

2022

**LOK SABHA
REPLIES**

**WINTER SESSION, 2022 [10th
SESSION OF 17th LOK SABHA]
[7th December, 2022 to 29th
December, 2022]**

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 468

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.12.2022

Recommendation of Law Commission on Appointment of Judges

AS(A&A)
✓ **468. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement the recommendation of 230th report of the Law Commission wherein it is suggested not to appoint the Judges in those courts where their kith and kin are practicing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of judges whose kith or kin had earlier been in judiciary, High Court-wise;
- (d) the number of vacancies of judges in the High Courts across the country, State-wise including Rajasthan; and
- (e) whether any steps have been taken to fill up the vacancies of judges in the High Courts of the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India 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 at least six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies.

Before forwarding his recommendation, the Chief Justice must consult two of his senior-most colleagues on the Bench regarding the suitability of the names proposed. Government appoints only those judges who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium. The data on number of judges whose kith or kin had earlier been in judiciary, High Court-wise, is not maintained.

(d) & (e): The details of vacancies of judges in High Courts of the country is at **Annexure-A**.

Filling up of vacancies in High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at the State and Centre level. At regular intervals, Government receives names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment as Judges in various High Courts, which are processed for necessary approval as per the provisions of Memorandum of Procedure. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

ANNEXURE-A

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (As on 05.12.2022)

	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	77	23	100	42	18	60
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	27	3	30	1	6	7
3	Bombay	71	23	94	40	26	66	31	-3	28
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	35	19	54	19	-1	18
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	8	6	14	9	-1	8
6	Delhi	46	14	60	44	1	45	2	13	15
7	Gauhati	18	6	24	16	8	24	2	-2	0
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	28	0	28	11	13	24
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	10	0	10	3	4	7
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	9	49	7	6	13
13	Kerala	35	12	47	28	9	37	7	3	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	31	0	31	8	14	22
15	Madras	56	19	75	44	10	54	12	9	21
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	22	0	22	2	9	11
19	Patna	40	13	53	34	0	34	6	13	19
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	39	27	66	25	-6	19
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	26	0	26	12	12	24
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	31	2	33	1	8	9
24	Tripura	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	7	0	7	2	2	4
	Total	836	272	1108	630	148	778	206	124	330

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †475

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022

Gram Panchayats and Nyayalayas in Rajasthan

JS (GRR)

✓ †475. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) the names of the locations in Rajasthan where Gram Nyayalayas and Nyay Panchayats are functional;
- (b) the nature of cases being dealt with by these Panchayats/Nyayalayas;
- (c) whether the Government has analyzed the success ratio of the Gram Panchayats and Nyayalayas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): As per the information made available by the State Government of Rajasthan and the Rajasthan High Court, there are 45 Gram Nyayalayas operational in the State of Rajasthan. The details of the Gram Nyayalayas in Rajasthan are *annexed*.

(b): In order to provide access to justice to the citizen at their door step, the Central Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. It provides for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the intermediate panchayat level. Gram Nyayalayas are deemed to be a Court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class with both civil and criminal jurisdiction to settle petty disputes at the village level. The Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008, enables the Gram Nyayalayas to exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction in the manner and to the extent provided under the Act.

(c) & (d): 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. The issues affecting the operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas were discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 7th April 2013. The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 does not make the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. It was decided in the conference that the State Governments and High Courts should decide the question of setting up Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account the local issues and situations. As per the data made available on the Gram Nyayalaya portal, 625 civil cases and 18,521 criminal cases were disposed of by the Gram Nyayalaya in the State of Rajasthan from April 2022 to November 2022.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTs (A) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 475 FOR REPLY ON 09.12.2022.**

S. No.	Name of District	Locations of the Gram Nyayalaya
1.	Ajmer	Pisangan
2.	Alwar	Tijara
3.	Alwar	Nimrana
4.	Balotra	Barmer
5.	Baran	Atru
6.	Banswara	Talwara
7.	Banswara	Gaddi
8.	Bharatpur	Roopwas
9.	Bharatpur	Kama
10.	Bhilwara	Mandal
11.	Bhilwara	Suwana
12.	Bikaner	Bikaner
13.	Bikaner	Kolayata
14.	Bundi	Talera
15.	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh
16.	Chittorgarh	Bhadesar
17.	Churu	Rajgarh
18.	Dausa	Dausa
19.	Dholpur	Basedi
20.	Dungarpur	Aspur
21.	Dungarpur	Bichhiwara
22.	Ganganagar	Sriganganagar
23.	Ganganagar	Anoopgarh
24.	Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh
25.	Jaipur	Sambhar
26.	Jaipur	Bassi
27.	Jalore	Sanchore
28.	Jaisalmer	Sankra
29.	Jhalawar	Jhalrapatan
30.	Jhunjhunu	Nawalgarh
31.	Jodhpur	Mandore
32.	Jodhpur	Osian
33.	Karauli	Hindaun
34.	Kota	Kherabad
35.	Kota	Itawa
36.	Merta	Jayal
37.	Pali	Raipur
38.	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh
39.	Rajsamand	Railmagra
40.	S.Madhampur	Gangapurcity
41.	Sikar	Kudli
42.	Sirohi	Pindwara
43.	Tonk	Deoli
44.	Udaipur	Udaipur
45.	Udaipur	Kherwara

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

IMPL. CELL

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTIONNO. 479
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022**

Legal Education in Hindi and other Regional Languages

✓ **479 # MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:**

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

- (a) whether any plan has been prepared by the Government to impart, legal education to students in Hindi and all other Indian regional languages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action plan has been prepared by Government to carry out the legal proceedings of the Supreme Court/High Courts and other judicial authorities in Hindi and other regional languages; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): The Department of Higher Education has informed that the National Education Policy, 2020 in its para 20.4 stated 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 is emphasizing to promote and enhance use of Hindi and other regional languages in Legal Education and to carry out the legal proceedings of the Supreme Court/High Courts and other judicial. We are digitizing 65000 words Legal glossary and make them available to public and creating an online platform to crowd-sourcing of the coining of legal terminology for Indian Languages. Further, 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 chairmanship of Hon'ble (Retd.) Chief Justice of India Sh. Bobde has been constituted by the BCI to recommend measures to enhance the use of Hindi and other Regional languages in Legal Education.

The 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 the 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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.487

Leg. II Sec.

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 09TH DECEMBER, 2022

**Eligibility of Converted SC/ST for
Contesting Election from Reserved Seats**

487. SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:
SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI):
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the voters belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) or Scheduled Tribes (STs) who have converted to Christianity or Islam are eligible to contest elections from a reserved Assembly or Parliamentary Constituencies;
- (b) if not, the legal basis thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the existing Election Manual so as to clearly mention the ineligibility of the people converting to Christianity or Islam to contest elections from a seat reserved for Dalits, SCs/STs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): Eligibility to contest from reserved Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies are as under:—

- (i) Concerned citizen must be a member of any of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, as the case may be, as notified under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution, respectively;

(ii) As per the provisions of section 4 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, for contesting election to Parliamentary constituency in case of a seat reserved for the Schedule Castes or the Schedule Tribes in any state, he is a member of any of the Schedule Castes or the Schedule Tribes, as the case may be, whether of that State or of any other State and is an elector for any Parliamentary constituencies;

(iii) As per the provisions of section 5(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, for contesting election to the Assembly constituency from a seat reserved for the Schedule Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, he is a member of any of the Schedule Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, as the case may be, of that State and is an elector for any Assembly constituency in that State.

(iv) As per paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, " notwithstanding anything contained in paragraph 2, no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu, the Sikh or Buddhist religion shall be deemed to be a member of a scheduled caste."

(c): No sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The relevant certificate of scheduled castes or scheduled tribes are being issued under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 or the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, and the issuance of those certificates are not under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. An elector with a valid Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes certificate is eligible to contest election from a seat reserved for them.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 490

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.12.2022

AS(A&A)

Women Judges

✓ 490. **SHRI RITESH PANDEY:
DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:
SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA:**

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

- (a) the total number of judges and women judges along with the percentage of women judges to the total judges in each high court, district courts and family courts, State and court-wise in India as of 2022;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to increase/incentivize women representation in the Indian Judiciary and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to bring 50 percentage reservations for women in the Judiciary to rid of the skewed gender ratio in the judiciary; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): As on 05.12.2022, 101 women Judges are working in various High Courts of the country against the sanctioned strength of 1108 judges. A Statement showing the total number of judges, number of women Judges and their percentage in the High Courts as on 05.12.2022 is at **Annexure-I**. The working strength of women Judges in district & subordinate courts, State-wise as on 05.12.2022 is at **Annexure-II**.

: 2 :

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

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. Hence, in so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, while in other states, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions. The Central Government has no role in appointment or reservation of Judicial Officers in the district and subordinate judiciary.

