which includes state share also.

(c): 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerized so far under the eCourts project. The detailed break-up of courts having digital computers has been attached in **Annexure-III**. As on date, 615 Court Halls are in rented premises. The Department does not centrally maintain data on centralized filing centres, waiting areas for litigants and separate toilets for women. However, as per data compiled by Registry of Supreme Court of India on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities, shared with this Department in 2021 it has been *inter alia* stated that 55% of the court complexes have centralized filing counters, around 33% of courtrooms have adjacent waiting lounges for lawyers and litigants and 74% court complexes have separate ladies toilets.

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4047 for reply on 24.03.2023, State/UT-wise details of Sanctioned/Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts (As on 20.03.2023)

B.	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	82	21	103	37	20	57
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	26	5	31	2	4	6
3	Bombay	71	23	94	42	23	65	29	0	29
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	34	19	53	20	-1	19
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	9	4	13	8	1	9
6	Delhi	46	14	60	45	0	45	1	14	15
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	14	9	23	8	-1	7
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	11	4	15	2	0	2
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	20	1	21	0	4	4
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	40	13	53	7	2	9
13	Kerala	35	12	47	31	6	37	4	6	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	31	0	31	8	14	22
15	Madras	56	19	75	47	11	58	9	8	17
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	32	0	32	8	13	21
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	38	27	65	26	-6	20
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	33	0	33	5	12	17
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	30	2	32	2	8	10
24	Tripura	4	1	5	2	0	2	2	1	3
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	5	0	5	4	2	6
	Total	840	274	1114	640	145	785	200	129	329

Source: Department of Justice website (Updated by Appointment Division)

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4047 for reply on 24.03.2023, State/UT-wise details of Sanctioned/Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts (As on 20.03.2023)

Sl. No.	States & UTS	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	-13
2	Andhra Pradesh	618	548	70
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	33	8
4	Assam	485	425	60
5	Bihar	2016	1350	666
6	Chandigarh	30	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	552	436	116
8	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
10	Delhi	887	709	178
11	Goa	50	40	10
12	Gujarat	1582	1151	431
13	Haryana	772	574	198
14	Himachal Pradesh	179	163	16
15	Jammu and Kashmir	314	222	92
16	Jharkhand	694	505	189
17	Karnataka	1375	1134	241
18	Kerala	601	471	130
19	Ladakh	17	9	8
20	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1642	386
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	1001	814	187
28	Puducherry	28	11	17
29	Punjab	797	589	208
30	Rajasthan	1587	1249	338
31	Sikkim	30	23	7
32	Tamil Nadu	1343	1061	282
33	Telangana	560	419	141
34	Tripura	128	108	20
35	Uttar Pradesh	3694	2494	1200
36	Uttarakhand	299	269	30
37	West Bengal	1014	918	96
	TOTAL	25189	19524	5665

Source: MIS Portal (Department of Justice)

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4047 for reply on 24.03.2023, High Courts and State/UT-wise details of Court Complexes and Courts.

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

Source: (eCourt Division)

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4056
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24th MARCH, 2023

Expenses on Litigations *e-court*

JS(PPP)
✓ 4056. SHRI RAJ KUMAR CHAHAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the prohibitive cost being borne by litigants of Western Uttar Pradesh in pursuing their litigation at Allahabad and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to promote e-filing and hearing through video conferencing in the High Courts to save the travelling and expenses of litigation;
- (c) whether any communications have been sent to the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court for promoting e-filing and virtual hearing of the cases and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the global trend of hearing through video conferencing and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) : So far as, Court fees are concerned, the same is equal for all litigants approaching a court. However, transportation and other logistic expenses are

additional costs that are borne by the litigants, who are based outside the cities, wherein the courts are located.

(b) : Under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase -II, Government has started various e-initiatives including eFiling and video conferencing to facilitate easy access to justice and thus, reducing expenses of litigation as well as travelling time.

New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. In the new version, new tab is provided which allows Advocates and litigants to record their oath with in-system video recording while uploading documents. The new version provides new dashboard including the options of my partners, Case Filing, Vakalatnama, pleading, e-payments, applications and portfolio. Help section provided in the new version provides tutorial videos, FAQ and user manual.

Government has released Rs.119.29 crores for installation of Video Conferencing equipment. 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. A sum of Rs. 7.60 crore has been released for procurement of 1732 Document Visualizers.

As part of IEC campaign several initiatives have been taken to educate the Judicial Officers, lawyers and public about the facilities available under eCourts Project, such as

- **eCommittee Website**

Launched exclusively for the e-Committee and linked to the website of the DoJ for dissemination of information relating to eCourts Project

amongst all stakeholders and to enable High Courts to upload their achievements and best practices.

- **Awareness through social media platforms like YouTube, twitter, facebook, Kooh, Instagram**

Under the title 'eCourts Services' for video tutorials on eFiling.12 help videos in 7 regional languages have been uploaded apart from Hindi and English and circulated for advocates as part of awareness, through eFiling portal help desk and also on social media through eCommittee YouTube channel.

- **Awareness and familiarization of e-filing**

Various webinars were held for different High Courts on eFiling. Manual and Brochure on eFiling made available on eFiling Portal.

- **eCommittee Training at National and State level**

Training and awareness programmes on the ICT have been conducted covering nearly 5,13,080 stakeholders including Judges of States, Courts staff and Advocates. 25 Master Trainers have been trained in each High Court who in turn has already trained 5409 Master Trainers across the country. These, 5409 Master Trainers have in turn imparted training programme on eCourts Services and e-filing in each district of the country for advocates in their regional languages and also identified Master Trainer Advocates.

(c) and (d) : Yes Sir, vide DO letter dated 09.03.2023, Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju has written to Chief Justices of all High Courts including Chief Justice of Allahabad emphasising the role of virtual hearings and saturation of eSewa Kendras in all court complexes for providing these services.

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. Through video conferencing the District

& Subordinate courts heard 1,84,95,235 cases while the High Courts heard 77,67,596 cases (totalling 2.62 cr) till 31.01.2023. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,02,937 hearings through video conferencing till 31.01.2023.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4070

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24th MARCH 2023

FAST TRACK COURTS

J-II

55(PPP)

✓4070. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:

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

- (a) the details of fast track courts set up in the different parts of the country and the corpus of funds allocated for their functioning during the last three years, State and district-wise;
- (b) whether a large number of cases are still pending despite setting up of various fast track courts and rural courts in various States of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of pending cases disposed of by these fast track courts and the rural courts since their inception;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up more courts and appoint more judges in the existing courts in order to dispose of the pending cases as soon as possible;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the disposal of pending cases within a time limit?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e): Establishment of subordinate courts including fast track courts (FTC) and rural 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. 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 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, 843 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.1.2023. The details of FTCs functional, cases disposed and pending in these courts for last three years including current year (January, 2023) are given at **Annexure**.

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. 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 Cr. with Rs.474 Cr. 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 years. The Cabinet has approved continuation of the scheme up to 31st March 2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.1572.86 Cr. including Rs.971.70 Cr. as Central Share. As per information made available by High Courts 764 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 28 States/UTs which have disposed more than 1,44,000 cases while 1,98,563 cases are pending in these courts as on 31st January 2023. 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme. In 21 States/UTs FTSCs are fully functional, in 7 States FTSCs are partially operational while 3 States/UTs i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and A&N Island are yet to join the Scheme. An amount of Rs.633.7 Cr. have been released to the States/UTs since inception of the scheme up to 31.03.2023.

(f): Disposal of cases lies exclusively within the domain of the judiciary. However, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide suitable environment for timely disposal of cases by the judiciary, which 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 provide infrastructure aimed to ease the work of

lawyers and litigants and aid justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 9755.51 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 21,271 as on 28.02.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,734 as on 28.02.2023, 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 computerized 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. 689 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. 21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2023, these courts have handled more than 2.53 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 359 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 07.03.2023, 54 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 887 new Judges were appointed and 646 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
20.03.2023	25,189	19,522

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 31.01.2023, 843 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.
- 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 (till Feb)	1,75,98,095	30,25,724	2,06,23,819
Total	5,58,19,604	1,95,18,262	7,53,37,866

- 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	11,46,046	33.43	11,23,504	33.49
Male	22,82,642	66.57	22,31,041	66.51
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 also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has 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 for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Number 4070 for 24/3/2023

Details of FTCs functional, cases disposed of and cases pending for last three years including current year

S. No.	State/UTs	2020			2021			2022			January, 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 January)	Cases Disposed during the month	Cases pending (as on 31 st January)
1	Andhra Pr	21	1177	10069	21	312	10069	22	1446	6855	22	111	7446
2	A&N Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	14	2615	10108	16	3780	9356	16	7413	10750	18	540	11049
5	Bihar	33	1759	58636	0	1603	69792	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh		0		0			0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23	2877	15310	23	5324	17779	23	4158	5330	23	262	5349
8	D&N Haveli		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	5	393	40733	7	223	48520	10	1019	4057	10	75	4084
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	130	0	0	59974	0	4	7114	2215	4	940	2288
12	Gujarat	0	462	33560	35	37102	35335	54	3784	6791	51	464	6730
13	Haryana	0	825	58511	6	899	65337	6	433	873	6	42	668
14	Himachal Pr	5	0	15618	0	5	5102	3	313	497	3	12	495
15	J&K	0	0	0	4	391	0	4	54	686	4	2	691
16	Jharkhand	1	27	14507	6	861	19371	34	2417	7836	34	268	7813
17	Karnataka	40	624	38365	18	2051	39458	0	1257	0	0	0	0
18	Kerala	13	210	100479	28	2333	114020	0	1650	0	0	0	0
19	Ladakh	23	217	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	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	25769	1	59	193	0	0	0
22	Madhya Pr	2	1	15584	0	0	67315	111	118311	158149	111	8506	162135
23	Maharashtra	116	63470	52079	110	114254	67315	6	316	360	6	16	351
24	Maharashtra	6	45	634	6	73081	634	6	0	0	0	0	0
25	Manipur	6	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	2	8	230
26	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	1758	0	2	221	223	2	0	0
27	Mizoram	2	179	0	2	3	153	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Nagaland	1	3	66	0	234	44689	0	304	0	0	0	0
29	Nagaland	0	0	39670	19	234	44689	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Odisha	0	0	1535	0	0	1452	0	248	255	7	31	251
31	Puducherry	0	0	52198	7	471	85061	7	0	0	0	0	0
32	Punjab	7	85	44222	0	32	46048	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Contd.....

S. No.	State/UTs	2020			2021			2022			January, 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 January)	Cases Disposed during the month	Cases pending (as on 31 st January)
31	Sikkim	2	5	188	2	5	195	2	20	14	2	1	14
32	Tamil Nadu	73	9389	29970	74	7865	32519	73	24993	107346	73	1363	107788
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	15	1382
35	UP	389	148466	413176	376	86013	396462	372	333049	1086490	372	36578	1115130
36	Uttarakhand	4	170	15119	4	215	15997	7	554	1532	4	40	932
37	WB	87	5202	0	88	3172	1166	88	21065	72824	88	1900	74016
	Total	907	239956	1078357	898	405168	1173298	848	533229	1474669	843	51174	1508842

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4090
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24th MARCH, 2023

Impl. Sec.
National Law Schools

✓ 4090. SHRI NAYAB SINGH :
SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:

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

- (a) the total number of National Law Schools in the country and the number of students studying in the said schools;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to open additional National Law University in the States of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh respectively keeping in view the trend of increase in number of students pursuing studies in the field of law and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also running or planning to run special research centres in the said National Law Schools to help students undertake research in any particular field of law and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the various ways through which the Government is assisting law students for research?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) The total number of National Law Schools in the country are 24 and the number of students studying in the said schools are 3080.
- (b) The National Law Universities (NLUs) have been established through respective State enactments and the Central Government has no role in the matter.