ANNEXURE-I

Women Judges in High Courts (as on 05.12.2022)				
Name of the Court	Approved Judge Strength of High Court Judges	Working strength of High Court Judges	Women Judges	% of Women Judges
High Courts				
Allahabad	160	100	7	4
Andhra Pradesh	37	30	2	5
Bombay	94	66	9	10
Calcutta	72	54	8	11
Chhattisgarh	22	14	1	5
Delhi	60	45	10	17
Gauhati	24	24	4	17
Gujarat	52	28	6	12
Himachal Pradesh	17	10	2	12
J&K and Ladakh	17	15	2	12
Jharkhand	25	21	1	4
Karnataka	62	49	5	8
Kerala	47	37	6	13
Madhya Pradesh	53	31	3	6
Madras	75	54	9	12
Manipur	5	3	0	0
Meghalaya	4	3	0	0
Orissa	33	22	1	3
Patna	53	34	0	0
Punjab & Haryana	85	66	13	15
Rajasthan	50	26	2	4
Sikkim	3	3	1	33
Telangana	42	33	9	21
Tripura	5	3	0	0
Uttarakhand	11	7	0	0
Total	1108	778	101	9

ANNEXURE-II

State-wise Working Strength of Women Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Judiciary (as on 05.12.2022)				
S.no.	State/UT	Total Working Strength of Judicial Officers	Working Strength of Women Judicial Officers	% of total
1	Andaman and Nicobar	13	0.00	0.00%
2	Andhra Pradesh	534	261.00	48.88%
3	Arunachal Pradesh	33	10.00	30.30%
4	Assam	426	200.00	46.95%
5	Bihar	1351	327.00	24.20%
6	Chandigarh	30	11.00	36.67%
7	Chhattisgarh	436	180.00	41.28%
8	D & N Haveli	2	0.00	0.00%
9	Daman & Diu	4	0.00	0.00%
10	Delhi	682	279.00	40.91%
11	Goa	40	28.00	70.00%
12	Gujarat	1154	228.00	19.76%
13	Haryana	465	178.00	38.28%
14	Himachal Pradesh	165	55.00	33.33%
15	Jammu and Kashmir	223	71.00	31.84%
16	Jharkhand	508	133.00	26.18%
17	Karnataka	1132	403.00	35.60%
18	Kerala	469	205.00	43.71%
19	Ladakh	9	3.00	33.33%
20	Lakshadweep	3	0.00	0.00%
21	Madhya Pradesh	1527	533.00	34.91%
22	Maharashtra	1940	597.00	30.77%
23	Manipur	42	19.00	45.24%
24	Meghalaya	51	32.00	62.75%
25	Mizoram	41	21.00	51.22%
26	Nagaland	24	15.00	62.50%
27	Odisha	768	341.00	44.40%
28	Puducherry	11	5.00	45.45%
29	Punjab	589	270.00	45.84%
30	Rajasthan	1256	504.00	40.13%
31	Sikkim	21	12.00	57.14%
32	Tamil Nadu	1068	426.00	39.89%
33	Telangana	410	216.00	52.68%
34	Tripura	109	38.00	34.86%
35	Uttar Pradesh	2481	792.00	31.92%
36	Uttarakhand	270	106.00	39.26%
37	West Bengal	918	330.00	35.95%
TOTAL		19205	6829.00	35.56%

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

LOK SABHA

LAP

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.495

ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH DECEMBER, 2022

JS(WKs)

✓ **SETTLEMENT OF CASES IN LOK ADALAT**

495. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) whether over seventy five lakh pending and pre-litigation cases were settled across the country in the third National Lok Adalat organized this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the legal services authorities have used technological platforms to conduct digital Lok Adalat in many States and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Lok Adalats have become an efficient substitute to seek Judicial redressal, and helped a lot in reducing pendency of cases in courts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a)& (b): Yes Sir, the 3rd National Lok Adalat which was organized across the country on 13.08.2022, disposed off following number of cases:-

Pre-litigation Cases Disposed off	Pending Cases Disposed off	Total Cases Disposed off
82,46,801	26,04,752	1,08,51,553

(c): During the COVID pandemic, the Legal Services Authorities (LSAs) innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-Lok Adalat, wherein affected parties could get their matter resolved without physically visiting the venue of the Adalat. E-Lok Adalat is a process to settle disputes, combining technology and alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) mechanisms which offers a faster, transparent and accessible option. E-Lok Adalats have significantly improved access to justice for people who would otherwise be unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. With Lok Adalats being held virtually, it has become accessible to a large section of the population. E-Lok Adalats are also cost effective as it eliminates the need for organizational expenses. As people can effectively participate from their homes with the help of internet technology, it has reduced the cost of travel to access the forum. Besides, it also saves time as people do not have to take time off work. The following steps have been taken by most of the Legal Services Authorities to promote E-Lok Adalats:-

- (i) Standard Operating Procedures have been formulated
- (ii) Technical training through System Officers has been provided to the Court Staff.
- (iii) Whatsapp Groups are formed for litigants, advocates and respondents for conveying them relevant information and the link for attending e-lokadalat
- (iv) Video Conferencing Link and Cause list are displayed on the website of the District Courts

As per data shared with NALSA, the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) of 28 States and UTs so far organized E-Lok Adalats since June, 2020. The details of the

cases taken up and disposed in both pre-litigation and pending cases in E-Lok Adalats during the period from June, 2020 to September, 2022 is as under:-

Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts	
Taken Up	Disposal	Taken Up	Disposal
1,63,78,857	38,39,258	96,13,800	14,99,042

(d) & (e): 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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 496.
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022

JS(GRR)

DISPOSAL OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES

- ✓ 496. SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:
SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

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

- (a) the number of pending cases of civil and criminal nature taken up and disposed off by the Supreme Court, High Courts and Lower Courts during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the challenges faced by the Government while disposing of the pending court cases;
- (c) whether the number of pending cases in Subordinate courts in the country is more than that of High Courts and Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such huge pendency;
- (d) whether poor infrastructure is one of the main reasons for the slow delivery of justice and if so, the details thereof along with the efforts made by the Government so far, to improve the infrastructure of subordinate courts in the country;
- (e) the details of other measures proposed to be initiated by the Government to speed up disposal of cases in subordinate courts in the country, including Tamil Nadu; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure quick delivery of justice and to improve judicial system for the people in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The number of pending cases of civil and criminal nature taken up and disposed off by the Supreme Court, High Courts and Lower Courts during each of the last three years and the current year is at *Annexure-I*.

(b): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Central government has no direct role in disposal of pending court cases.

(c): The number of pending cases in supreme court, high courts and district & subordinate courts and is as under:-

Name of the Court	Pendency
Supreme Court (as on 01.12.2022)	69,598
High Court (as on 06.12.2022)	59,57,704
District & Subordinate Court (as on 06.12.2022)	4,28,21,378

There are several reasons for large pendency of cases in the district and subordinate courts as indicated above which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number 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.

(d): The primary responsibility of the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary rests with the State Governments. To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary by providing financial assistance to state governments / UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the center and states. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of district and subordinate judiciary. As against the sanctioned strength of 24,989 and the working strength of 19,235 judges/judicial officers, there are 21,159 available court halls and 18,557 residential units as on 30.11.2022.

As on 30.11.2022, a sum of Rs. 9291.79 crores has been released under the scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 5847.48 crores (62.93 %) 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. The scheme also includes the norms & specifications for the court buildings, which suggest the state governments have to comply with the existing standards for disabled-friendly people.

(e) & (f): The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a 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 during the last eight years under various initiatives are as follows:

(i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 9291.79 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 21,159 as on 30.11.2022, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022, under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 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. There are 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential units made available under the scheme so far. 2673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction as part of ongoing projects.

(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 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized district and subordinate courts. All stakeholders, including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district & subordinate courts and high courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access the case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 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-Sewa Kendras have been

set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case-related information, and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

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 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown began, the district courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the high courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) via video conferencing till 31.10.2022. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 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
06.12.2022	24,994	19,205

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) **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.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 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. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022. 731 FTSC are functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

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

(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	8,62,464	31.51%
ST	4,90,729	17.93%
OBC	7,94,986	29.04%
Women	9,19,389	33.59%
General	5,88,932	21.52%
As of 30th Nov 2022,		

(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.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 496 FOR ANSWER ON 09.12.2022 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES'.

Pendency in Supreme Court

Year	No. of Pending Cases at the end of the Year		No. of Cases Disposed of	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
2019	48,606	11,253	28,683	12,417
2020	52,290	12,796	14,756	5,914
2021	55,973	14,266	15,804	8,782
2022 (as on 31.10.2022)	54,840	14,941	19,365	9,744

Pendency in High Courts

Year	No. of Pending Cases at the end of the Year		No. of Cases Disposed of	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
2019	33,37,156	13,47,198	11,45,070	7,71,979
2020	35,13,509	14,53,456	6,12,530	5,09,343
2021	37,2,6261	15,81,586	7,63,169	6,77,853
2022 (as on 30.09.2022)	37,43,452	16,07,832	8,19,865	6,74,336

Pendency in District & Subordinate Court

Year	No. of Pending Cases at the end of the Year		No. of Cases Disposed of	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
2019	89,91,997	2,33,04,227	38,55,047	1,45,16,527
2020	99,55,186	2,73,30,556	17,09,657	74,95,227
2021	1,06,66,303	3,03,87,195	28,93,054	1,41,35,550
2022 (as on 30.09.2022)	1,06,86,169	3,21,40,608	32,46,338	1,43,77,969

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 501

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 09th DECEMBER 2022

Leg. II Sec.

Women MPs and MLAs

501. SHRI ABHISHEK BANERJEE:

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

- (a) the percentage of women MPs in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha;
- (b) the percentage of women MLAs in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase women representation in Parliament and State Assemblies;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce the women's reservation bill in Parliament; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): A statement showing the details of percentage of women elected/nominated to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha is enclosed as Annexure-A and different State Assemblies is enclosed as Annexure-B.

(c) to (e): 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.

Percentage of Women elected to both Houses of Parliament

Sl. No.	Name of the House/State	% of Women MPs/MLAs
1.	Lok Sabha	14.94
2.	Rajya Sabha	14.05

Percentage of Women elected to the State Legislative Assemblies

Sl. No.	Name of State / Union territories	Year of Last General Election to Legislative Assembly	% of Seats won by Women
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2019	8.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2019	5.00
3.	Assam	2021	4.76
4.	Bihar	2020	10.70
5.	Chhattisgarh	2018	14.44
6.	Goa	2022	7.50
7.	Gujarat	2017	7.14
8.	Haryana	2019	10.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2017	5.88
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2014	2.30
11.	Jharkhand	2019	12.35
12.	Karnataka	2018	3.14
13.	Kerala	2021	7.86
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2018	9.13
15.	Maharashtra	2019	8.33
16.	Manipur	2022	8.33
17.	Meghalaya	2018	5.08
18.	Mizoram	2018	0
19.	Nagaland	2018	0
20.	Odisha	2019	8.90
21.	Punjab	2022	11.11
22.	Rajasthan	2018	12.00
23.	Sikkim	2019	9.38
24.	Tamil Nadu	2021	5.13
25.	Telangana	2018	5.04
26.	Tripura	2018	5.00
27.	Uttarakhand	2022	11.43
28.	Uttar Pradesh	2022	11.66
29.	West Bengal	2021	13.70
30.	NCT of Delhi	2020	11.43
31.	Puducherry	2021	3.33

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

LOK SABHA A25
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.509
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09th December, 2022

Utilisation of Legal Expertise under Tele-Law Scheme

JS(WKG)

✓ **509. SHRI NAYAB SINGH:**

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 for the benefit of weaker sections of the society including tribals under the Tele-law scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to include the students who have completed their internship under the various Government training programmes in the law sector to expedite the judicial delivery system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the plan of the Government to utilize the 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 tele-video conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centers and through Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile Application. So far 876 Panel Lawyers have been on-boarded under Tele-Law. 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 (d) 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. 515

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.12.2022

AS(L&A)

Demands for Setting up of Benches of Courts

✓ **515. SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:
SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:
SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up new High Court benches in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of demands made, requests and proposals received from various States including Odisha for setting up of bench(es) of various courts in some cities like Supreme Court Bench at Hyderabad, Madras High Court Bench in Puducherry and new High Court bench in undivided district of Koraput and Western Odisha;
- (c) the present status of the said demands/ proposals, State-wise;
- (d) the details of such demands rejected along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which the necessary action is likely to be taken and implemented by the Government?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

Requests for establishment of High Court Benches in places other than the Principal Seat of High Courts have been received from various organizations from time to time including State Government of Odisha. The State Government of Odisha has requested for setting up of Orissa High Court Bench in Western and Southern region of Odisha. The Central Government has requested the State Government of Odisha to work out details of proposed Benches including its location in consultation with High Court of Orissa. However, no response has been received yet. At present, no complete proposal from the State Government of Odisha regarding setting up of a Bench of the High Court is pending with the Government.

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

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

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

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

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.519
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH DECEMBER, 2022**

Adm. III(LA)

APPOINTMENT OF TWENTY-SECOND LAW COMMISSION

519.SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has appointed/ proposes to appoint the Twenty-Second Law Commission of India for examining various issues;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any specific terms of reference or issues have been referred/ proposed to be referred to the Law Commission; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The 22nd Law Commission of India has been constituted for a term of three years w.e.f. 21st February, 2020 vide order dated 21st February, 2020 notified in the official Gazette of India. The constitution of the 22nd Law Commission of India provides the terms of reference vide para 4 of the said order dated 21st February, 2020.

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

Lok Sabha

Unstarted Question No. 534

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.12.2022

Judl. G.C.

Government Counsels

534. SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any centralized policy in place towards method/procedure for empanelment of counsels and advocates pan India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of expenses borne by the Government for engaging panel counsels during 2021-2022, State-wise;
- (d) whether there exists any fixed procedure for the assignment of cases to panel counsels and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has laid down any requisite qualifications and eligibility criteria to empanel counsels and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) Ministry of Law & Justice receives large number of applications from practicing advocates across the country for empanelment as Government Counsel at various levels in Hon'ble Supreme Court, various High Courts/Tribunals and District Courts throughout the country. The Ministry has its own search mechanism through which it scrutinizes the applications

based on the experience, merit and goodwill of the practicing advocates. The ministry after obtaining inputs from various quarters in respect of applicant advocates empanels them at various levels as Central Government Counsels, Standing Government Counsels and Panel Advocates at Supreme Court, High Courts/Tribunals and District Courts.

- (b) Government of India has already fixed the eligibility criteria for empanelment of advocates as Government Counsel, which is registered advocates under Advocates Act, 1961.
- (c) This Department has Litigation Branches in Delhi (Delhi High Court & Central Agency Section for Supreme Court), Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai & Bengaluru. The expenses incurred for engaging Law officers and panel counsels including retainership fee by this Department during 2021-2022 is Rs. 48,94,54,767/- (**As per Annexure-A**)
- (d) Yes. The cases are being assigned to Various Government Advocates at various levels as manner prescribed in various Office Memoranda of this Ministry, which includes consultation with Ld. Attorney General/ Ld. Solicitor General and various Ld. Additional Solicitors General and Ld. Deputy Solicitors General, wherever it is necessary.

Annexure-A

S.No	Litigation Sectoin	Amount in Rs.
1.	Central Agency Section, Supreme Court, New Delhi	28,78,26,268/-
2.	Delhi High Court, New Delhi	10,99,99,885/-
3.	Cash Section, Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	2,31,48,563/-
4.	Branch Secretariat, Department of Legal Affairs, Mumbai	1,56,60,990/-
5.	Branch Secretariat, Department of Legal Affairs, Kolkata	1,83,83,790/-
6.	Branch Secretariat, Department of Legal Affairs, Chennai	3,06,67,875/-
7.	Branch Secretariat, Department of Legal Affairs, Bengaluru	37,67,486/-
Total		48,94,54,767/-

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 541**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.12.2022

All India Judicial Services

✓ 541. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:
SHRI AJAY NISHAD:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to create an All India Judicial Services so as to make recruitment process in lower judicial service more efficient, uniform and regular and also to address shortage of judges by filling up the vacancy in Judiciary timely;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any plan to provide proper representation to the marginalized sections of the society by setting up the Indian Judicial Service;
- (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) : 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.

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,

: 3 :

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 stakeholders, there is no such proposal of All India Judicial Service at this juncture.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 546

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.12.2022

Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Judges

AS(A&A)
✓ 546. **SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:**
SHRI SADASHIV KISAN LOKHANDE:

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

- (a) the status of Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for recruitment of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court of India and the matter of dispute between the Government and the judiciary regarding MoP;
- (b) the changes desired by the judiciary in MoP and the constraints of the Government in implementing these changes;
- (c) whether the Government has received any letter from Supreme Court/Collegium with regard to change of timeline in appointment of High Court Judges in line with Judge of supreme court in M/s PLR Projects Pvt. Ltd. vs. Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. and Ors. [transfer petition (civil) no: 2419 of 2019] and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the MoP for appointment of Judges of High Court in line with Judgement of Supreme Court in the above mentioned petition, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): Appointment of Judges in the High Courts is an administrative matter between the Executive and the Judiciary. As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges of the High Courts, the Chief Justice of the High Court

concerned is required to initiate the proposal for filling up the vacancy six months prior to the occurrence of the vacancies.

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). In para 10 of the ibid Order, it was laid down that Government of India may finalize the Memorandum of Procedure by supplementing it in consultation with the Chief Justice of India taking into consideration eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of secretariat and mechanism to deal with complaints. 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 Government of India after due deliberations, proposed changes in the existing MoP and the draft MoP's were sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 22.03.2016. The response of the Chief Justice of India thereon was received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The views of the Government were conveyed to the Chief Justice of India on 03.08.2016. The inputs on the MoP of the Supreme Court Collegium was received from Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 13.03.2017. In another judgment dated 04.07.2017 of Supreme Court in a "suo moto" contempt proceeding against a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, the Supreme Court has underlined the need to revisit the process of selection and appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts. The Government of India has conveyed the need to make improvement on the draft MoP to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court vide letter dated 11.07.2017.

The Supreme Court has prescribed additional timelines to be followed by constitutional authorities in the matter of processing of appointments of Judges to the High Courts vide its order dated 20.04.2021 in M/s PLR Projects Pvt Ltd. vs Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. and Ors [transfer petition (civil) no: 2419 of 2019]. However, these timelines are not yet a part of MoP. Supreme Court in a separate judgement dated 20.04.2021 in 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, has laid down fresh criterion for their appointment. After detailed deliberation, Government has

: 3 :

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. No separate letter has been received from the Supreme Court/Collegium with regard to change of timeline in appointment of High Court Judges

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

LOK SABHA

JR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 551

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022

Inadequate Judicial Infrastructure

JSL (ARR)

✓

**551. SHRI ANTO ANTONY :
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the extensive shortages of proper judicial infrastructure in the country, particularly in the lower courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether efforts have been made to improve judicial infrastructure to make it easily accessible to differently abled citizens; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The primary responsibility of the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary in the states, including facilities essential for differently-abled persons, rests with the State Governments. To augment the resources of 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 the State

Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the center and states. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of district and subordinate judiciary. As against the sanctioned strength of 24,989 and the working strength of 19,235 judges/judicial officers, there are 21,159 available court halls and 18,557 residential units as on 30.11.2022.

As on 30.11.2022, a sum of Rs. 9291.79 crores has been released under the scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 5847.48 crores (62.93 %) 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. The scheme also includes the norms & specifications for the court buildings, which suggest the state governments have to comply with the existing standards for disabled-friendly people.

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.562

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH DECEMBER, 2022

Repeal of Obsolete and Archaic Laws

562. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

- (a) whether obsolete and archaic laws are causing impediments in the normal life of a common man and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether more than 1500 obsolete Acts exist in the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the government proposes to repeal those Acts during the current calendar year;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the reasons for not fixing any timelines for review of every legislation made by the Parliament to avoid the issue of repealing them?**

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) to (e) : obsolete and archaic laws lay down unnecessary compliance burden on citizens. Therefore, it has been the resolve of this Government to reduce such compliance burden, bring reforms in the legal system and make it more accessible to the common man.

In line with this resolve, the Government has repealed 1486 obsolete and redundant Central Acts from May, 2014 till date. Besides, 76 Central Acts relating to State subject have also been repealed by the concerned State legislature.

As the laws are reviewed on the basis of feedback received, research, reports generated, survey and audit conducted etc. which is a time-consuming process, it may not be possible to fix timeline for the same.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

JS(GRR)

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †591.
✓ TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022**

SCHEME FOR SPEEDY JUSTICE

†591. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to initiate any scheme to provide speedy justice to the people;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the number of courts proposed to be set up thereunder in the country, State-wise?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): Dispensation of Speedy Justice to the people is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for the disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. The Central Government is fully committed to the speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting

performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a 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 during the last eight years under various initiatives are as follows:

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9291.79 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 21,159 as on 30.11.2022, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022, under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 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. There are 21,159 court halls have been made available under the scheme so far. 2673 court halls are under construction. The state wise list is given at *Annexur-I*.