(c) to (d) The curriculum of the National Law Universities (NLUs) are drawn up by them. The nature and the format of the syllabus besides theoretical classes on various laws and jurisprudence also include interdisciplinary research, clinical courses, internships etc. The structure of the academic year at different NLUs are designed in such way that allows students to undertake research and internships for the purpose of gaining professional practical experience, thereby inculcating a holistic understanding of the law in students. Further, the internship component seeks to ensure that students obtain an insight into, and are afforded maximum exposure to the workplace by facilitating students to take internships with judges, senior advocates, law firms, international organisations, NGOs, PSUs, corporate houses, commissions, ministries, state departments etc. The Central Government also organizes internship programme for law students with the purpose to acquaint them and enhance their capacity in the working of the Government, in the field of research and referencing work, legal advice in various specialized fields of law such as constitutional and administrative law, finance sector laws, economic laws, labour laws, conveyancing, arbitration and contract law etc.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4092

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 24th MARCH, 2023

**TIME LIMIT FOR SIMULTANEOUS LOK SABHA
AND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

Vol. II Sec.

**†4092. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:**

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

- (a) whether the State Assemblies and Lok Sabha elections have been held together after adoption of democratic system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of times they have been held together till date; and
- (c) whether any time limit has been proposed for holding the said election process simultaneously again and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b): The General Elections were held simultaneously four times to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and all State Legislative Assemblies in 1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967. However, due to the premature dissolution of some State Legislative Assemblies in 1968 and 1969, the cycle got disrupted.
- (c): No sir.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4098

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 24th MARCH, 2023

DELIMITATION IN ASSAM

Vols. II Sec.

4098. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) the details of the delimitation exercise to be undertaken in the State of Assam;
- (b) the reasons for the delimitation exercise being done on the 2001 census instead of the 2011 census;
- (c) the details and the reasons of the decision taken by the Assam Government to merge four districts just before the delimitation order;
- (d) the details of the guidelines and methodology to be followed for the delimitation exercise in the State; and
- (e) the details of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies that are to be increased post the delimitation exercise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b): The Election Commission of India has been entrusted to undertake the delimitation exercise in the State of Assam under the provisions of section 8A of the Representation of People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950) and section 9 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002). The provisions of articles 82 and 170 (3) of the Constitution of India and the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002) provide for the delimitation exercise on the basis of 2001 census.

- (c): The Government of Assam has informed the following reasons for merger of the four Districts with its original Districts, as under:
- (i) Inadequate district machinery;
 - (ii) Difficulty in implementing Government schemes;
 - (iii) Disagreement on district boundaries; and
 - (iv) Difficulty in transfer of Government records etc.
- (d): The delimitation exercise in the State shall be done as per the procedure laid down in section 8A of the Representation of People Act, 1950, sections 9 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and constitutional provisions applicable in this regard.
- (e): There is no provision to increase the number of existing Assembly or Parliamentary Constituencies in the State of Assam.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4119

J-I

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24th MARCH, 2023

USE OF TAMIL IN MADRAS HIGH COURT

✓ 32(NKG)
4119. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken any action over the demand for the Tamil language to be made as official language in Madras high court - as well as its Madurai bench, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that all States find proportional representation in the Bench of the Supreme Court; and
- (c) whether the Government is implementing social diversity in higher judiciary and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIRENRIJU)

(a): 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. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), 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.

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.

...2/-

Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tami, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals and it was intimated that the Full Court of the Supreme Court after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

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 and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Justice of India conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations decided not to approve the proposal and reiterated the earlier decisions of the Hon'ble Court.

Government is committed to make the legal matters more comprehensible to common citizens by translating the orders and other legal materials into regional languages. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Bar Council of India has constituted 'Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti' chaired by former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde. The committee is developing a Common Core Vocabulary close to all Indian languages for the purpose of translating legal material into regional languages.

(b) & (c): Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court is made under Article 124 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. However, the Government in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium is committed to ensure appropriate representation from all the states in the Bench of the Supreme Court.

The Government is also 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.

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). Hence, data since 2018 has been maintained. Out of 575 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 444 Judges

belong to General category, 67 Judges belong to OBC category, 17 Judges belong to SC category, 09 Judges belong to ST category and 18 Judges belong to Minority.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4129

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24.03.2023

All India Judicial Service

AS (A&A)
✓ †4129. **SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:**

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

- (a) the present status of All India Judicial Service for judiciary;
- (b) the details of various approaches adopted by the stakeholders and courts in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has held any consultations in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for addressing observations made by various High Courts in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of All India Judicial Service (AIJS), which shall not include any post inferior to that of a District Judge. The constitutional provision enables creation of the AIJS at District Judge level. 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 proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was also included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 05th April, 2015.

: 3 :

The proposal of setting up of an All India Judicial Service was again discussed on points of eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, reservations etc. 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. 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 22.02.2021.

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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4132
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24th MARCH, 2023

LAP

Efficacy of e-Lok Adalat

JS(WKG)
✓

4132. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD:

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

- (a) the number of e-Lok Adalats functioning presently in various States, State and district-wise including Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the number of cases and the rate of pendency in High Courts and the district-level courts during each of the last five years, court and State-wise;
- (c) the extent to which e-Lok Adalats have been successful in reducing the number of pending cases in High courts and Lower courts;
- (d) whether Government proposes to set up more 'e-Lok Adalats' across India to clear pending cases in High courts and district-level courts;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the timeline for implementation of the same and the target set and the outcome desired with regard to disposing of cases pending in the said courts; and
- (f) the details of steps taken by the Government to promote e-Lok Adalats for providing speedy and affordable justice to citizens across the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) The first e-Lok Adalat was held in Madhya Pradesh on 27.06.2020. The detail of e-Lok Adalats organized from June, 2020 to January, 2023 in 28 States/UTs including Uttar Pradesh is at Annexure - A.

- (b) The detailed statement of Pendency of Cases in High Court and the District level courts during each of the last five years, court and State-wise is at Annexure – B and Annexure – C respectively.
- (c) The Lok Adalats are most effective mode of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism in arresting the mounting arrears of the Courts including High Courts. 46.07 lakh pre-litigation cases and 15.02 lakh pending cases in Courts have been disposed of by e-Lok Adalats during June, 2020 to January, 2023.
- (d) to (e) Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment and is organised at such intervals as felt required with a view to reduce pendency of cases in courts and settle disputes at pre-litigation stage. During the covid pandemic, the Legal Services Authorities under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) ingeniously integrated technology to move Lok Adalat on to the virtual platform, better known as e-Lok Adalats. Since e-Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously with regular Lok Adalats, benches are constituted on the basis of volume of cases referred by various courts or tribunals and institutions for pre-litigation cases.
- (f) Steps taken by Legal Services Authorities to promote e-Lok Adalats include - Standard Operating Procedure for conduct of e-Lok Adalat, Technical training through System officers to the Court Staff, Whatsapp groups for litigants, advocates and respondents for conveying them relevant information/ link for attending e-Lok Adalats and Video conferencing link and cause list displayed on the website of the District Courts.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4132 for answering on 24.03.2023 raised by Ms. Debasree Chaudhuri and Shrimati Sangeeta Azad, MPs - Efficacy of e-Lok Adalat

Statement showing details of e-Lok Adalats organized from June, 2020 to January, 2023							
S. No.	Name of the State Authority	Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts		Total	
		Taken Up	Disposal	Taken Up	Disposal	Taken Up	Disposal
1	Andhra Pradesh	661	214	22,072	15,500	22,733	15,714
2	Arunachal Pradesh	141	18	67	23	208	41
3	Bihar	58,182	17,469	9,023	3,078	67,205	20,547
4	Chhattisgarh	13,052	7,739	14,087	8,661	27,139	16,400
5	Goa	0	0	170	65	170	65
6	Gujarat	2,44,476	1,39,067	37,738	20,945	2,82,214	1,60,012
7	Haryana	3,755	3,625	9,565	4,985	13,320	8,610
8	Himachal Pradesh	2,72,292	11,688	416	244	27,2,708	11,932
9	Jammu & Kashmir	2,281	1,575	8,923	6,291	11,204	7,866
10	Jharkhand	1,81,033	1,17,468	58,832	37,411	2,39,865	1,54,879
11	Karnataka	20,558	11,885	3,02,404	1,76,527	3,22,962	1,88,412
12	Kerala	3,985	986	35,541	25,271	39,526	26,257
13	Madhya Pradesh	3,661	312	36,592	8,385	40,253	8,697
14	Maharashtra	2,37,67,045	41,35,134	87,90,833	10,07,872	3,25,57,878	51,43,006
15	Manipur	881	738	172	91	1,053	829
16	Meghalaya	133	33	25	8	158	41
17	Mizoram	1,856	283	168	47	2,024	330
18	Odisha	23,806	1,143	24,272	4,236	48,078	5,379
19	Punjab	5,327	536	9,387	6,639	14,714	7,175
20	Rajasthan	36,725	6,438	57,865	29,674	94,590	36,112
21	Sikkim	1,136	260	235	59	1,371	319
22	Telangana	887	862	12,450	10,408	13,337	11,270
23	Tripura	2,350	505	1,472	169	3,822	674
24	Uttar Pradesh	2,01,448	1,33,939	65,569	40,214	2,67,017	1,74,153
25	Uttarakhand	3,591	408	12,168	4,210	15,759	4,618
26	West Bengal	15,657	1,927	12,281	9,032	27,938	10,959
27	Chandigarh	0	0	70	12	70	12
28	Delhi	16,167	13,243	95,624	82,099	1,11,791	95,342
	Grand Total	2,48,81,086	46,07,495	96,18,021	15,02,156	3,44,99,107	61,09,651

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4132 for answering on 24.03.2023 raised by Ms. Debasree Chaudhuri and Shrimati Sangeeta Azad, MPs - Efficacy of e-Lok Adalat

Statement regarding pendency in High Courts (as per National Judicial Data Grid) during last five years						
S. 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

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4132 for answering on 24.03.2023 raised by Ms. Debasree Chaudhuri and Shrimati Sangeeta Azad, MPs - Efficacy of e-Lok Adalat

Statement regarding pendency in District Courts (as per National Judicial Data Grid) during last five years						
S. 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	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10229	9795	-	-	11886
4	Arunachal Pradesh	9652	10658	-	-	
5	Assam	291960	301427	357197	417788	488800
6	Bihar	2502204	2714344	3158070	3379229	3445159
7	Chandigarh	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	Dadra & Nagar Haveli			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	1494608	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	-	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	Lakshadweep	364	397	-	-	-
35	Uttar Pradesh	6987417	7807863	8572092	9822224	10973480
36	Uttarakhand	232338	195281	260564	301001	327350
37	West Bengal	1950492	2048697	2380633	2589993	2772290
	Total	30074590	32296224	36639436	40579062	43209164

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

J-II

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4136

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24th MARCH 2023

ASSESSMENT OF FAST-TRACK SPECIAL COURTS

35(PPP)
✓ **4136. SHRI JAI PRAKASH**

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed/ proposes to assess the functionings of Fast-track special courts established throughout the country under Central Government sponsored scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to continue this scheme further; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a to d): 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. 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 Cr. with Rs.474 Cr. 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 years. The Cabinet has approved continuation of the scheme up to 31st March 2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.1572.86 Cr. including Rs.971.70 Cr. as Central Share. As per information made available by High Courts 764 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 28 States/UTs which have disposed more than 1,44,000 cases while 1,98,563 cases are pending in these courts as on 31st January 2023. 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme. In 21 States/UTs FTSCs are fully functional, in 7 States FTSCs are partially operational while 3 States/UTs i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and A&N Island are yet to join the Scheme. An amount of Rs.633.7 Cr. have been released to the States/UTs since inception of the scheme up to 31.03.2023.

For further continuation of the scheme, as a first step, considering the paramount importance of safety and security of women and children, a third-party evaluation of FTSCs have been undertaken by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) which has inter-alia recommended for continuation of the scheme.