(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 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized district and subordinate courts. All stakeholders, including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district & subordinate courts and high courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access the case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 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-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case-related information, and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

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 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the

congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown began, the district courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the high courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) via video conferencing till 31.10.2022. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 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
06.12.2022	24,994	19,205

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) **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.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases**: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 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. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022. 731 FTSC are functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

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

(c): Setting up additional Courts is within the domain of the State Governments and the high courts. In case of district and subordinate courts, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers has increased from 19,518 in year 2014 to 24,989 as on 30.11.2022. The increase of 5,471 judicial officers over the years caters to the requirements of additional courts that have been set up at the district and subordinate level for disposing off the increasing number of cases and pending cases

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

Requests for establishment of High Court Benches in places other than the Principal Seat of High Courts have been received from various organizations from time to time. At present, no complete proposal regarding setting up of Bench(es) is pending with the government.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †591 FOR ANSWER ON 09.12.2022 REGARDING
'SCHEME FOR SPEEDY JUSTICE'.**

Sl. No.	States & Uts	Total number of Court Halls	Court Halls under construction
1	Andaman and Nicobar	17	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	631	99
3	Arunachal Pradesh	29	2
4	Assam	424	99
5	Bihar	1556	86
6	Chandigarh	31	1
7	Chhattisgarh	472	21
8	D & N Haveli	3	0
9	Daman & Diu	5	3
10	Delhi	644	50
11	Goa	53	28
12	Gujarat	1506	140
13	Haryana	558	75
14	Himachal Pradesh	151	14
15	Jammu and Kashmir	194	46
16	Jharkhand	659	0
17	Karnataka	1186	144
18	Kerala	535	62
19	Ladakh	9	0
20	Lakshadweep	3	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	1543	409
22	Maharashtra	2350	498
23	Manipur	39	8
24	Meghalaya	53	30
25	Mizoram	42	26
26	Nagaland	30	12
27	Odisha	812	53
28	Puducherry	36	0
29	Punjab	589	72
30	Rajasthan	1334	192
31	Sikkim	20	0
32	Tamil Nadu	1207	0
33	Telangana	531	45
34	Tripura	82	8
35	Uttar Pradesh	2748	289
36	Uttarakhand	241	70
37	West Bengal	836	91
TOTAL		21159	2673

Source:- Nyaya Vikas Portal

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 596**

J-II

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9th DECEMBER, 2022

SS(PPP)

Family Courts

✓ **596. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:**

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN

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

- (a) the details of family courts functioning at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of cases filed, disposed off and pending in these courts during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether any problems have been faced by the States in the disposal of the cases filed in family courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for expediting the disposal of such cases in the country?

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

(a)&(b): The details of family courts functioning at present in the country, State-wise and cases filed, disposed off and pending during the last three years and the current year are given at **Annexure**.

(c) to (e): Setting up of family courts and its functioning comes within the domain of the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for establishment of family courts by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs. Under Section 3(1) (a) of the Family Courts Act, it is mandatory for the State Governments to set up a family court for every area in the State comprising a city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States, the family courts may be set up if the State Governments deem it necessary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency.

The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. Major initiatives are as follows:

(i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 9291.79 crores has been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,159 as on 30.11.2022 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022 under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction (as per Nyaya Vikas Portal). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9,000 crore, out of which central share will be Rs. 5,307 crore. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of lawyer's halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

(ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for information and communication technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 crore order/judgments pertaining to these courts. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service

Centres (JSC) in all computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull

services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID- 19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 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.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the High Court heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) till 31.10.2022 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new Judges were appointed and 621 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
05.12.2022	24,994	19,205

4

(iv) Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:

In pursuance of Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

Annexure

For Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 596 to be replied on 09.12.2022 Status of Family Courts

S.NO.	STATES/UTs	FUNCTIONAL COURT (as on 31st Oct 2022)	CASES FILED				CASES DISPOSED				CASES PENDING			
			2019	2020	2021	2022 (up to Oct)	2019	2020	2021	2022 (up to Oct)	2019	2020	2021	2022 (up to Oct)
1	Andhra Pr	20	7421	3343	5635	5635	4827	2286	1632	3304	6763	10069	10069	12946
2	A&N island	0	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	0
4	Assam	7	5574	2732	3935	5141	7364	1574	4103	6092	8108	10108	9356	7901
5	Bihar	39	24377	11969	19382	20166	15336	5729	7795	18575	20774	58636	69792	71383
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	25	15069	5346	11525	12703	9236	3737	9527	11890	6882	15310	17779	18978
8	D&N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	0	37978	19256	21382	22664	17638	5691	30166	21014	4210	40733	48520	0
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	30	27529	14041	18508	20446	13754	8918	22124	19947	0	33560	35335	35834
13	Haryana	31	59033	29646	33315	39860	14909	18187	31589	41171	924	58511	65337	62950
14	Himachal Pr	3	14745	7324	2706	5679	5570	7331	3096	4706	0	15618	5102	6092
15	J&K	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	0	0	876	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	30	12052	6215	9380	10953	6836	3537	5873	13668	4632	14507	19371	15975
17	Karnataka	39	25114	16618	21684	23582	11645	8988	22603	23072	0	38365	39458	39958
18	Kerala	28	60338	43022	50975	54866	25309	23067	47146	53286	0	100479	114020	115514
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pr	0	37948	15950	18758	9386	15596	9922	18140	10162	0	15584	25769	0
22	Maharashtra	40	29993	19554	29321	32768	65302	11774	26789	32811	107491	52079	67315	67272
23	Manipur	0	887	342	441	557	466	311	251	930	210	634	634	0
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	146	0	0	0	154	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	2	147	82	185	220	41	88	150	185	0	66	153	200
27	Odisha	30	13345	8038	10874	12056	4754	4159	8980	15823	0	39670	44689	40933
28	Puducherry	2	751	668	873	1040	471	374	835	1114	0	1535	1452	1269
29	Punjab	33	70374	23630	61023	59388	10249	14811	40297	60415	0	52198	85061	82413
30	Rajasthan	50	39935	21518	30168	39736	16941	15731	27187	36224	0	44222	46048	50054
31	Sikkim	4	277	179	240	303	173	128	286	358	6	188	195	161
32	Tamil Nadu	40	21660	16316	21774	21355	14478	8840	13468	22980	6036	29970	32519	31458
33	Telangana	23	9252	5733	10820	11592	9857	3451	11622	10358	9950	15469	18095	18779
34	Tripura	9	2893	1512	2762	3393	1801	1026	2717	3142	937	2551	3604	3863
35	Uttar Pradesh	189	305487	190709	170634	191001	266775	112214	183793	193854	405127	413176	396462	392734
36	Uttarakhand	18	11238	9508	10749	11147	4379	3588	11319	12022	567	15119	15997	15122
37	West Bengal	2	721	298	165	272	8484	229	118	301	49723	0	1166	1128
	TOTAL	694	834138	473549	497447	615909	552384	275691	531606	617404	633370	1078357	1173298	1092917

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

NM

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †602
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022

JS (GRR)

WORKING HOURS IN JUDICIARY

✓ †602. SHRI BALAK NATH:

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

- (a) whether the Law Commission has recommended the Government to reduce holidays and increase working hours in the higher level of Judiciary to clear pending cases, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The Law Commission in its 230th Report on “Reforms in the Judiciary – Some Suggestions” had *inter-alia* suggested that considering the staggering arrears, the vacations in the higher judiciary must be curtailed by at least 10 to 15 days and the court working hours be extended by at least half an hour. The Report was forwarded to the Chief Justices of all High Courts to consider the suggestions for adoption.

The Supreme Court notified the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 on 27th May 2014 wherein, *inter-alia*, it is provided that the period of summer vacation shall not exceed seven weeks. It is further provided that the length of the summer vacation and the

number of holidays for the court and the offices of the court shall be such as may be fixed by the Chief Justice and notified in the official gazette so as not to exceed one hundred and three days, excluding Sundays not falling in the vacation and during court holidays. The Supreme Court Rules, 2013 came into force with effect on 19th August, 2014.

Working days in the high courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective high courts. The working days as well as working hours of the district/subordinate courts are also regulated by the respective high courts.

The judiciary is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution. The government is fully committed to the independence of judiciary and constantly endeavours to provide a conducive environment for judges to discharge their judicial functions smoothly.

(b) & (c): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

The major steps taken during the last eight years under various initiatives are as follows:

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9291.79 crores has been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,159 as on 30.11.2022 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022 under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction (as per Nyaya Vikas Portal). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9,000 crore, out of which central share will be Rs. 5,307 crore. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of lawyer's halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

(ii) **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for information and communication technology

enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 crore order/judgments pertaining to these courts. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID- 19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 619 e-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

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 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District

courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the High Court heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) till 31.10.2022 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new Judges were appointed and 621 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
06.12.2022	24,994	19,205

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

(iv) Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees: In pursuance of Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

(v) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)**: Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases**: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme. 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. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022. 731 FTSC are functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

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

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

LOK SABHA

WM

JS (LRR)

✓ **UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 603
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022**

TIMELINE FOR RESERVING VERDICT

603. SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:

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

- (a) whether the verdict of any reserved order can be put on hold for an indefinite period of time or any statutory period is prescribed for its pronouncement;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the reasons under which the verdict can be kept on hold for an indefinite period;**
- (d) whether the delay in pronouncement of verdict amount to the concept of legal maxim 'justice delayed is justice denied'; and**
- (e) if so, the course of action that has been initiated/is likely to be initiated by the Courts in such an event to provide proper and timely justice to the aggrieved party?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): As per the extant provisions of Civil Procedure Code, 1908 under Rule 1(1) of Order XX it is mandated that the court shall pronounce judgement either at once or as soon as practicable within 30 (thirty) days from the date on which the hearing of the case was concluded. This period of time can be extended beyond 60 (sixty) days only under exceptional and extraordinary circumstances.

(d) to (e): The administration of proper and timely justice to the aggrieved through timely disposal of cases and pronouncement of verdict is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Central Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, includes availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures.