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 427**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Benches of High Courts

AB (ARA)
***427. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to establish one or more regional benches for the State High Court which has population more than 5 crore, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure speedy trial and disposal of cases at lower courts during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *427 due for answer on 31.03.2023 regarding "Benches of High Courts"

(a) to (b): 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 and 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. For the proposal to be complete it 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.

Disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the exclusive domain of the Judiciary, and the Central Government has no direct role in the matter.

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. The following notable initiatives under the National Mission have been taken:-

- 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. 9755.51 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 21,271 as on 28.02.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,734 as on 28.02.2023, 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. 689 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. 21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2023, these courts have handled more than 2.53 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 359 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such as 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 27.03.2023, 54 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 894 new Judges were appointed and 646 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. From 31.12.2013 to 21.03.2023, the sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers in District and subordinate courts has been increased from 19,518 to 25,189 and the working strength of judicial officers has been increased from 15,115 to 19,522.

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 31.01.2023, 843 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 wholeheartedly. 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(till Feb)	1,75,98,095	30,25,724	2,06,23,819
Total	5,58,19,604	1,95,18,262	7,53,37,866

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

The Percentage Wise break-up of cases registered & advice enabled, pertaining to Tele – Law is given as follows:-

Till 28th Feb, 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
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 in 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 have been initiated in 21 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.

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

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. *429
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31ST MARCH, 2023**

VACANCIES IN FAST TRACK COURTS

NM

✓ JY (WMSR)

***429. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:
SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:**

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

- (a) the number of Judges per million population in the country, State-wise;**
- (b) the number of Judges per million as suggested by the Supreme Court;**
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to comply with the order passed by the Supreme Court including the funds required and sanctioned for the purpose;**
- (d) whether problems are being faced in timely disposal of cases due to lack of adequate number of Fast Track Courts and large number of vacancies in such courts;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the vacancies in these courts are likely to be filled; and**
- (f) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the posts of Judges in the context of the suggestion of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *429 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN FAST TRACK COURTS'.

(a): The data pertaining to number of judges per million population in the country, State-wise is not maintained centrally either by the Department or by Supreme Court of India. However, for calculating the judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Department uses the criterion of using the population as per Census 2011 and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the particular year. Based on the population as per Census 2011 which was 1210.19 million and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2023, the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population.

Further, as on 27.03.2023, sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position in Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	Supreme Court	34	34	0
2	High Courts	1114	784	330
3	District & Subordinate Courts	25189	19522	5667

(b): As per information provided by the Supreme Court of India, the directions/observations regarding judges per million have been given by the Hon'ble court in a catena of judgements such as All India Judges Assn. v. Union of India [(2002) 4 SCC 247] ; P.Ramachandra Rao v. State of Karnataka [(2002) 4 SCC 578] ; Imtiyaz Ahmad v. State of Uttar Pradesh and Others [(2017) 3 SCC 658] and Brij Mohan Lal v. Union of India [(2002) 5 SCC 1] wherein the court has reiterated the recommendation of

the 120th Report of The Law Commission of India for initially increasing the judges' strength to 50 judges per million in the country with the eventual goal of achieving 107 judges per million of the population in India.

(c): The Supreme Court through a series of judicial orders in the matter of *Imtiyaz Ahmad vs State of U.P.*, the Supreme Court had asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a scientific method for calculation of required judges' strength in the country. Consequently, in its 245th report (2014), the Law Commission did not consider the judge population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in the country. It observed that filing of cases per capita varies substantially across geographic units as filings are associated with economic and social conditions of the population. Consequently, The Supreme Court requested the National Court Management System Committee (NCMSC) to examine the recommendations made by Law Commission of India for calculation of required judge strength for Subordinate Courts and to furnish its recommendations on the subject. The NCMSC report, inter-alia, observes that in the long term, the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of "Judicial Hours" required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, the Committee has proposed a "weighted" disposal approach i.e. disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions. As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 02.01.2017, the Department of Justice has forwarded a copy of report of the NCMS Committee to all the State Governments and High Courts to enable them to take follow up action to determine the required strength of judges.

(d) & (e): 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 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, 843 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.1.2023.

(f): The augmentation of judge strength is a continuous and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional authorities. As far as appointment of judges of higher judiciary is concerned, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned.

However, 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, during the period from 01.07.2014 to 21.03.2023 with the approval of the respective State Governments, concerned High Courts and the Chief Justice of India, Government has increased the Judge strength of the High Courts from 906 to 1114 i.e. by 208 posts.

In case of Subordinate Judiciary, 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.

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *432

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Appointment of Judges in Apex Courts

✓ AS (ARA)

***432. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:**

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court recently expressed its opinion over the delay in notifying the names of Judges recommended by the collegium;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of collegium proposals pending with the Government as on date and the reasons for the delay along with the number of vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts;
- (c) the number of collegium proposals returned by the Government during the last five years and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of proposals recommended by High Courts pending with the Supreme Court collegium and the Government along with the reasons therefor, State-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to reintroduce National Judicial Appointments Commission with suitable modifications and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(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. *432 due for answer on 31.03.2023 regarding "Appointment of Judges in Apex Courts"

(a) to (d): Supreme Court while hearing a court case has expressed its opinion over delay in notifying the names of judges recommended by the collegium. Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 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). Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional 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. Government appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium (SCC). As on 27.03.2023, there is no vacancy in the Supreme Court and there is no proposal for appointment of Supreme Court Judge pending with the Government.

As on 27.03.2023 against the sanctioned strength of 1114 judges, 784 Judges are working leaving vacancy of 330 Judges to be filled in the High Courts. As on 27.03.2023, 18 proposals recommended by the SCC for appointment of High Courts Judges are pending with the Government.

On the advice of SCC, from 01.01.2018 till 27.03.2023, a total of 284 proposals have been remitted by the Government to the High Courts.

As on 27.03.2023, against 330 vacancies of Judges in the High Courts, 118 proposals recommended by the High Court Collegiums are at various stages of processing and the recommendations against 212 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums. The High Court-wise detail of proposals received from High Court Collegiums is at Annexure.

(e): No Sir, at present there is no such proposal.

Annexure**Details of 118 proposals recommended by the High Courts and pending with GoI and SCC (As on 27.03.2023)**

S. No.	High Court	Number of proposals
1.	Allahabad	14
2.	Andhra Pradesh	08
3.	Bombay	09
4.	Calcutta	03
5.	Chhattisgarh	05
6.	Delhi	09
7.	Gauhati	01
8.	Gujarat	07
9.	Himachal Pradesh	05
10.	J & K and Ladakh	-
11.	Jharkhand	-
12.	Karnataka	04
13.	Kerala	02
14.	Madhya Pradesh	19
15.	Madras	10
16.	Manipur	01
17.	Meghalaya	01
18.	Orissa	02
19.	Patna	02
20.	Punjab & Haryana	01
21.	Rajasthan	01
22.	Sikkim	-
23.	Telangana	07
24.	Tripura	02
25.	Uttarakhand	05
Total		118

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 436

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Change in Names of High Courts

✓ AS (ARA)
***436. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:**

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

- (a) whether the State Governments whose capital names have been changed have requested the Union Government to change the names of their respective High Courts as per the new names of the capital;
- (b) if so, the names of those States that have requested the Union Government to change the names of their respective High Courts;
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon;
- (d) the steps taken so far by the Union Government to expedite the matter; and
- (e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard, particularly for Maharashtra?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(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. *436 due for answer on 31.03.2023 regarding “Change in Names of High Courts”

(a) to (e): With the enactment of the city of Madras (Alteration of Name) Act, 1996, the city of Madras was renamed as Chennai, following which the Tamil Nadu Government sent a proposal for changing the name of Madras High Court as High Court of Chennai, in 1997. Since the names of the cities of Bombay and Calcutta were also changed as Mumbai and Kolkata, and the respective High Courts of States are located in these cities, it was considered appropriate to change names of these two High Courts as well. The Government brought a legislation titled “The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016” regarding changing the names of High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras as High Courts of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai respectively, and the same was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th July, 2016.

Meanwhile the name of Orissa state was changed to Odisha and city of Gauhati as Guwahati. In view of above, it was decided to propose the change in name of High Courts of Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Orissa & Gauhati as Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Odisha & Guwahati respectively.

To give effect to the above changes, consultations were carried out with the concerned State Governments and the High Courts. The Government of Tamil Nadu conveyed that the name of the Madras High Court be rechristened as “High Court of Tamil Nadu”. The Madras High Court, however did not agree to the proposal to change the name of the High Court. The State Government of Maharashtra, Goa and Bombay High Court agreed to the proposal to change the name of Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court. The Orissa High Court & State Government of Odisha as well as Gauhati High Court and State Government of Assam also conveyed no objection to the proposal to change the name of the respective High Courts. Both, the Calcutta High Court and the State Government of West Bengal, however did not agree to the proposed change in name of Calcutta High Court.

The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 Bill could not be taken further and lapsed due to dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

: 3 :

A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 401/2020 was filed by Shri V.P. Patil in the Supreme Court for renaming the Bombay High Court as High Court of Maharashtra and similarly changing names of other High Courts as per names of the State in which they are located. The Supreme Court vide its order dated 03.11.2022 has dismissed the said petition. At present there is no proposal to bring legislation on this subject and therefore, no time frame can be given.

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 436

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Change in Names of High Courts

***436. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE :
SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:**

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

- (a) whether the State Governments whose capital names have been changed have requested the Union Government to change the names of their respective High Courts as per the new names of the capital;
- (b) if so, the names of those States that have requested the Union Government to change the names of their respective High Courts;
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon;
- (d) the steps taken so far by the Union Government to expedite the matter; and
- (e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard, particularly for Maharashtra?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(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. *436 due for answer on 31.03.2023 regarding "Change in Names of High Courts"

(a) to (e): With the enactment of the city of Madras (Alteration of Name) Act, 1996, the city of Madras was renamed as Chennai, following which the Tamil Nadu Government sent a proposal for changing the name of Madras High Court as High Court of Chennai, in 1997. Since the names of the cities of Bombay and Calcutta were also changed as Mumbai and Kolkata, and the respective High Courts of States are located in these cities, it was considered appropriate to change names of these two High Courts as well. The Government brought a legislation titled "The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016" regarding changing the names of High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras as High Courts of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai respectively, and the same was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th July, 2016.

Meanwhile the name of Orissa state was changed to Odisha and city of Gauhati as Guwahati. In view of above, it was decided to propose the change in name of High Courts of Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Orissa & Gauhati as Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Odisha & Guwahati respectively.

To give effect to the above changes, consultations were carried out with the concerned State Governments and the High Courts. The Government of Tamil Nadu conveyed that the name of the Madras High Court be rechristened as "High Court of Tamil Nadu". The Madras High Court, however did not agree to the proposal to change the name of the High Court. The State Government of Maharashtra, Goa and Bombay High Court agreed to the proposal to change the name of Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court. The Orissa High Court & State Government of Odisha as well as Gauhati High Court and State Government of Assam also conveyed no objection to the proposal to change the name of the respective High Courts. Both, the Calcutta High Court and the State Government of West Bengal, however did not agree to the proposed change in name of Calcutta High Court.

The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 Bill could not be taken further and lapsed due to dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

: 3 :

A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 401/2020 was filed by Shri V.P. Patil in the Supreme Court for renaming the Bombay High Court as High Court of Maharashtra and similarly changing names of other High Courts as per names of the State in which they are located. The Supreme Court vide its order dated 03.11.2022 has dismissed the said petition. At present there is no proposal to bring legislation on this subject and therefore, no time frame can be given.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

N/M

STARRED QUESTION NO. *438
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31ST MARCH, 2023

VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM IN ASSAM COURTS

JS(NMTR)

✓ *438. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending in the courts of Assam during the last five years; and
(b) the list of magistrate and session courts in the country which have fully functional video conferencing system for conducting the proceedings?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *438 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 REGARDING 'VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM IN ASSAM COURTS'.

(a): As per the information provided by Gauhati High Court, the number of cases pending in the Subordinate Courts of Assam during the last five years (as on 31st December of particular year) is as follows:

S.no.	Year	Total Pendency of Cases
1.	2022	485455
2.	2021	415024
3.	2020	360753
4.	2019	301427
5.	2018	291960

(b): The list of magistrate and session courts in the country which have fully functional video conferencing system for conducting the proceedings is not maintained centrally. However, the information on number of hearings through video conference in High Courts and District courts respectively is given in *Annexure-I*.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *438 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 REGARDING
'VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM IN ASSAM COURTS'.**

Details of courts where video conferencing is taking place along with details of cases heard through video conferencing as on 28 February 2023.

S. No.	High Court	No. of VC hearings in High Courts	No. of VC hearings in District Courts	Total Hearings
1	Allahabad	241465	4236784	4478249
2	Andhra Pradesh	380254	1413459	1793713
3	Bombay	38949	85931	124880
4	Calcutta	139635	82616	222251
5	Chhattisgarh	103135	45179	148314
6	Delhi	317729	4548086	4865815
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	2295	8128	10423
8	Gauhati – Assam	266175	340399	606574
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	3963	13268	17231
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	930	650	1580
11	Gujarat	388929	192948	581877
12	Himachal Pradesh	183904	101368	285272
13	Jammu & Kashmir	257806	461932	719738
14	Jharkhand	218343	643839	862182
15	Karnataka	1223451	124573	1348024
16	Kerala	160734	544734	705468
17	Madhya Pradesh	670206	791637	1461843
18	Madras	1424471	356714	1781185
19	Manipur	38695	15288	53983
20	Meghalaya	3029	28923	31952
21	Orissa	291773	250591	542364
22	Patna	276858	2141777	2418635
23	Punjab & Haryana	581047	1906016	2487063
24	Rajasthan	230081	179325	409406
25	Sikkim	482	12524	13006
26	Telangana	299031	190327	489358
27	Tripura	10585	12776	23361
28	Uttarakhand	75328	41556	116884
	TOTAL	7829283	18771348	26600631

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4839

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Additional Benches of High Courts

✓ AS (A/A)
4839. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various States for setting up additional benches of High Courts for which a decision is pending and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to sanction additional benches of any High Court given that the e-court programme is in the last phase of implementation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): 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 and 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 proposal to be complete 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) in any High Court.

E-Court programme has no direct bearing on establishment of Bench (es) of High Courts.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4846

JR

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31ST MARCH, 2023

Shortage of Infrastructural and Basic Facilities in Courts

✓ JS (WMSR)

**4846. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:
SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:
SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:**

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

- (a) the projects that have been proposed by the Government to be undertaken by the National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary, State-wise;
- (b) the number and the percentage of district/subordinate courts that lack basic infrastructure and facilities such as court rooms, digital computer rooms, video conferencing system, Libraries, water purifier for drinking water, medical facilities and separate toilets for women, etc., State-wise;
- (c) the number of subordinate courts that have been provided such facilities under the said scheme, State-wise;
- (d) the details of the funds allocated, sanctioned and utilised under the said Scheme since its inception; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to improve judicial infrastructure for ensuring ease of legal business and making justice accessible to persons with disabilities and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a): In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 30.04.2022 the proposal for setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) was not agreed to and instead it was agreed to form a Committee for Judicial Infrastructure at the State Level in which the Chief Minister of State and Chief Justice of the High Court would be having their nominee and would be working in close coordination. The

Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for subordinate judiciary is being implemented by the Government of India since 1993-94 and has the provision for State Level Monitoring Committee comprising of representatives from both, the High Court and the State Government for monitoring the physical and financial progress of the judicial infrastructure projects. The scheme takes up projects for construction of court buildings and residential accommodation for the judicial officers / judges of the district and subordinate courts and since 2021-22, 3 new components viz, construction of lawyers halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants have been included in the scheme.

(b) & (c): As per information provided by the States/High Courts, as against working strength of 19,522 Judicial Officers, 21,297 court halls are available. The Department does not compile data on state-wise availability of video conferencing system, Libraries, water purifier for drinking water, medical facilities and separate toilets for women, etc. However, as per the data compiled by the Registry of Supreme Court of India, shared with this Department in 2021, 27% court rooms have computer placed on the Judge's dias with Video conferencing facility, 51 % of court complexes have a library, 54% court complexes have drinking water facility with purifiers, 5% of court complexes are equipped with basic medical facilities and 74% of court complexes have separate ladies toilets. Further, under the eCourts Phase-II, as on 31.03.2023, total number of 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been provided computers, 2976/2992 (99.4%) court complexes have been connected to eCourts Wide Area Network (WAN). The detailed break-up of courts having digital computers has been attached in *Annexure*.

(d) & (e): Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Judicial Infrastructure, central share of funds are released in prescribed ratio to the States/UTs which

is 60:40 (Centre : States) for all States, except 8 NER States and 2 Himalayan States (Uttrakhand and Himachal Pradesh) where the ratio is 90:10 and in case of Union Territories, no state share is involved. Till date, central share of Rs. 9815.09 crores has been released under the scheme since its inception in 1993-94, out of which Rs. 6370.78 crores (64.91%) has been released since 2014-15 including Rs. 805.69 crore during the current financial year. Till date, 21, 297 court halls and 18, 752 residential units have been made available under the scheme. From the year 2021, besides court halls and residential units, new components of digital computer room, lawyer's halls and toilet complexes have also been brought under the ambit of the above CSS.

Funds are released to the States/UTs only when their project proposals mandatorily comply with disable friendly norms/accessibility standards as laid down by CPWD/Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. A certificate to this effect is also asked for from the States as part of the CSS guidelines. Under the scheme the States have enough liberty to provide for additional facilities including those that could facilitate easy accessibility to the courts.

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4846 for reply on 31.03.2023, High Courts and State/UT-wise details of Court Complexes and Courts.

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

②

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

J-II

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. † 4852.

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH 2023
FAST TRACK COURTS IN UTTAR PRADESH**

✓ JS(PPP)

†4852 SHRI RAJVEER DILER:

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up Fast Track Courts in Uttar Pradesh for early disposal of pending cases in the courts of the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure speedy justice in cases of heinous crimes committed against women in all the States of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

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

(a to c): Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTC) 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 FTCs including 212 FTCs for Uttar Pradesh 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 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 Allahabad High Court, 372 FTCs are functional in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 31.1.2023.

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. The Scheme, initially, was for a period of one year which has been extended up to 31st March 2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.1572.86 Cr. including Rs.971.70 Cr. as Central Share. 218 FTSCs including 74 exclusive POCSO Courts are allocated to the State of Uttar Pradesh under this Scheme. As per information made available by High Courts, as on 31st January, 2023, 764 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO courts are functional which have disposed more than 1,44,000 pending cases. All allocated 218 FTSCs including 74 exclusive

POCSO Courts are functional in the State of Uttar Pradesh which have disposed 41,053 cases. For further extension of FTSCs beyond 31st March 2023, Third Party Evaluation of the scheme has been undertaken by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4856
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31ST MARCH, 2023

ACHIEVEMENT OF TRIBUNALS

4856. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:

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

- (a) the number of tribunals functioning in the country at present;
- (b) the present status of the progress made with regard to the merger of various tribunals in the country;
- (c) whether these tribunals have been successful in achieving their objectives; and
- (d) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to review/improve their functioning?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) As per First Schedule of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, the number of Tribunals in the country is sixteen.

(b) As per information received in the Department, the following tribunal *inter-alia* have either been merged or abolished.

(i) The Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 has been merged with Appellate Tribunal (Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators Act) in accordance with the Finance Act, 2017.

(ii) The Competition Appellate Tribunal has been merged with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) with effect from 26.05.2017.

(iii) The Employee Provident Fund Appellate Tribunals were merged with the Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-Labour Courts and National Industrial Tribunals (CGIT-cum-LCs/NITs) after enactment of the Finance Act, 2017.

(iv) As per the Second Schedule of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, the following Tribunals ceased to hold office:

- i. Appellate Tribunal under Cinematograph Act, 1952;
- ii. Authority for Advance Rulings under Income Tax Act, 1961;
- iii. Airport Appellate Tribunal under Airports Authority of India Act, 1994;
- iv. Intellectual Property Appellate Board under Trade Marks Act, 1999; and
- v. Plant Varieties Protection Appellate Tribunal under Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

(c) The Tribunals have been set up to reduce the workload of courts, to expedite decisions and to provide a forum for adjudication of the disputes in the areas falling under the jurisdiction of that Tribunal. These tribunals perform an important and specialised role in justice dispensation and have been successful in their objective.

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4862
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH, 2023

LAP

Undertrial Review Committees

✓ SS(WK(S))
4862. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:
SHRI B.Y. RAGHAVENDRA:
SHRI SANGANNA AMARAPPA:
SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:

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

- (a) the number of Undertrial Review Committees (UTRCs) set up in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether all prisons have an UTRC to monitor the conditions of the Undertrial Prisoners and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the prisons which are yet to constitute an UTRC;
- (d) whether the UTRCs have been able to reduce the number of undertrial prisoners and reduce the time spent by them in prisons in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the undertrial prisoners who currently fall in the purview of the UTRC; and
- (f) whether the Government intends to add more categories of undertrial prisoners in the UTRC's purview and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) to (c) The details regarding number of Under Trial Review Committees (UTRCs) working in States/UTs as on 15.12.2022 is at Annexure – A. 'Prisons' / 'Persons detained therein' is a "State List" subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Prison-wise details of UTRC is therefore, not maintained centrally.

(d) to (e) During the year 2021 and 2022, a total of 17,020 and 35,480 inmates / Undertrial Prisoners (UTPs) were released pursuant to recommendations of the UTRCs. The UTRCs review a total of 14 categories of cases of prisoners for recommending release. They include :-

- (i) UTPs covered under Section 436A Cr.P.C.
- (ii) UTPs released on bail by the court, but have not been able to furnish sureties.
- (iii) UTPs accused of compoundable offences.
- (iv) UTPs eligible under Section 436 of Cr.P.C.
- (v) UTPs who may be covered under Section 3 of the Probation of Offenders Act, namely accused of offence under Sections 379, 380, 381, 404, 420 IPC or alleged to be an offence not more than 2 years imprisonment.
- (vi) Convicts who have undergone their sentence or are entitled to release because of remission granted to them.
- (vii) UTPs become eligible to be released on bail u/s 167(2)(a)(i) & (ii) of the Code of Criminal Procedure read with Section 36A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (where persons accused of Section 19 or Section 24 or Section 27A or for offences involving commercial quantity) and where investigation is not completed in 60/90/180 days.
- (viii) UTPs who are imprisoned for offences which carry a maximum punishment of 2 years.
- (ix) UTPs who are detained under Chapter VIII of the Cr.P.C. i.e. u/s 107, 108, 109 and 151 of Cr.P.C.
- (x) UTPs who are sick or infirm and require specialized medical treatment.
- (xi) UTPs women offenders

- (xii) UTPs who are first time offenders between the ages 19 and 21 years and in custody for the offence punishable with less than 7 years of imprisonment and have suffered at least 1/4th of the maximum sentence possible.
 - (xiii) UTPs who are of unsound mind and must be dealt with Chapter XXV of the Code.
 - (xiv) UTPs eligible for release under Section 437(6) of Cr.P.C, wherein in a case triable by a Magistrate, the trial of a person accused of any non-bailable offence has not been concluded within a period of 60 days from the first date fixed for taking evidence in the case.
- (f) Campaign namely "Release_UTRC@75" for release of prisoners by the UTRC to commemorate the 75th Independence Day in India, was conducted from 16th July, 2022 to 13th August, 2022 wherein following additional categories of cases of undertrials were identified for consideration by the UTRCs:
- (i) Those undertrials who were granted interim bail by the court during the pandemic and they have adhered to all the conditions of the bond and have either returned to the prison on the stipulated date set out by the court/HPC or have regularly attended court on due hearings. The UTRC must recommend such cases to the concerned court with the recommendation of granting bail (not interim but regular bail) to the undertrial.
 - (ii) Those undertrials who are accused of or charged with the offences for which the maximum imprisonment up to 7 years or less.
 - (iii) Those undertrials who are above 65 years of age.

Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4862 for answering on 31.03.2023 raised by Shri L.S. Tejasvi Surya, Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav, Shri B.Y. Raghavendra, Shri Sanganna Amarappa, Shrimati Aparajita Sarangi, MPs - Undertrial Review Committees.

Statement showing number of Under Trial Review Committees (UTRCs) working in States/UTs as on 15.12.2022		
S. No.	STATE/UT	No. of UTRCs
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	13
2.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	18
3.	ASSAM	33
4.	BIHAR	37
5.	CHHATISGARH	23
6.	GOA	02
7.	GUJARAT	33
8.	HARYANA	22
9.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	11
10.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	20
11.	JHARKHAND	24
12.	KARNATAKA	30
13.	KERALA	14
14.	MADHYA PRADESH	50
15.	MAHARASHTRA	33
16.	MANIPUR	16
17.	MEGHALAYA	11
18.	MIZORAM	08
19.	NAGALAND	11
20.	ODISHA	30
21.	PUNJAB	22
22.	RAJASTHAN	36
23.	SIKKIM	04
24.	TELANGANA	10
25.	TAMIL NADU	32
26.	TRIPURA	08
27.	UTTAR PRADESH	71
28.	UTTARAKHAND	13
29.	WEST BENGAL	22
30.	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	01
31.	CHANDIGARH	01
32.	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	01
33.	DAMAN & DIU	01
34.	DELHI	11
35.	LAKSHADWEEP	01
36.	PUDUCHERRY	02
37.	LADAKH	02
TOTAL		677

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4872
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH, 2023

Fast Track Courts for Undertrials

✓ JS(LNKG)
4872. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:
SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

LAP

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up fast track courts for delivering justice to the undertrials lodged in various jails of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any suggestions/proposals in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) to (b) The setting up of subordinate courts and its functioning including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) lies within the domain of State Governments which they set up as per their need and resources in consultation with respective High Courts. Presently, there is no proposal to set up fast track courts for undertrials.
- (c) to (d) No suggestion/proposal has been received in this regard.
- (e) Does not arise in view of above.

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

Lok Sabha

Unstarted Question No. 4873

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Judl. Sec.

Permanent Advocates

†4873. **Shri Sunil Kumar Singh:**

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

- (a) whether permanent advocates are appointed by the Government in the District and Session Courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of the District and Session Courts in which the posts of advocates to be appointed by the Government are lying vacant at present, State-wise along with the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the date by which the appointments to the said posts are likely to be made ?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) Government does not appoint permanent advocates in the District and Session Courts.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4874**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 31ST MARCH, 2023

Legs II. Sec.

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN LEGISLATIVE BODIES

**4874. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:
SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRI PINAKI MISRA:
SHRI Y. DEVENDRAPPA:
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:**

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

- (a) whether the representation of women in different legislative/elected bodies is very low in India compared to that of other democratic countries and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken several steps to enhance the representation of woman in the said bodies of the country, if so, the details and the manner in which the desired goals are to be achieved and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal for the reservation of women to ensure adequate representation to them in Parliament and State legislatures and make the legislature more inclusive and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the other efforts made/proposed by the Government to increase their participation in near future?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government has not maintained any such data relating to India's position in comparison to other countries.

(b) to (d): Gender justice is an important commitment of the Government. The issue involved needs careful consideration on the basis of the consensus among all political parties before a Bill for amendment in the Constitution is brought before Parliament.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4884

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 31ST MARCH, 2023

Impl. Sec.

Criteria for Designating Senior Advocates in SC and HCs

4884. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- a. the number of lawyers designated as Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court (SC) and various High Courts (HCs) between 01.04.2010 and 01.03.2023, court-wise and name-wise;
- b. the criteria followed by the Supreme Court and the various High Courts for designating Senior Advocates;
- c. whether the Government has proposed any changes in the existing criteria taking cognizance of an application filed before the Supreme Court on Feb. 16, 2023 in this regard and if so, details of the changes proposed along with reasons therefor;
- d. the details of lawyers who are wives, sons, daughters and relatives of sitting or retired High Court and Supreme Court Judges designated as Senior Advocates during the said period, name-wise and court-wise; and
- e. whether the Government has received representations for amendments in relevant statutes to abolish the category of Senior Advocates and if so, the follow-up action taken by Government thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per information available with the department, the details of advocates designated as 'Senior' between 01.04.2010 and 01.03.2023 in different High Courts are as under;

S.No.	Name of the High Court	No. of designated Senior lawyers
1	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	37
2	High Court of Kerala	37
3	Punjab and Haryana High Court	55
4	High Court of Chhattisgarh	12
5	Bombay High Court	100
6	High Court of Orissa	42
7	High Court of Gujarat	29
8	High Court of Karnataka	91

9	High Court of Meghalaya	23
10	Madras High Court	103
11	High Court of Sikkim	7
12	Gauhati High Court	91
13	Patna High Court	36
14	Allahabad High Court	99
15	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	38
16	High Court of Tripura	12

There are 231 advocates designated as 'Senior' by Supreme Court in the said period of time.

(b) to(e) The designation of Senior Advocates is dealt by the Supreme Court as per 'the Supreme Court Guidelines to Regulate Conferment of Designation of Senior Advocates, 2018 guidelines' framed by it after the decision in *Indira Jaising vs. Supreme Court of India W.P. (c) No. 454 of 2015*.

The designation of Senior Advocates in different High Courts is done in accordance with the Rules framed by the different High Courts under section 34(1) r.w. 16(2) of Advocates Act, 1961 for the purpose of designation of Senior Advocates after the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Indira Jaising vs Supreme Court of India and Others AIR 2017 SC 5017*.

The Central Government in the matter of *Indira Jaising vs. Supreme Court of India & Others* has filed an application before Supreme Court seeking modification in the guidelines (@ paragraph 73) framed for determining the designation of senior advocates, as per the judgement of *Indira Jaising vs. Supreme Court of India*.

The application *inter-alia* states that the title of 'Senior Advocate', are bestowed with the honour based on exceptional competence, contribution to development of law, advocacy skills etc. and the system evolved through the 2017 judgment, dilutes the dignity of the such 'honour'. Further, assigning 40% weightage to parameters like 'publications' and 'interviews' reduces advocacy to a mere job. The honour of being designated is to be based on their performance in court and the respect they command at the bar which neither have any correlation with publication and interview. A standard be maintained when the requirement of publication is considered. It also suggests that the sheer volume of the publication should not take precedence over the subject matter of the publications; prerogative to be given to publications relating to law and prerogative to be given to publications relating to law and its ancillary fields. Thus, designation of senior advocates shall be made by evaluating the performance of the applicant in a full court meeting of all honourable judges in each constitutional court and such decision to be taken only resorting to secret ballot and passing the same by simple majority.

No data is maintained regarding the relation of advocate with sitting/retired Hon'ble Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court while designating them as Senior Advocates.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4886
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH, 2023

SS (PPP)

Citizen Centric Services through e-Courts

e-Court

✓ 4886. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) the details of the total outlay in Phase I & Phase II of the e-Courts Project and amount released and utilized since 2015, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the details of benefits accrued to the common man in getting timely justice and greater access through e-Courts in the previous two phases; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken to provide efficient and time bound access of citizen centric services of courts to litigants having no access to internet and facing digital divide?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): With the objective of universal computerisation of all the district & subordinate court complexes, Department of Justice in close coordination with eCommittee of Supreme Court of India is implementing e-Courts Mission Mode Project. Total outlay of e-Courts Phase-I (2011-15) was of Rs. 935 crore while the Government incurred an expenditure of Rs. 639.41 crore. e-Courts Phase- II of the project started in 2015 with an outlay of Rs. 1,670 crore and the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1,668.42 crore till 28.03.2022 to various implementing agencies involved in the implementation of the project. Details are as follows:

S. No.	Agency	Funds released (as on 31.03.2022)
1.	High Courts	Rs 1,164.37 Cr.
2.	NIC	Rs. 77.46 Cr.
3.	NICSI	Rs. 103.10 Cr.
4.	BSNL	Rs 293.68 Cr.
5.	eCommittee, SCI	Rs 13.50 Cr.
6.	Other Miscellaneous Expenditure (Salary, publicity etc.)	Rs 16.31 Cr.
	Total	Rs 1,668.42 Cr.

(b): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the e-Courts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT enablement of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerised till phase II. Following are the initiatives taken during Phase-I & Phase-II of e-Courts Project resulting in timely and greater access to justice.

- 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. With internet connectivity, judicial services are now easily accessible to the common man.
- 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 22.38 crore cases and more than 20.83 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.03.2023). This provides greater transparency in the judicial system by making information on court cases available to the public through portals.

- 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. This tool helps in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list.
- 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 1.70 cr. downloads till 28th February 2023) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022). This helps to manage cases more effectively reducing delay and improving the overall speed of the judicial process.
- v. The India emerged as a global leader in Video Conferencing. The High Courts (78,29,283 cases and Subordinate Courts 1,87,71,384 cases) have conducted 2.63 crore virtual hearings till 28.02.2023. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,02,937 hearings through video conferencing till 31.01.2023. 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. This enables litigants, lawyers, and all stakeholders to attend proceedings without physical presence in courts. Thus, reducing costs associated with court proceedings, such as travel expenses for witnesses, judges, and attorneys.

- vi. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.74 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 35 lakhs (35,20,799) cases online fine of more than Rs. 380 crores have been realized till 28.02.2023. These courts have enabled litigants to pay their fines or contest to the claims online (24X7). Thus, saving time and resources for both the court system and the litigants.
- vii. 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 28.02.2023. It helps user by eliminating the need for physical visits to government agencies or courts, reducing the time and effort required to file documents. It reduces the risk of errors and inaccuracies in the filing process, as documents are automatically checked for completeness and correctness.
- viii. 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 21 High Courts till 28.02.2023. It helps litigants by eliminating the need to visit courts and reducing the time and effort required to make a payment
- ix. 714 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. Citizens who do not have access to technology can access the judicial services from eSewa Kendras, thus bridging the digital divide.
- x. 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. It provides real time status update of service of summons besides tracking of geographical coordinates of the process server at the time of serving. Thereby increasing transparency and speed of delivery process.

- xi. 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 helps the users with easy accessibility of judgements based on a given keyword or combination of keywords
- xii. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address “skill divide”, a manual on eFiling and a Brochure on “How to register for eFiling” has been made available in English, Hindi and 11 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court services with video tutorials on eFiling. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes 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.

(c): Government of India has released funds under e-Courts Phase-II to establish eSewa Kendras to bridge the digital divide. The eSewa Kendras are set up at the entry point of the court complexes with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and e-filing. e-Sewa Kendras have been established at each High Court and one District and Sub-ordinate Court Complex in each district while all Court Complexes are covered in North-Eastern States. As on 28.03.2023, 714 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts. Rs. 12.12 crores have been allocated for

creating 1732 Help Desk counters for e-Filing in Court Complexes. Judicial Service Centres have been established at all computerized courts to serve as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants / lawyers and for disseminating judicial information related to cause lists and other case related information to the lawyers and litigants through Info Kiosks. Mobile e-courts van equipped with Wi-Fi and computers for video conferencing for speedy disposal of cases have also been started in Uttarakhand and Telangana. In addition, Department of Justice has signed MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited on 02.09.2022 to provide designated services through more than 4 lakh CSCs situated across India thus further bridging the digital divide.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4896
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH, 2023

Impd. Sec.