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

LOK SABHA

A2J

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 611

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9th DECEMBER, 2022

JS(WK6)

NYAYA MITRA SCHEME

✓ **611. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT**

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

- (a) the aims and objectives of the Nyaya Mitra Scheme;
- (b) the efforts being made by the Government to engage Nyaya Mitras in the State of Andhra Pradesh to assist courts in the disposal of old pending cases;
- (c) whether the Government is going to engage 80 Nyaya Mitras ; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of Nyaya Mitras proposed to be engaged in AP district courts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) Nyaya Mitra programme aims to facilitate expeditious disposal of 10-15 years old pending cases in High Courts and Subordinate Courts.
- (b) & (c) Since the introduction of Nyaya Mitra programme in April 2017, a total of 39 Nyaya Mitras were engaged in the States of Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, that had more than 1000 cases pending for last 10 years. Based on this criteria no districts of Andhra Pradesh were covered under the Nyaya Mitra Scheme.
- (d) Question does not arise in view of answer at (b) & (c)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

WmJR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †613
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH DECEMBER, 2022

JS(WRR)

NEED FOR LOCALISING JUDICIAL DELIVERY

✓ †613. SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY :

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

- (a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn towards the remarks of the Chief Justice of India at an event organised by the Karnataka State Bar Council, Bengaluru on September 18, 2021 paying homage to the late Justice M.M. Shantanagoundar and stressing over the need to adapt to the practical realities of our society and localise our Judicial delivery systems;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps in this regard in consultation with the Chief Justice of India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): The judiciary is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution. The government is fully committed to the independence of judiciary and constantly endeavours to provide a conducive environment for judges to discharge their judicial functions smoothly. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts, including computerisation, increase in the strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, and emphasis on human resource development.

(c) & (d): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary, by adopting to the practical realities in the society and localising and simplifying the litigant centric justice delivery system in their jurisdiction. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a 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 during the last eight years under various initiatives are as follows:

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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-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case-related information, and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

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 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown began, the district courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the high courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) via video conferencing till 31.10.2022. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 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
06.12.2022	24,994	19,205

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) 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.

(vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 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. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022. 731 FTSC are functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

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

(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	%
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As of 30th Nov 2022,		

(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.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †624
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09th DECEMBER, 2022**

e-lovt

JS(PP)

Disposal of Cases through Video Conferencing

✓ †624. **SHRIMATI DELKARKALABEN MOHANBHAI:**

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

- (a) the details of High Courts/District Courts where the proceedings are being conducted through video conferencing, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of cases disposed by courts through video conferencing since its inception upto September, 2022, State/UT and court-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allocate additional funds for live streaming of the proceedings of district/High Courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): In the following High Courts along with the District Courts within their jurisdiction proceedings are being conducted using video conferencing:

Allahabad, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Calcutta, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gauhati –(Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland), Gujarat, Himanchal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Patna, Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand.

(b): Number of cases dealt by High Courts and District Courts through videoconferencing upto September 2022 is attached at Annexure.

(c)and (d):eCourts Phase-II is coming to end and phase-III DPR has been approved by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. Provision of funds for Live Streaming has been incorporated in DPR of phase III.

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.624 for 09/12/2022 regarding disposal of cases through video conferencing. The details of proceedings conducted by different courts through video conferencing upto September 2022 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 September 2022			
S.No	High Court	High Court	District Court
Total			
1	Allahabad	241321	3639634
2	Andhra Pradesh	380252	1411741
3	Bombay	36849	59084
4	Calcutta	135598	79549
5	Chhattisgarh	103007	36358
6	Delhi	317729	3210946
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	2291	8128
8	Gauhati - Assam	242335	309766
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	3963	13268
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	930	650
11	Gujarat	388928	191558
12	Himachal Pradesh	183904	81755
13	Common High Court for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	257102	408713
14	Jharkhand	218022	635528
15	Karnataka	1003946	117422
16	Kerala	158150	520123
17	Madhya Pradesh	664985	747388
18	Madras	1424292	327922
19	Manipur	38695	15288
20	Meghalaya	2466	21377
21	Orissa	276241	234567
22	Patna	259819	1991876
23	Punjab and Haryana	585412	792754
24	Rajasthan	232770	217746
25	Sikkim	474	56053
26	Telangana	299859	190600
27	Tripura	10563	11994

28	Uttarakhand	73686	41151	114837
	Total	7543589	15372939	22916528

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

LOK SABHA

e-court

STARRED QUESTION No. *147

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16th DECEMBER, 2022

JS(PPP)

Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Judicial System

***147. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:**

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

- (a) the number of operational e-courts in the State of Jharkhand, district-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has developed Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools like Supreme Court VidhikAnuvaad Software (SUVAS) and Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency (SUPACE) and proposes to deploy it in the judicial system and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has collaborated/proposes to collaborate with certain private entities for developing more AI tools for the Indian judicial system, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to use AI and block chain technology in implementation of e-Courts-Phase-III and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Artificial Intelligence Committee set up by the Supreme Court is exploring domains other than translation of judicial documents, legal research assistance and process automation for identifying application of AI technology 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 PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *147 FOR 16TH DECEMBER, 2022 REGARDING USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS IN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

(a): Total 515 number of Courts are operational in Jharkhand under eCourts Project. District-wise list of the Courts is enclosed at Annexure – I:

(b) to (d): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts 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”. The project is being implemented under the joint partnership of Department of Justice, Government of India and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. The eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, headed by a Supreme Court Judge, is responsible for the policy planning, strategic direction and guidance for implementation of eCourts project in different courts in the country. Department of Justice releases funds to High Courts on the recommendation of eCommittee of Supreme Court of India. To explore the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in judicial domain, the Supreme Court of India has constituted Artificial Intelligence Committee which has mainly identified application of AI technology in translation of judicial documents, assistance in legal research and process automation.

Under the supervision of the AI Committee, an Artificial Intelligence Tool, SUVAS (Supreme Court VidhikAnuvaad Software) for translating Judicial domain English documents in vernacular languages and vice versa has been developed. AI based Legal Research Assistance Tool, SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency) has been developed by Artificial Intelligence Committee for such purpose.

A Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been approved by the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India for eCourts Project Phase III that includes components incorporating AI and Blockchain technology that would be

developed and procured from the best available technology in the market following the due process of procurement as stipulated by the government.

(e): Apart from use of AI language technology in translation of judicial documents and use of AI in Legal Research Assistance on judicial side, the AI Committee of Supreme Court, has identified the following two more areas for implementation of the AI technology.

- i. Use of AI in Process Automation on the administrative side- NJDG data reveals that Indian Judiciary has pendency of more than 4.86 crore cases at High Courts and District Courts. Keeping a track of these cases, and in order to have special focus on old cases, cases pertaining to senior citizen, women and marginalized section is a huge challenge. Use of AI can help achieve efficient case tracking and Case Flow Management and facilitate policy decisions.
- ii. Exploring potential use of AI in other judicial avenues- The AI Committee of Supreme Court found that in addition to the above avenues/areas, there is need to explore the benefits which machine learning and artificial intelligence can bring in justice dispensation considering the geography, topography and complexities arising out of customary laws, local special laws, and the sheer volume of cases.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Question No.*147 for 16/12/2022 regarding Court in Jharkhand. The district wise Courts operational under e-Courts project in the state of Jharkhand are as under:

S.No	Name of the District/ Sub-Divisional Court of Jharkhand	Number of Court Rooms Computerized under eCourts Project
1	Bokaro	29
2	Sub-Divisional Court of Bermo at Tenughat (Bokaro)	15
3	Chaibasa	12
4	Chatra	22
5	Deoghar	20
6	Sub-Divisional Court of Madhupur (Deoghar)	4
7	Dhanbad	51
8	Dumka	11
9	Garhwa	16
10	Giridih	22
11	Godda	14
12	Gumla	11
13	Hazaribag	30
14	Jamshedpur	40
15	Sub-Divisional Court Ghatshila (Jamshedpur)	20
16	Jamtara	13
17	Khunti	12
18	Koderma	13
19	Latehar	18
20	Lohardaga	11
21	Pakur	12
22	Palamau at daltonganj	25
23	Ramgarh	22
24	Ranchi	39
25	Sahibganj	14
26	Seraikella-Kharsawan	11
27	Simdega	8
	Total	515

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

NM

LOK SABHA

JS(WRR)
✓

STARRED QUESTION NO. *160

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2022

DISPOSAL OF CASES THROUGH ADR SYSTEM

***160. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to dispose all compoundable cases older than 20 years through Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) system;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the details of the initiatives taken by the Government to reduce the burden of cases from the courts and also to make the system of delivering of justice to the citizens faster; and**
- (d) the details of the initiatives taken by the Government to promote ADR system in the country during the last five years?**

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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *160 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES THROUGH ADR SYSTEM'.

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

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

The Government is promoting ADR mechanisms including arbitration and mediation as these mechanisms are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes. The use of ADR mechanisms is also expected to reduce the burden on the judiciary and thereby enable timely justice dispensation to citizens of the country. Some of the major initiatives over the years in this regard include:-

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 was enacted to consolidate and amend the law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and

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

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

The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in the year 2018 to provide for Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mechanism. Under this mechanism, where a commercial dispute of specified value does not contemplate any urgent interim relief, the parties have to first exhaust the mandatory remedy of PIMS before approaching the Court. This is aimed at providing an opportunity to the parties to resolve the commercial disputes through mediation.

Rooted in the tradition of “People’s Court”, the concept of Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Lok Adalat can take up any kind of Civil matters and all Criminal Compoundable matters, whether

pending in a court or at the Pre-Litigative stage. The award made by 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 the Award before any court. During the COVID pandemic, the Legal Services Authorities (LSAs) innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-Lok Adalat, wherein affected parties could get their matter resolved without physically visiting the venue of the Adalat. E-Lok Adalat is a process to settle disputes, combining technology and alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) mechanisms which offers a faster, transparent and accessible option.

(c): Disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. Several factors come into play while disposing of the cases in courts, such as, availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Apart from these, other contributory factors that delay the disposal include, vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency.