Permission to Foreign Legal Firms for Practice

4896. SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

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

- a. Whether the Bar Council of India which is a regulating body of legal practice in the country, has accorded its permission to allow foreign law firms to practice in the country;
- b. If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- c. Whether the Government has stipulated any pre-condition for legal practice including that certain percentage of Indians are required to be employed by the foreign legal firms to do the legal and paralegal work in India, if so, the details thereof;
- d. Whether the Government has taken into consideration the possible adverse impact of the above decision on indigenous law firms and if so, the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- e. Whether the Government has allowed Robot Lawyer for legal practice in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- f. The other steps being taken by the Government for the development and welfare of legal profession in the country?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) and (b): The Bar Council of India (BCI) vide notification dated 10th March, 2023 has published in Gazette of India the **Bar Council of India Rules for registration and regulation of foreign lawyers or foreign law firms in India**. The Rules provide for foreign lawyers and Foreign Law Firms to practice foreign law and diverse international law and international arbitration matters in India on the principle of reciprocity in a well-defined, regulated and controlled manner.

Chapter IV of the Rules lays down nature and extent of law practice by a foreign lawyer /law firm. Rule 8 provides the nature and extent to which a foreign lawyer is authorised to practice law in India. The BCI has informed that the activities of foreign lawyers/foreign law firms in India as per the rules may be summarised as under:

1. Foreign Lawyers and Law firms shall be allowed to advise their clients about foreign laws and international laws only.
2. They would render advisory work about such Laws for their foreign clients only.
3. Foreign Lawyers and foreign law firms shall be allowed to function in non-litigious areas only.
4. Foreign lawyers and foreign law firms shall not be allowed to appear in any Court, Tribunal, Board, before any statutory or regulatory authority or any forum legally entitled to take evidence on Oath and/or having trappings of a Court.
5. Entry of Foreign Lawyers would be on reciprocal basis only *i.e.* Lawyers of only those countries would be permitted in India where Indian Lawyers are also permitted to practice.
6. Foreign Lawyers would be allowed to appear for their clients in International Commercial Arbitration.

As per the objects and reasons of the Rules, growth in international legal work, globalization of legal practices and crisscrossing of legal professionals from one country to other has called for presence of an open, responsive and receptive legal dispensation mechanism in India. Also, time has come to take a call on the issue. Bar Council of India is of the view that opening up of law practice in India to foreign lawyers in the field of practice of foreign law; diverse international legal issues in non litigious matters and in international arbitration cases would go a long way in helping legal profession/domain grow in India to the benefit of lawyers in India too. The rules will also help to address the concerns expressed about flow of Foreign Direct Investment in the country and making India a hub of International Commercial Arbitration.

(c) The BCI has informed that no preconditions have been stipulated by it regarding legal practice or *w.r.t.* any percentage of Indians to be employed by the foreign legal firms to do the legal and para legal work in India.

(d) The BCI has informed that, it is of the firm view, firstly, that entry of foreign lawyers and foreign law firm is not going to adversely impact advocates of the country. On the contrary, the Bar Council of India firmly believes that entry of foreign lawyers and law firms will benefit scores of young advocates and budding Indian Law Firms. And in the long run, it will be proved beneficial to the Indian Lawyers, Law Firms and for the entire country.

(e) The BCI has informed that it is in favour of use of modern technological development to assist and aid general public accessing justice and provide ease of professional activities by lawyers. However, except that AI (artificial intelligence) is proposed to be used in a limited sphere by the Courts, there is

no proposal a Robot Lawyer for legal practice in the country. Bar Council of India feels that majority of about 2.5 million lawyers practicing in India Courts are operating in Distt., Tehsil or Taluka Courts, many of them in remote or interior areas on various States. The concept of Robot Lawyers will not be in the interest of Indian Lawyers.

(f) As per the provisions of section 7(1)(h) 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 framed Bar Council of India Rules Part IV Rules of Legal Education – 2008 under sections 7(1)(h) and (i), 24(1)(c)(iii) and (iii), 49(1)(af),(ag) and (d) of the Advocates Act, 1961 with the objective to maintain and raise the standard of legal education of the University and Colleges imparting legal education.

The Rules prescribe the minimum requirement *vis-à-vis* infrastructure, minimum library requirement, requirement of core faculties in adequate number and qualification as books, library and teachers are very essence of legal education for getting recognition and approval of the BCI. Clinical legal education such as drafting, pleading and conveyance, professional ethics and professional accounting system, alternate dispute resolution, moot courts has been introduced as a compulsory clinical course for giving students a practical aspects of preparation, appearance and arguing in the courts like atmosphere. On a call from Hon'ble Prime Minister at the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts, held on 30th April, 2022, the BCI has also agreed to introduce technology related subjects such as block chains, electronic discovery, cyber-security, robotics, Artificial Intelligence and bio-ethics in the course curriculum of LL.B. as well as LL.M degree in Law Universities of India.

Due to the introduction of this Rules and Continuous persistence of enforcement of the Rules, students graduating in law are better equipped to deal with problems of diverse magnitude and a student of law and an advocate is today trained in professional skills to meet the challenges of globalization and universalization of law.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4916

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Vacant post of Chief Justice in Madras High Court

✓ AC(LARA)
**4916. SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:
SHRI T.R. BAALU:**

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

- (a) whether the post of Chief Justice of Madras High Court is lying vacant for more than five months and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the appointment of the Chief Justice of Madras High Court has been recommended by the SC Collegium and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said proposal has been returned to the Supreme Court collegium for reconsideration and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the Supreme Court collegium recommendations on transfer of Madras High Court Judges pending with the Government; and
- (e) whether any concern was raised by the advocates forum of the said court on transfer of judges from Madras High Court to Meghalaya High Court and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e): The senior most puisne Judge of the Madras High Court is performing the duties of Chief Justice of Madras High Court since the retirement of the then Chief Justice on 12.09.2022.

As per Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), initiation of proposal for appointment of Chief Justice of the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of India. Filling up of vacancies of judges/Chief Justices in High Courts is a continuous, consultative and integrated process between the Executive and the Judiciary, as it requires consultation and approval from various

: 2 :

Constitutional Authorities. There is a proposal of transfer of Chief Justice of Orissa High Court as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court which is under consideration of the Government.

Two proposals for transfer of Judges of Madras High Court to other High Courts, recommended by Supreme Court Collegium, are at various stages of consideration. Some Senior Advocates and lawyers bodies of Madras High Court protested on the transfer of the then Chief Justice, Madras High Court as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court which was notified on 15th November, 2021.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

J-II

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4918

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH 2023

UTILISATION OF FUNDS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FTCs

✓ (JLPP)
4918. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

- (a) whether the Government intends to increase the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total funds allocated and utilised for the establishment of these courts during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) whether the Government has allocated more funds to States for the establishment of these courts and for the appointment of more judges and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): 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. FTCs were created during 11th Finance Commission for disposal of long pending cases based on the

findings of a study that one such court can dispose up to 168 cases in a year. Central funding has been discontinued after 31.03.2015. Subsequently, 14th Finance Commission had recommended that the number of FTCs to be established should be 10% of the sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers of the State. The 14th Finance Commission had recommended the setting up of 1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for 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 and had urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. As per information received from High Courts the number of functional FTCs, State/UT-wise as on 31st January, 2023, is given in **Annexure**.

Information on funds allocated by the respective States for functioning of FTCs is not maintained centrally. As Central funding stands discontinued for FTCs since April 2015, the question of allocation of more funds by the Centre to the States does not arise. However, pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government since October, 2019 is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO (Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences) Courts for speedy disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. The Scheme, initially, was for a period of one year which has been extended up to 31st March 2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.1572.86 Cr. including Rs.971.70 Cr. as Central Share. Rs. 634.6 Cr. has been released as central share to the States/UTs for operationalization of FTSCs since

2019. As per information made available by High Courts, as on 31st January, 2023, 764 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO courts are functional which have disposed more than 1,44,000 pending cases. Regular review meetings have been conducted by the Department of Justice to expedite the robust implementation of the scheme including establishment of remaining FTSCs. In addition, Minister of Law and Justice has addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of States/UTs and Chief Justice of High Courts for operationalisation of the remaining FTSCs.

For further extension of FTSCs beyond 31st March 2023, Third Party evaluation of the scheme has been undertaken by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).

Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4918 for 31.03.2023**Status of Functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs)
(As on 31st January, 2023)**

S.No	State/UTs	Functional FTCs
1	Andhra Pradesh	22
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	18
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Delhi	10
10	Diu & Daman	0
11	Goa	4
12	Gujarat	51
13	Haryana	6
14	Himachal Pradesh	3
15	Jammu & Kashmir	4
16	Jharkhand	34
17	Karnataka	0
18	Kerala	0
19	Ladakh	0
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	0
22	Maharashtra	111
23	Manipur	6
24	Meghalaya	0
25	Mizoram	2
26	Nagaland	0
27	Odisha	0
28	Puducherry	0
29	Punjab	7
30	Rajasthan	0
31	Sikkim	2
32	Tamil Nadu	73
33	Telangana	0
34	Tripura	3
35	Uttar Pradesh	372
36	Uttarakhand	4
37	West Bengal	88
	TOTAL	843

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4919
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 31ST MARCH .2023

Empl. Sec.

Women in Law Universities and Colleges

4919. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether women in the country have occupied several positions in the Central and State Government Law Universities and colleges; and
- (b) if so, the total number of women Vice-chancellor, Registrar, Professor, Assistant Professor, Adhoc Professor against the total number of these posts in Central and State Law Universities/ colleges currently, State and University/college-wise?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (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. There is no such specific data maintained by the Bar Council of India about number of women Vice-chancellor, Registrar, Professor, Assistant Professor, Adhoc Professor against the total strength of such teachers in Centers of Legal Education.

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

LOK SABHA

Unstarred Question No. 4921

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Action for Contempt of Court on PILs

†4921. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

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

- (a) whether the decisions given by the Supreme Court and High Court of Rajasthan on Public Interest Litigations (PILs) are being defied;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last ten years;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court and Rajasthan High Court have passed any order for action against anyone for the contempt of court for defiance of court orders on Public Interest Litigations during the last five years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): The information in respect of Hon'ble Supreme Court is as under:

For Supreme Court, the information as sought for, is not maintained in the Supreme Court Registry.

(a) & (b): The information with respect to Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court is as under:

Details of cases reported during last ten years in which decisions given by Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court on Public Interest Litigations (PILs) have been defied.												
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023(till now)	Total
Rajasthan High Court Principal Seat Jodhpur	0	0	0	0	2	2	9	2	16	68	19	118
Rajasthan High Court Bench Jaipur	0	2	3	15	26	38	40	41	24	98	28	315
	0	2	3	15	28	40	49	43	40	166	47	433

Information of Rajasthan High Court regarding part (c) and (d) is NIL.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4924

↳ La. Sec.

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 31ST MARCH, 2023

IMPLEMENTATION OF POPULIST ELECTION MANIFESTOS

↳ †4924. **SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY :**

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

- (a) whether some political parties make populist promises in their election manifestos during elections and do not implement them after winning the elections and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to derecognise those political parties which do not adhere to their populist promises made to the voters during the elections; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a): No Sir, there is no provision in the election laws to monitor promises by the Political Parties.
- (b): No sir.
- (c): Does not arise.

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

J-□

LOK SABHA

SS (PPP)

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4929

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH 2023

FAST TRACK COURTS SCHEME

✓ **4929. SHRI. N. REDDEPPA:**

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:

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

- (a) the details and features of the Fast Track Courts (FTCs) Scheme;
- (b) the total number of FTCs set up and made functional against the set target as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether there exists a shortfall of about 40 per cent in FTCs and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps undertaken by the Government to expedite the establishment of remaining FTCs in the country; and
- (e) the details of proposed measures to be taken to improve implementation and functioning under the scheme?

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

(a) to (e): Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track courts (FTCs) and its functioning comes within the domain of the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission (FC) had

recommended for setting up of 1800 FTCs at a total cost of Rs. 4,144 crore during 2015-2020 by urging State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The basic aim for setting FTCs was 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. As per information made available by High Courts, 843 FTCs are functional across the country as on 31.1.2023. The States/UTs wise details of number of FTCs to be set up and made functional against the set target as on January, 2023 is given at **Annexure**. Towards the establishment of more FTCs in the country, the Union Government has repeatedly urged the State Governments since 2015-16 onwards to set up more FTCs to make good the shortfall of the targeted number of courts. The setting up of more FTCs has featured as one of the agenda items in the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices Conference repeatedly.

However, pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government, since October, 2019, is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO (Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences) Courts for speedy disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. The Scheme, initially, was for a period of one year which has been extended up to 31st March 2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.1572.86 Cr. including Rs.971.70 Cr. as Central Share. As per information made

available by High Courts, as on 31st January, 2023, 764 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO courts are functional which have disposed more than 1,44,000 pending cases. Regular review meetings have been conducted by the Department of Justice to expedite the robust implementation of the scheme including establishment of remaining FTSCs. In addition, Minister of Law and Justice has addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of States/UTs and Chief Justice of High Courts for operationalisation of the remaining FTSCs.

For further extension of FTSCs beyond 31st March 2023, Third Party evaluation of the scheme has been undertaken by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).

ANNEXURE

Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4929 for 31.03.2023
States/UTs wise Status of Allocated and Functional FTCs

(As on 31/3/2023)

S.No	State/UTs	No. of FTCs to be established	Functional FTCs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47	22
2.	Telangana	37	0
3.	Assam	36	18
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
5.	Mizoram	7	2
6.	Nagaland	3	0
7.	Bihar	147	0
8.	Chhattisgarh	28	23
9.	Gujarat	174	51
10.	Himachal Pradesh	13	3
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	21	4
12.	Jharkhand	50	34
13.	Karnataka	95	0
14.	Kerala	41	0
15.	Lakshadweep	0	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	133	0
17.	Maharashtra	203	111
18.	D & N, Daman and Diu .	1	0
19.	Goa	5	4
20.	Manipur	3	6
21.	Meghalaya	4	0
22.	Odisha	63	0
23.	Punjab	50	7
24.	Haryana	48	6
25.	Chandigarh	2	0
26.	Rajasthan	93	0
27.	Sikkim	1	2
28.	Tamil Nadu	87	73
29.	Puducherry	2	0
30.	Tripura	9	3
31.	Uttar Pradesh	212	372
32.	Uttarakhand	28	4
33.	West Bengal, A& N Islands	94	88
34.	Delhi	63	10
	Total	1800	843

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

L O K S A B H A

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4960

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 31ST MARCH, 2023

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES BY 2026

✓ 4960. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:

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

- (a) whether delimitation exercise is to be undertaken in the country by 2026 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the guidelines and methodology to be followed for the delimitation exercise in the States;
- (c) whether the number of Lok Sabha Constituencies is to be increased from the present 543 to 884 once the freeze by delimitation committee ends by 2026 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the likely number of Lok Sabha constituencies in the country, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b): Article 82, 170, 330 and 332 of the Constitution of India govern the delimitation of constituencies in the Lok Sabha, States and Union territories. The information relating to all these provisions alongwith last Delimitation Order, 2008 are available on the Election Commission's website <https://eci.gov.in> under the head "Delimitation". The freeze on delimitation of Parliamentary Constituencies was extended *vide* the Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Act, 2002 from "2000" to "2026", keeping in view the progress of family planning programmes in different parts of the

country. The Government, as part of the National Population Policy strategy, decided to extend the freeze on undertaking fresh delimitation up to the year 2026 as a motivational measure to enable the State Governments to pursue the agenda for population stabilisation.

(c) and (d): The Election Commission of India has informed that the Delimitation Commission constituted for the purpose will decide the matter at appropriate time.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4971

LEG. II SEC.

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 31ST MARCH, 2023

MINIMISING CANDIDATES IN SINGLE CONSTITUENCY

✓4971. DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:

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

- (a) whether large number of candidates in addition to recognized political parties are contesting in a single constituency either for Lok Sabha or State Assembly elections as and when held which creates unnecessary hurdles/impediments/difficulties in allocating election symbols and feeding their details in the EVMs in every constituency, leading to additional burden on the exchequer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to minimize the number of candidates to contest election in single constituency by making suitable amendment in the Representation of People Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) to (e): No sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. In a democratic election process, the candidates either individually or through political party can contest election of their own choice so long as they fulfill the criteria prescribed by the Constitution of India and the relevant statutes.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

AS (APPEL)

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4976

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31.03.2023

Working of Constitutional Bench without Break

✓ 4976. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Supreme Court to have at least one Constitution Bench functioning through out the year to decide pending cases speedily;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether clarity and transparency in the urgent listing of cases in the top court and a clear cut mechanism is proposed to put in place to allow lawyers to mention urgent matters, like bail petitions before the respective Benches for early listing and to decide the cases faster and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, Constitution Benches are established keeping in view the availability of Judges and maintaining the balance between the pendency of regular and miscellaneous matters in the Courts and exigencies in the matters. It has been informed that as on 27.03.2023, a total of 37 main cases are pending adjudication before the Constitution Benches, out of which 05 have been reserved for judgment.

(c) Guidelines have been laid down as regards matters of urgent nature which are accepted by the Mentioning Branch for listing, as 'Listed Mentioning'. These guidelines are available on the website of the Supreme Court of India. With regard to the mentioning of urgent matters, the Bench of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India takes mentioning every day so as to address the situation relating to urgent matters. Mentioning ranging from 70 to 125 cases is being taken by Bench No. 1. Even in pending matters, the mentioning is taken by the concerned Benches. It is further informed that strenuous efforts are being put by the Benches to address urgent matters or any matter which requires immediate attention. In order to streamline filing and listing of the matters, the Supreme Court Registry is striving to evolve an e-filing process.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5006

ADR CELL, LA

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31ST MARCH, 2023

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

✓ **5006. SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:**

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

- (a) whether any treaty has been signed regarding establishment of an International Mediation/Arbitration Centre in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans for the development of infrastructure facilities for the Judiciary throughout the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(a) : Yes, a Host Country Agreement (HCA) was signed on 19.09.2008 between the Government of the Republic of India and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) for establishment of a Regional Facility of PCA in India. As per the article 1 of the HCA, the Republic of India shall be a host country for the PCA in the peaceful resolution of international disputes through arbitration, mediation, conciliation and fact-finding commissions of inquiry and in providing other appropriate assistance to government, inter- governmental organisations and other entities. Article 1 of the HCA also defines PCA Proceedings to mean any dispute resolution proceedings administered by or under the auspices of the PCA, whether or not pursuant to the 1899 Convention, the 1907 Convention, or any of the PCA's optional rules of procedure, to the extent that any hearing, meeting or other activity related thereto takes place within the territory of the host country and PCA Adjudicator to mean any arbitrator, mediator, conciliator or member of a commission of inquiry taking part in a hearing, meeting or other activity in relation to PCA proceedings. Further, as per article 4 of the HCA,

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has to coordinate on behalf of the Government all issues arising with respect to implementation of the agreement. Also article 6 of the HCA states that the PCA including any space provided and used pursuant to article 3 shall enjoy mutatis mutandis, the same privileges and immunities as those accorded to the United Nations in the Republic of India pursuant to Art. II of the UN convention (Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations 1946).

(b) & (c): The primary responsibility of the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary rests with the State Governments. The Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructure facilities for the Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments/UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the 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 the district and subordinate judiciary. The scheme does not cover High Courts. A sum of Rs. 9815 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs.6370.78 crores (64.91%) 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 a central share of Rs. 5307.00 crores. 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. As on date, 21,297 Court Halls and 18,752 residential accommodations have been made available for judicial officers of the District and Subordinate judiciary in the country. In addition, 2,806 court halls and 1,654 residential units are under construction in various States.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

LAP

JS (N/K/2)

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †5009
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31ST MARCH, 2023

SHORTAGE OF JUDGES IN BIHAR

†5009. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR:

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

- whether the number of Judges in Bihar is very low, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard;
- whether the pending cases in courts in Bihar have been on rise due to shortage of Judges;
- if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to address the said issue; and
- the plan of the Government for opening Law Colleges for women in Bihar, particularly in Gaya?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): As per the information provided by the Patna High Court, the sanctioned, working strength and vacancy position of judges/judicial officers in Bihar, as on 01.03.2023, is as follows:

Name of Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
Patna High Court	53	31	22
District & Subordinate Courts	2016	1350	668

Source: Patna High Court

(b): In so far as the corrective measures for increasing the strength of the judiciary in the District and Subordinate Courts is concerned, the Union Government does not have any direct role in the selection, appointment and/or increase in strength of state judicial officers as the same falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In case of higher judiciary, the appointment of judges 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. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

(c) & (d): The Patna High Court, has not conducted any such study which could show that pending cases in courts of Bihar has been on rise due to shortage of Judges. However, the increase/decrease in pendency of cases during the past 3 years in courts of Bihar is as follows:

S.no.	Name of Court	Pendency of Cases (as on 31st December)		
		2020	2021	2022
1.	Patna High Court	179462	226071	212173
2.	District & Subordinate Courts	3016743	3276696	3464725

Source: Patna High Court

The details of steps/plan/measures taken by Patna High Court to reduce/minimize the pendency of cases are as under:-

- i. Bihar (Cases Flow Management in High Court) Rules, 2008 has been framed by Patna High Court and notified by the State Government. This has ensured streamlining of disposal of Writ Petitions, Letters, Patent Appeal and other Civil and Criminal matters pending before the High court.

- ii. Some of the Commercial and Environmental matters have been subjected to Division Bench adjudication which has proved very effective in settlement and expeditious finality of commercial and environmental disputes so that infrastructural and developmental works do not suffer due to the process of Intra-Court Appeal. This is in tune with the suggestion of the Supreme Court to avoid multiple layers of adjudication which in the end causes delay in finally settling the issues.
- iii. Identification and consequent segregation of matters under various heads especially involving issues which have earlier been decided by the Court which would result in disposal of such cases in lesser time. This includes identification and listing of Analogous Cases and similar nature of cases.
- iv. Holding of Special Courts by some of the Benches on Saturdays, particularly for pending bail matters. Constitution of large number of Vacation Benches during vacations and holidays for disposal of important matters including bail applications, section 389 (1) Cr.P.C. applications and matters which require passing of interlocutory orders.
- v. Special drive for tracking cases which have not been listed and heard even once for some reason or the other and preparation of consolidated list for all Benches with particular emphasis on 40, 30, 20 and 10 years old cases. These steps have led to disposal of 1,02,635 Criminal matters and 29,030 Civil matters till 31.01.2023, since 03rd January, 2022, which has positively contributed towards improvement of Case Clearance Ratio (CCR) of Patna High Court to 110.83 % for the said period.
- vi. In case of the District and Subordinate Courts, steps have been taken by Hon'ble Arrears Committee of Patna High Court to reduce the pendency wherein each Court at District level has been given target to dispose of 15 oldest cases pending as shown on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) in every quarter. Further, all the District & Sessions Judges have been directed

to monitor the disposal of old cases of every Court under their respective jurisdiction on the clearance day of every month through District Arrear Committee. All the District & Sessions Judges have also been directed to ensure that every Court must prepare quarterly plan for disposal of old cases of their respective courts.