National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization,

increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

The major steps taken during the last eight years under various initiatives are as follows:

(i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary has been in operation since 1993-94. Under the Scheme, so far, Rs. 9291.79 has been released. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure 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. The scheme covers construction of court halls, residential unit, lawyers halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms. There are 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential units made available under the scheme so far.

(ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project under implementation throughout the country, information and communication technology outreach has been extended to the district and subordinate courts with WAN connectivity having been provided to 99.3% of court complexes. Apart from this, a 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, now have access to plethora of information w.r.t judicial proceedings/decisions on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). A series of IT enabled services such as eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC), eCourt Mobile App, SMS push and pull services have facilitated easy access to all sorts of

information such as case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments to the litigants and advocates.

Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. Virtual hearings have been effectively adopted during COVID-19 pandemic and as of now 21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs as on 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 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:

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reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

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(viii) 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.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1614**

Leg. II. Sec.

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 2022

DEMAND FOR BAN ON OPINION AND EXIT POLLS

1614. Shri M. Badruddin Ajmal :

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

- (a) whether exit and opinion polls are becoming tools of propaganda and false claims;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government on the issue;
- (c) whether there have been loud demands for ban on opinion poll and exit poll from several groups and individuals including political parties and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to impose ban on opinion and exit polls after the announcement and implementation of model code of conduct and till the result is announced; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d): In order to have free and fair elections in the country, there exists a restriction on conduct of any exit poll and publish or publicise by any means, the result of any exit poll during the period starting from the commencement of polls till half an hour after closing of the poll in all the States and Union territories. No such proposal as regards ban on opinion poll is under consideration.
- (e): Does not arise, in view of (a) to (d) above.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1643**

Leg. II Sec.

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2022

COMPLAINTS OF BOOTH CAPTURING

1643. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury:

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

- (a) the details of complaints received by Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding booth capturing in last five state assembly election and general election, constituency-wise;
- (b) whether the ECI is planning to purchase any new generation of EVMs and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has maintained any data regarding complaints received by the ECI for EVM tampering in the said elections;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
- (c): No sir.
- (d) to (e): Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2022**

PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS

†1650. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

- (a) the number of constitutional Civil, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts during the last three years and the current year, court-wise, category-wise and State-wise;**
- (b) the time since when these cases are pending;**
- (c) the reasons behind delay in disposing of these cases;**
- (d) the details of the action plan prepared in this regard; and**
- (e) the number of such cases disposed of during the said period, year-wise?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): The Supreme Court of India and the various High Courts do not maintain the last three years' data with respect to cases such as the number of constitutional Civil, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases pending year-wise, rather the data is maintained as on date.

As per the information obtained from Supreme Court of India, the total number of pending cases pertaining to the Constitutional Bench, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions,

Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases in Supreme Court is placed at *Annexure- I*.

In case of various High Courts, the information is not maintained centrally in the Department of Justice. However, the pertinent information as available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) regarding the pending cases pertaining to the Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions (not applicable in case of High Courts), Contempt of Court cases are placed at *Annexure-II*.

(c): The disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the domain of the judiciary. The Government has no direct role in this regard.

The delay in disposal is a multi-faceted problem. With an increase in the population of the country and awareness among the public about their rights, filing of fresh cases is also increasing by leaps and bounds, year after year. Each case is distinct and variable in nature, therefore, no specific timelines can be determined concerning disposal of cases. Myriad factors come into play in deciding the disposal of cases in courts which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

(d): As per the inputs obtained from the Supreme Court, multi-pronged endeavours are being launched to reduce pendency of cases in the near future. In the summer vacations, 2 division benches were constituted throughout and even old regular hearing matters were disposed off. Lately, special benches have been constituted to dispose of matters relating to Labour disputes, Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal (MACT)

Compensation, Direct taxes, Indirect taxes and old Criminal appeals. A special drive is presently on to dispose of all old bail matters and Transfer petitions, at the earliest.

While, the disposal of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary, the Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary by adopting to the practical realities in the society and localising and simplifying the litigant centric justice delivery system in their jurisdiction. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a 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.

(e): As per the information obtained from the Supreme Court of India, the number of constitutional Civil, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases disposed cases for last three years and current year are placed at *Annexure-III*.

In case of the various High Courts, the information is not maintained centrally. The number of constitutional Civil, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases pending in the High Courts are only maintained as on date as per National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). The details

regarding the disposed cases pertaining to the Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions (not applicable in case of High Courts), Contempt of Court cases are placed at *Annexure-IV*.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS'

Details of Cases pending in the Supreme Court of India across various categories

S.no.	Case Type	No. of Pending Cases in Supreme Court (as on 13.12.2022)
1.	Constitutional Bench	498
2.	Labour	1667
3.	Election	487
4.	Writ Petitions	2209
5.	Public Interest Litigation (PIL)	2870
6.	Special Leave Petitions (SLP)	4331
7.	Contempt of Court Cases	1295

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS'

Details of Cases Pending in various High Courts across various categories as per NJDG.

S. No.	Name of High Court	Case Type and Number of Cases Pending (as on 14.12.2022)					
		Constitutional Civil	Labour	Election	Writ Petitions	Public Interest Litigation	Contempt of Court (as per Contempt of Courts Act)
1	Allahabad High Court	Not available as per NJDG	-	39	377455	4805	-
2	High Court Of Rajasthan		-	7	170132	-	2052
3	High Court for State of Telangana		-	39	144038	589	6236
4	High Court of Madhya Pradesh		-	19	126470	-	-
5	Bombay High Court		-	128	117624	1922	-
6	High Court of Punjab and Haryana		-	3	98165	157	-
7	High Court of Karnataka		-	14	79734	-	-
8	Calcutta High Court		-	22	76864	549	550
9	Orissa High Court		-	26	73322	-	1454
10	Patna High Court		-	37	70270	-	6554
11	Madras High Court		-	18	69005	-	-
12	High Court of Kerala		153	5	67572	-	-
13	High Court Of Chhattisgarh		1087	2	35228	307	-
14	High Court of Delhi		-	457	32419	-	-
15	Gauhati High Court		-	7	24906	216	-
16	High Court of Jharkhand		-	6	24077	-	-
17	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir		-	7	18098	164	275
18	High Court of Himachal Pradesh		-	4	16800	163	-
19	High Court of Uttarakhand		-	6	15737	567	-
20	High Court of Manipur		-	68	2357	57	-
21	High Court of Tripura		-	-	746	13	-
22	High Court of Meghalaya		-	-	632	17	-
23	High Court of Gujarat		-	22	533	533	-
24	High Court of Andhra Pradesh		-	23	110	-	11348
25	High Court of Sikkim		-	-	77	4	-
	GRAND TOTAL		1240	959	1642371	10063	28469

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS'

Details of Cases Disposed in the Supreme Court of India across various categories

S.no.	Case Type	No. of Disposed Cases in Supreme Court			
		2019	2020	2021	2022 (upto 13.12.2022)
1	Constitutional Bench	50	130	8	10
2	Labour	1163	490	641	1024
3	Election	344	209	301	286
4	Writ Petitions	1452	1146	1326	1316
5	Public Interest Litigation (PIL)	836	756	532	974
6	Special Leave Petitions (SLP)	26318	12122	16675	29866
7	Contempt of Court Cases	911	298	484	1590

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS'

Details of Cases Disposed in various High Courts across various categories as per NJDG.

S. No	Name of High Court	Case Type and Number of Cases Disposed (as on 14.12.2022)					
		Constitutional Civil	Labour	Election	Writ Petitions	Public Interest Litigation	Contempt of Court (as per Contempt of Courts Act)
1	Allahabad High Court	Not available as per NJDG	-	239	2415843	24790	-
2	High Court Of Rajasthan		-	85	599158	-	772
3	High Court for State of Telangana		-	102	800078	2377	4218
4	High Court of Madhya Pradesh		-	558	774970	-	-
5	Bombay High Court		-	866	576953	6784	-
6	High Court of Punjab and Haryana		-	24	582434	726	-
7	High Court of Karnataka		-	146	589093	-	-
8	Calcutta High Court		-	46	794012	489	378
9	Orissa High Court		-	65	597347	-	3759
10	Patna High Court		-	236	531285	-	1267
11	Madras High Court		-	109	799562	-	-
12	High Court of Kerala		220	82	903411	-	-
13	High Court Of Chhattisgarh		2297	64	179887	1121	-
14	High Court of Delhi		-	6235	251748	-	-
15	Gauhati High Court		-	109	179799	1810	-
16	High Court of Jharkhand		-	72	154712	-	-
17	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir		-	40	147943	789	95
18	High Court of Himachal Pradesh		-	108	119793	934	-
19	High Court of		-	31	146402	2177	-

	Uttarakhand						
20	High Court of Manipur		-	29	27194	602	-
21	High Court of Tripura		-	-	12887	157	-
22	High Court of Meghalaya		-	3	5169	113	-
23	High Court of Gujarat		-	152	2372	2372	-
24	High Court of Andhra Pradesh		-	50	7	-	-
25	High Court of Sikkim		-	-	674	108	-
	GRAND TOTAL		2517	9451	11192733	45349	10489

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

LOK SABHA

A25

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1653

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16th DECEMBER, 2022

JS(NKG)

EVALUATION OF LEGAL AID PROGRAMMES

✓
1653. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study-evaluation of legal aid programmes, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of monitoring and evaluation done by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA);
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to improve access for justice to everyone and if so, the details of programmes undertaken therefor;
- (d) whether Government is replicating the initiatives like legal aid kiosks, para-legal volunteers etc. to other parts of India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a)& (b): National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), established by Government under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, has undertaken through third party agencies

three Evaluation and Impact Assessment Studies for evaluation of legal aid programmes which include :-

- (i) Evaluation and Impact Assessment of Practice and Procedure of Empanelment, Capacity Building, Engagement and Management of lawyer empanelled with Legal Services Authorities.
- (ii) Evaluation of Legal Aid provided in Civil and Criminal matters in Courts, Tribunals, Quasi-Judicial Body & Jails.
- (iii) Evaluation & Impact Assessment of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs).