(e): Opening of law colleges in any State lies within the purview of the respective State Governments. The Central Government have no plans currently to open law colleges for women in Bihar particularly in Gaya.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †5024
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH, 2023

LAP

Special Court in Tribal Areas

✓ 35(WK6)
†5024. SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set-up any special court in tribal dominated areas to provide easy access of Justice to tribal people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any other assistance is being provided by the Government to the tribal people to help them in getting justice and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has any specific data regarding tribal people availing the facility of legal services under "Tele-Law Programme" in Madhya Pradesh especially in Khandwa constituency and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) to (c) Presently, there is no proposal to set-up special courts in tribal dominated areas for tribal people. However, tribals including prisoners in custody are entitled to get free legal services irrespective of their income under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 vide clause 12 (a) i.e. a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes and vide clause 12 (g) i.e. Persons 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 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).

In addition to above, NALSA has framed a Scheme namely NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015 to ensure access to justice to the Tribal population in India. Besides, NALSA has framed another scheme namely NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme, 2015 to ensure access to basic rights and benefits under the Poverty Alleviation Scheme and Programmes of the Government to economically and socially backward sections of the society including Scheduled Tribes by strengthening legal aid and support at all levels.

- (d) Under the Tele-Law program, legal advice was provided to 56,873 tribal beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh including 3,754 tribal beneficiaries in the district of Khandwa till February, 2023.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †5031
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31ST MARCH, 2023

REVIEW OF JUDGES STRENGTH

†5031. DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD:
SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:
SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:

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

- (a) the total number of different types of courts running in the country, State, district and type-wise;
- (b) whether the strength of judges is reviewed in these courts from time to time and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal to increase the strength of judges in various courts including Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether there is a shortage of judges in various courts;
- (e) if so, the details of sanctioned and actual strength of judges and vacancies in the said courts in the country, court and State-wise;
- (f) the total number of registered lawyers in various courts in the country, court and State-wise; and
- (g) whether the Government has any proposal to strengthen the system of appointment of judges, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): As laid down by the Constitution of India, the Supreme Court of India is the apex court in the country that has been vested with original, appellate and advisory

jurisdiction. Further, there are High Courts that stand at the head of a State's judicial administration. According to Article 227 of the Constitution, every High Court shall have superintendence over all courts and tribunals throughout the territories in relation to which it exercises jurisdiction. A detailed statement showing the total number of High Courts and Subordinate Courts complexes running in the country, State /District-wise is at *Annexure-I*.

(b): During 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, during the period from 01.07.2014 to 21.03.2023 with the approval of the respective State Governments, concerned High Courts and the Chief Justice of India, Government has increased the Judge strength of the High Courts from 906 to 1114 i.e. by 208 posts.

The review of judges' strength in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of High Court and State Government concerned. The appointment, selection and recruitment of judicial officers is done by the High Courts in certain States, whereas, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter.

(c): At present, there is a proposal to increase the judge strength of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh from 17 to 25 judges which is under consideration. No proposal for increase in strength of the Supreme Court is pending with the Government.

(d) & (e): The detailed statement of State-wise sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position in Supreme Court of India, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts is at *Annexure-II & III* respectively.

(f): As per the information provided by Department of Legal Affairs, the present status of total Advocates registered with different State Bar Council in the country, State-wise, is at *Annexure-IV*.

(g): Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 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). Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional 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. Government appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium (SCC).

In case of District and Subordinate judiciary, as per constitutional provisions the respective State Governments, in consultation with their High Courts, frame the rules and regulations regarding the issue of appointment of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. The Central Government has no role in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District and Subordinate judiciary.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 15031 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 REGARDING 'REVIEW OF JUDGES STRENGTH'.

Detailed statement showing the total number of High Courts and Subordinate Courts complexes running in the country, State /District-wise.

S.No	High Court	State/Jurisdiction	Total Districts	Total Court Complexes
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	74	183
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	13	189
3	Bombay	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	2
		Daman and Diu	2	2
		Goa	2	16
		Maharashtra	40	487
4	Calcutta	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	4
		West Bengal	22	90
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	23	89
6	Delhi	Delhi	11	12
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	4	4
		Assam	33	79
		Mizoram	3	12
		Nagaland	9	5
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	32	338
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	11	50
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and	20	82
		Union Territory of Ladakh	2	4
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	24	24
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	31	206
13	Kerala	Kerala	15	174
		Lakshadweep		
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	50	230
15	Madras	Puducherry	4	4
		Tamil Nadu	32	271
16	Manipur	Manipur	9	21
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	11	13
18	Orissa	Odisha	30	124
19	Patna	Bihar	37	80
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	1	1
		Haryana	21	58
		Punjab	22	69
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	36	330
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	6	9
23	Telangana	Telangana	33	115
24	Tripura	Tripura	8	20
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	13	69
		Total	686	3466

Source : NJDG

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) & (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 45031 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 REGARDING 'REVIEW OF JUDGES STRENGTH'.

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (As on 27.03.2023)

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			34			0		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	81	21	102	38	20	58
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	26	5	31	2	4	6
3	Bombay	71	23	94	42	23	65	29	0	29
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	34	19	53	20	-1	19
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	9	4	13	8	1	9
6	Delhi	46	14	60	45	0	45	1	14	15
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	14	9	23	8	-1	7
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	11	4	15	2	0	2
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	20	1	21	0	4	4
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	40	13	53	7	2	9
13	Kerala	35	12	47	31	6	37	4	6	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	31	0	31	8	14	22
15	Madras	56	19	75	47	11	58	9	8	17
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	32	0	32	8	13	21
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	38	27	65	26	-6	20
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	33	0	33	5	12	17
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	30	2	32	2	8	10
24	Tripura	4	1	5	2	0	2	2	1	3
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	5	0	5	4	2	6
	Total	840	274	1114	639	145	784	201	129	330

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) & (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 15031 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 REGARDING 'REVIEW OF JUDGES STRENGTH'.

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies position of Judicial officer in District & Subordinate Courts (As on 27.03.2023).

S.no.	State/UT	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	-13
2	Andhra Pradesh	618	548	70
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	33	8
4	Assam	485	425	60
5	Bihar	2016	1350	666
6	Chandigarh	30	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	552	436	116
8	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
10	Delhi	887	709	178
11	Goa	50	40	10
12	Gujarat	1582	1151	431
13	Haryana	772	574	198
14	Himachal Pradesh	179	163	16
15	Jammu and Kashmir	314	222	92
16	Jharkhand	694	505	189
17	Karnataka	1375	1134	241
18	Kerala	601	471	130
19	Ladakh	17	9	8
20	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1642	386
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	1001	814	187
28	Puducherry	28	11	17
29	Punjab	797	589	208
30	Rajasthan	1587	1249	338
31	Sikkim	30	23	7
32	Tamil Nadu	1343	1061	282
33	Telangana	560	419	141
34	Tripura	128	108	20
35	Uttar Pradesh	3694	2494	1200
36	Uttarakhand	299	267	32
37	West Bengal	1014	918	96
TOTAL		25189	19522	5667

Source:- MIS Portal of Department of Justice.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (F) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 15031 FOR ANSWER ON 31.03.2023 REGARDING 'REVIEW OF JUDGES STRENGTH'.

Statement showing the present status of total Advocates enrolled with different State Bar Council.

S. NO	State Bar Council	As on Date	Total Number of Advocate
1.	Assam	—	37326
2.	Andhra Pradesh	14.03.2023	74522
3.	Telangana	03.03.2023	46555
4.	Bihar	17.03.2023	136721
5.	Chhattisgarh	04.08.2022	31429
6.	Delhi	17.03.2023	149655
7.	Gujarat	29.07.2022	108181
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16.03.2023	12578
9.	Jharkhand	18.03.2023	31248
10.	Karnataka	03.07.2022	111162
11.	Kerala	30.07.2022	58770
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23.08.2022	112390
13.	Maharashtra & Goa	02.04.2021	191394
14.	Orissa	10.08.2022	58697
15.	Punjab & Haryana	20.07.2021	117423
16.	Rajasthan	03.03.2023	99597
17.	Tamil Nadu	30.07.2022	114584
18.	Uttar Pradesh	01.04.2021	400016
19.	Uttarakhand	16.03.2023	18804
20.	West Bengal	01.04.2021	86555
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	10589
22.	Tripura	06.08.2022	1489
23.	Manipur	02.03.2023	1974
24.	Meghalaya	16.03.2023	1422
	Total		2013081

Source: - Department of Legal Affairs

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5034
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31th MARCH, 2023

Modernisation of District Courts

el-courts

✓ JCL(PPP)
5034. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:
SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:
SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:

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

- (a) whether all courts of the country are computerised and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has made efforts to modernize the infrastructure of district courts in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken steps to digitize the court services for easy accessibility of courts to common citizens;
- (e) if so, the details of progress made during the last five years; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) : The Government has launched the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project for computerization of District and subordinate courts in the country with the objective of improving access to justice using technology. The Phase I of eCourts was concluded in 2015. Phase II of the project started in 2015 and 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerised till phase II. The detailed break-up of computerization of court complexes has been attached in Annexure-I.

(b) & (c) : The primary responsibility of the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary rests with the State Governments. The Union

Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructure facilities for the Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the 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 the district and subordinate judiciary. The scheme does not cover High Courts. A sum of Rs. 9815 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6370.78 crores (64.91%) 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 a central share of Rs. 5307.00 crores. 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. As on date, 21,297 Court Halls and 18,752 residential accommodations have been made available for judicial officers of the District and Subordinate judiciary in the country. In addition, 2,806 court halls and 1,654 residential units are under construction in various States.

(d) to (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. Phase I of the project was implemented during 2011-2015. Phase II of the project started in 2015. In the eCourts Project the Government has taken the following 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 22.38 crore cases and more than 20.83 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.03.2023).
- 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 1.70 cr. downloads till 28th February 2023) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022).
- v. The India emerged as a global leader in Video Conferencing. The High Courts (78,29,283 cases and Subordinate Courts 1,87,71,348 cases) have conducted 2.66 crore virtual hearings till 28.02.2023. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,02,937 hearings through video conferencing till 31.01.2023. 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.
- vi. 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.

- vii. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.74 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 35 lakhs (35,20,799) cases online fine of more than Rs. 380 (380.86) crores has been realized till 28.02.2023.
- 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 28.02.2023.
- 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 28.02.2022.
- x. To bridge the digital divide, 714 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. 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.
- xii. 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.5034 for 31/03/2023 regarding Modernization of District Courts. The details of court complex and computerization of courts 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



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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5058
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st MARCH, 2023

Webcast of Court Proceedings

✓ 35 (PPP) *l-levst*
5058. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:
SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide courts their own platform for the medium of webcast likewise 'You-Tube' for the telecast of proceedings of the Court which has introduced video conferencing and online system put in usages in the wake of COVID Pandemic for two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes for filing of the petitions through online portal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) :Live streaming of court proceedings is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the judiciary and Central Government has no direct role in this matter.

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 lawyers, litigants and other related parties to join the proceedings.

eCourts Phase III has a component of Courtroom Live Audio-visual Streaming System (CLASS) to telecast live court proceedings in 300 court complexes.

(c) & (d) : Under eCourts project an e filing system has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers. This allows the lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7. The e-filing 3.0 Portal was inaugurated on 9th April 2021 and is accessible on <https://filing.ecourts.gov.in>. The e-filing portal can also be accessed from eCourts service portal. In the new version, new tab is provided which allows advocates and litigants to record their oath with in-system video recording while uploading documents. The new version has also provided new dashboard which includes Case Filing, Vakalatnama, pleading, e-payments, applications and portfolio. It provides an option to litigant to send offer to the Advocates.

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 28.02.2023. A SOP has been formulated by a high-level committee comprising of judges of High Courts for providing a uniform set of guidelines for eFiling in Courts. Also, 714 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out to bridge the digital divide by providing eFiling services to lawyers and litigants within court complexes.