NALSA has taken several steps to provide speedy and cost effective justice through free legal aid services. They include :-

- (i) NALSA has created a web portal to file Applications through online for getting legal assistance. The applicant may file the applications either directly to State Legal Services Authority/District Legal Services Authority/High Court Legal Services Committee/Supreme Court Legal Services Committee from where the applicant requires legal assistance. The applicant has the option to file application directly to NALSA and in that case the said application is transferred to the concerned Legal Services Institutions for appropriate action i.e. to provide legal assistance. Thereafter, the concerned Legal Services Institution has to update the action taken report. The online web portal for filing legal aid applications has also been made more inclusive and a legal aid application can now be filed in Ten (10) languages i.e. English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, Bengali, Odia and Kannada.

(ii) NALSA has also launched Legal Services Mobile App for Android and IOS version on 8th August, 2021 and on 09th November, 2021 respectively which will facilitate following functions:-

- a) Any citizen may apply for seeking legal assistance, legal advice and for redressal of other grievances through Mobile App.
- b) Any citizen may track his application submitted for legal aid & advice and other grievances.
- c) Reminder can be sent and clarifications can be sought through Mobile App.
- d) Any victim of crime or applicant can apply for victim compensation through the Mobile App.
- e) Application for pre-institution mediation in commercial matters or application for mediation may be filed through this Mobile App.

Besides above, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Helpline assistance and assistance through e-mail are also provided in the Mobile App. In addition, a six week long Pan India Legal Awareness and outreach campaign was carried out from 02nd October to 14th November, 2021 as a part of AzadiKaAmritMahotsav to reach each and every village/Urban area of the country in order to maximize the outreach of Legal Services Authorities as well as to spread awareness regarding the availability of free legal services. During the campaign, various activities were carried out by the Legal Services Authorities at every level of the society, witnessing huge response from the general public.

The said Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign was planned with the intent to enhance the outreach of Legal Services Authorities to all 6.7 Lakh villages and 4100 municipal towns across the country so that a visible imprint of the activities of legal services authorities can be made in these villages and municipal towns. In this regard, various activities were planned and carried out, out of which the major activities included Door-to-Door Campaigns, Legal Awareness Programs, Awareness through Mobile Vans,

and Awareness through Legal Aid Clinics. Apart from these major activities, the Legal Services Authorities organised specific legal awareness programs for women and children, organised Mega Legal Services Camps, Programs for Children who lost either or both parents due to covid, Exhibitions at State and District level, Moot Court Competitions for students of law universities, etc.

(c): Department of Justice, Government of India launched a new Scheme on Access to Justice namely “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice” (DISHA) for the FY 2021-2026 wherein various initiatives have been introduced and consolidated to provide citizen- centric delivery of legal services. Under DISHA, the Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached and Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono legal services) programmes are being implemented to provide pre-litigation legal advice and legal assistance in courts respectively. The Tele-Law Service connects the citizen with the Panel lawyers through the use of video /Tele conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) and through Tele-Law Mobile App. This service is currently operational in 1,00,00 Gram Panchayats across 755 Districts (including 112 Aspirational districts) in 36 States /UTs. As on 30th November, 2022 advice has been enabled to 28 lakh beneficiaries. The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme aims to provide free legal assistance and counsel to the marginalized sections. Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application, for android and iOS phones, has been developed to connect the registered Pro Bono Advocates with the registered applicants. As on 30th November, 2022, 5202 Advocates have registered under the programme. As on 30th November, 2022, 69 Law schools across the country have constituted “Pro Bono Clubs” under Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono) programme to instil a culture towards pro bono lawyering among the law students.

(d) & (e): Through Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, Legal Services Institutions have been setup at all levels from the level of Taluk Courts to the Supreme Court to provide free legal services to the persons eligible under Section 12 of said Act, 1987. The following Authorities/ Institutions are established nation-wide to provide free

legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society and to conduct Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes pending in courts as well as at pre-litigation stage:-

- i. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)- At National level
- ii. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) - At Supreme Court level
- iii. State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) - At State level
- iv. High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs) - At High Court level
- v. District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs)- At District level
- vi. Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs)- At Taluk level

The number of Legal Services Institutions at Taluk level to Supreme Court level are as under:-

National Legal Services Authority	State Legal Services Authorities	District Legal Services Authorities	Taluk Legal Services Committees	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	High Court Legal Services Committees
1	37	676	2361	1	39

Apart from this legal services clinics have also been set up at college/universities, villages, community centres, courts, jails, and juvenile justice boards etc. for providing free legal aid and advice. These clinics are manned by the Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers. As on 30.09.2022, about 12,158 number of Legal Services Clinics were functioning in the country. In these clinics, around 4.81 lacs persons were provided legal

assistance during the current financial year 2022-23 (upto September, 2022). The statistical data of the above mentioned legal services clinics is as under:-

	Colleges / Universities	Villages	Community Centres	Courts	Jails	JJBs	For the people of North-East	Others	Total
No. of Legal Services Clinics	1018	4391	833	947	1126	428	71	3344	12158
No. of persons visited	21611	186697	58424	68761	152983	21593	1292	198630	70999
No. of persons provided legal assistance	16718	135002	41081	56709	118682	14912	721	97591	481416

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1660**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2022

Leg. II Sec.

LINKING OF VOTER ID WITH AADHAAR

**1660. Shri Ritesh Pandey:
Shri Pradyut Bordoloi:
Shri Syed Imtiaz Jaleel:**

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 linking of voter IDs is voluntary and linked after taking consent from voters and can also be deleted if a voter takes back the consent details thereof indicating the manner in which the consent is obtained from voters;
- (c) whether election officers have been given any targets to link voter IDs, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has set any deadline for linking the voter IDs, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the name of the voters whose voter IDs are not linked with Aadhaar will be struck off from the voter list, if so, the details and grounds thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has taken steps to protect voter database from being misused, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b): 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 UTs. 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.

- (c): Linking of Aadhaar is process driven and no targets have been given for linking Aadhaar with EPIC.
- (d): The notification number S.O. 2803(E), dated 17th June, 2022 specifies the 1st April, 2023 as the date on or before which every person whose name is included in the electoral roll may intimate his Aadhaar number in accordance with section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- (e): No sir.
- (f): The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), under the Aadhaar(Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 and the regulations made thereunder, has made it compulsory for the centralised storage of all Aadhaar numbers in a different repository known as 'Aadhaar Data Vault'. The ECI strictly follows the guidelines prescribed by UIDAI and does not store the Aadhaar numbers in its database. The Aadhaar number is used only for authentication purposes and ECI does not retrieve any personal information from the UIDAI Aadhaar data base.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1668

AS(A&A)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16.12.2022

Appointment of Additional Judges in High Courts

✓ **1668. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:**

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

- (a) the details of memorandum or guideline for appointing additional judges to High Courts;
- (b) the list of vacancies of permanent judges in High Courts, State-wise;
- (c) the list of additional judges appointed during the last two years along with vacancies of permanent judges in the respective High Courts at a time when such additional judges were appointed, State-wise;
- (d) whether additional judges to High courts are to be appointed only when there exists no vacancy for a permanent judge and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the grounds or reasons for appointing additional judges when vacancies for permanent judges remain unfilled in High Courts; and
- (f) 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) to (f): A permanent Judge is appointed in the High Court under Article 217 of the Constitution and shall hold office until he attains the age of 62 years. An Additional Judge is appointed under Article 224 of the Constitution for a period not exceeding

two years and shall hold office till the age of 62 years. In consultation with Chief Justice of India, the sanctioned strength of High Courts Judges is distributed into Permanent and Additional Judges in the ratio of 75:25. The appointment of Judges is made in the parent High Court from Bar and Service quota. When there is a vacancy of a Permanent Judge in the parent High Court and there is no Additional Judge appointed in the said High Court, fresh appointment would be made as a Permanent Judge. In case of no vacancy of a permanent Judge in the parent High Court or there is a vacancy of a Permanent Judge of the said High Court but an Additional Judge has already been appointed, the fresh appointment will be made as an Additional Judge.

The list of vacancies of Permanent Judges and Additional Judges in High Courts as on 13.12.2022, High Court-wise is at **Annexure-I**.

As on 01.01.2021, 232 posts of Permanent Judges were lying vacant in various High Courts and from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021, 99 Additional Judges were appointed. Similarly, as on 01.01.2022, 229 posts of Permanent Judges were vacant and from 01.01.2022 till 13.12.2022, 93 Additional Judges have been appointed in various High Courts. The details of High Court-wise appointment of Additional Judges are at **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE-I**Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts (As on 13.12.2022)**

S. No.	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	77	23	100	42	18	60
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	27	3	30	1	6	7
3	Bombay	71	23	94	39	26	65	32	-3	29
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	35	19	54	19	-1	18
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	8	6	14	9	-1	8
6	Delhi	46	14	60	44	1	45	2	13	15
7	Gauhati	18	6	24	16	8	24	2	-2	0
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	28	0	28	11	13	24
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	10	0	10	3	4	7
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	10	4	14	3	0	3
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	20	1	21	0	4	4
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	40	9	49	7	6	13
13	Kerala	35	12	47	28	9	37	7	3	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	31	0	31	8	14	22
15	Madras	56	19	75	44	10	54	12	9	21
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	22	0	22	2	9	11
19	Patna	40	13	53	34	0	34	6	13	19
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	39	27	66	25	-6	19
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	26	0	26	12	12	24
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	31	2	33	1	8	9
24	Tripura	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	7	0	7	2	2	4
	Total	836	272	1108	628	148	776	208	124	332

Annexure-II

**Details of vacancies of Permanent Judges and appointment of Additional Judges
in the year 2021 and 2022 (till 13.12.2022)**

S. No.	High Court	Vacancy of permanent Judges as on 01.01.2021	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2021	Vacancy of permanent Judges as on 01.01.2022	Additional Judges appointed in the year 2022
1	Allahabad	38	17	46	12
2	Andhra Pradesh	10	02	8	03
3	Bombay	22	06	19	19
4	Calcutta	22	08	24	14
5	Chhattisgarh	04	03	7	03
6	Delhi	15	0	15	01
7	Gauhati	01	06	1	02
8	Gujarat	10	07	7	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	01	01	2	0
10	J & K and Ladakh	02	02	0	04
11	Jharkhand	02	0	0	01
12	Karnataka	21	06	8	06
13	Kerala	05	12	8	01
14	Madhya Pradesh	11	0	11	0
15	Madras	04	05	11	04
16	Manipur	0	0	1	0
17	Meghalaya	-01*	0	0	0
18	Orissa	05	04	2	0
19	Patna	18	04	14	0
20	Punjab & Haryana	22	06	21	21
21	Rajasthan	15	03	10	0
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
23	Telangana	04	07	13	02
24	Tripura	0	0	-01**	0
25	Uttarakhand	01	0	2	0
	Total	232	99	229	93

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

J-I

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1677
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16th DECEMBER, 2022

JS(WKG)

e-LOK ADALAT

✓ 1677. SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote the alternative dispute resolution in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which e-lokadalat technique has proved useful along with the nature of works being undertaken thereunder; and
- (d) the name of the courts in which the above technique is being utilized?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, Lok Adalat is one of the important Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) 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. Lok Adalat is primarily a "People's Court" wherein decisions are arrived at between two or more disputing parties on mutually acceptable terms 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. There are three types of Lok Adalats:-

(i) National Lok Adalats:

National Lok Adalats are held on a single day in all the Courts of the County, four times in a year. The dates of the National Lok Adalats are decided by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in the beginning of each calendar year and circulated to all the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs). During the COVID pandemic, the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-Lok Adalat, wherein affected parties could get this matter resolved without physically visiting the venue of the Adalat.

(ii) State Lok Adalats:

State Lok Adalats are planned and organized by the State Legal Services Authorities within the State. It may be conducted on weekly, monthly, bimonthly or quarterly basis, as per their specific need.

(iii) Permanent Lok Adalats:

Permanent Lok Adalats are conducted on daily basis or as per the number of sittings decided per week. Presently, 344 Permanent Lok Adalats are functioning in 37 States/UTs.

(c) & (d): During the COVID pandemic, the Legal Services Authorities (LSAs) innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-Lok Adalat, wherein affected parties could get their matter resolved without physically visiting the venue of the Adalat. E-Lok Adalat is a process to settle disputes, combining technology and alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) mechanisms which offers a faster, transparent and accessible option. E-Lok Adalats have

significantly improved access to justice for people who would otherwise be unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. With Lok Adalats being held virtually, it has become accessible to a large section of the population. E-Lok Adalats are also cost effective as it eliminates the need for organizational expenses. As people can effectively participate from their homes with the help of internet technology, it has reduced the cost of travel to access the forum. Besides, it also saves time as people do not have to take time off work. The following steps have been taken by most of the Legal Services Authorities to promote E-Lok Adalats:-

- (i) Standard Operating Procedures have been formulated
- (ii) Technical training through System Officers has been provided to the Court Staff.
- (iii) Whatsapp Groups are formed for litigants, advocates and respondents for conveying them relevant information and the link for attending e-lokadalat
- (iv) Video Conferencing Link and Cause list are displayed on the website of the District Courts.

Lok Adalat is being organized in all courts and tribunals defined under section 2(aaa) of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 on any holiday as prescribed by NALSA. In addition to conventional methods, use of technology is also promoted in almost all courts and tribunals which possess necessary infrastructure for the same. So far, E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 28 States and UTs namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. In total, 259.92 lakh cases were taken up out of which around 53.38 lakh cases

were disposed of. The data of the cases disposed of from June, 2020 to September, 2022 are as under:-

Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts		Total	
Taken Up	Disposal	Taken Up	Disposal	Taken Up	Disposal
16378857	3839258	9613800	1499042	25992657	5338300

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

LOK SABHA

NM

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1679

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16th DECEMBER, 2022

LEGAL REFORMS

JS (GRR)

✓ 1679. SHRI CHANDESHWAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken up any measures to address the challenges being faced in improving the access of justice to citizens;
- (b) if so, the detail thereof and the steps taken to address the challenges faced by the judiciary as pointed out by Economic Survey and Niti Aayog reports;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that the legal reforms is the need of the hour to suit contemporary development; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice” (DISHA), is the Government of India Scheme launched for a period of five years 2021-2026 to advance the cause of access to justice. It aims to design and consolidate various initiatives to provide citizen- centric delivery of legal services. Under DISHA at present Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness programmes are being implemented at a pan

India level. Moreover, in order to ensure its widened reach, dedicated Information Education and Communication (IEC) including (Technology) component has been embedded in DISHA. To strengthen pre litigation legal advice and consultation, the Tele-Law Service connects the citizen with the Panel lawyers through the use of video /Tele conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) and via Tele-Law Mobile App. This service is free of cost and is currently operational in 1,00,00 Gram Panchayats across 755 Districts (including 112 Aspirational districts) in 36 States /UTs. As on 30th November, 2022 advice has been enabled to 28 lakh beneficiaries. The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme aims to provide free legal assistance and counsel to the marginalized sections. Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application, for android and iOS phones, has been developed to connect the registered Pro Bono Advocates with the registered applicants. As on 30th November, 2022, 5202 Advocates have registered under the programme. As on 30th November, 2022, 69 Law schools across the country have constituted “Pro Bono Clubs” under Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono) programme to instil a culture towards pro bono lawyering among the law students. To provide for a more robust framework, Legal Service Institutions network at the National, State and District and Taluk level, constituted under the Legal Services Authorities, Act, 1987 have been integrated under the DISHA scheme to expand the outreach of Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu (Pro bono) and embed a dedicated Legal Literacy programme across 112 Aspirational districts.

(c) & (d): So far as legal reforms is concerned, 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 major steps taken during the last eight years under various initiatives are as follows:

(i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate

Courts: As on date, Rs. 9291.79 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 21,159 as on 30.11.2022, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022, under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 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. There are 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential units made available under the scheme so far. 2673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction as part of ongoing projects.

(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 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized district and subordinate courts. All stakeholders, including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district & subordinate courts and high courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access the case status

of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 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 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown began, the district courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the high courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) via video conferencing till 31.10.2022. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 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
12.12.2022	25,011	19,192

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) 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.

(vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes;

cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 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. 731 FTSC are functional including 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

(vii) 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.

(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

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1699**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2022

ONE NATION ONE VOTER LIST

1699. Sri Raja Amareshwara Naik:

Dr. Sukanta Mazumdar:

Mr. Rajveer Singh (Raju Bhaiya):

Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar:

Shri Bhola Singh:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to implement 'One Nation, One Voter list' in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) 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;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government for electoral reforms in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1728

WM

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2022

SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JUDICIARY INFRASTRUCTURE

JS(GRR)
✓

1728. SHRI RAMALINGAM S. :

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any framework and taken initiatives/steps to strengthen judicial infrastructure in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the subsequent action taken by the Government on the proposal of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India in this regard;
- (c) the details of the projects completed/ongoing under the Centrally Sponsored scheme for the Development of Infrastructure facilities for Judiciary during the last three preceding years, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of the grants given under Centrally Sponsored scheme for the development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary during the last five years, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu; and
- (e) whether the Government has formulated a new policy to reduce the pending cases in both higher judiciary and lower judiciary and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): 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. A sum of Rs. 9445.46 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6001.15 crores (63.53 %) 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. 21,159 Court Halls and 18,557 residential accommodation have been made available for judicial officers of the District and Subordinate judiciary in the country. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction in various States.

(b) & (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.

(c): As per information made available by the High Courts / State Governments, the State-wise details of number of Court Halls and Residential Units completed during the last three years is at *Annexure-I*. The statement giving State-wise number of ongoing projects of Court Halls and Residential units under the Centrally Sponsored scheme for the Development of Infrastructure facilities for Judiciary as on 30.11.2022 is at *Annexure-II*.

(d): The State-wise statement of funds released during the last five years is at *Annexure-III*.

(e): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency.

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a 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 during the last eight years under various initiatives are as follows:

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9291.79 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 21,159 as on 30.11.2022, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022, under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 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. There are 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential units made available under the scheme so far. 2673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction as part of ongoing projects

(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 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized district and subordinate courts. All stakeholders, including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district & subordinate courts and high courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access the case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 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-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case-related information, and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

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 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown began, the district courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the high courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) via video conferencing till 31.10.2022. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 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
06.12.2022	24,994	19,205

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) **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.

(vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 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. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022. 731 FTSC are functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

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

(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
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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. The number of legal advise so rendered as on 30.11.2022 is tabulated below:

Category	Total Advice Enabled	%
SC	8,62,464	31.51%
ST	4,90,729	17.93%
OBC	7,94,986	29.04%
Women	9,19,389	33.59%
General	5,88,932	21.52%

(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.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 1728 FOR REPLY ON 16.12.2022.**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Court Halls Completed			Total	Residential Units Completed			Total
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3	0	3	6	0	2	2	4
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	18	0	0	18	11	0	0	11
5	Bihar	51	24	31	106	24	12	36	72
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	0	18	8	26	8	2	22	32
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	54	24	0	78	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	28	0	0	28	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Haryana	0	8	14	22	0	0	4	4
14	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
15	Jammu and Kashmir	5	1	0	6	5	1	0	6
16	Jharkhand	39	0	0	39	0	0	0	0
17	Karnataka	154	65	87	306	82	21	9	112
18	Kerala	0	15	0	15	0	0	0	0
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	32	34	22	88	73	104	20	197
22	Maharashtra	182	0	0	182	24	0	1	25
23	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
27	Odisha	53	35	51	139	24	14	25	63
28	Puducherry	0	7	0	7	0	6	0	6
29	Punjab	34	7	0	41	0	9	0	9
30	Rajasthan	70	43	15	128	28	7	18	53
31	Sikkim	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
32	Tamil Nadu	42	50	8	100	24	10	6	40
33	Telangana	10	12	12	34	1	0	0	1
34	Tripura	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	0
35	Uttar Pradesh	55	0	150	205	21	0	75	96
36	Uttarakhand	0	0	6	6	0	0	7	7
37	West Bengal	8	0	0	8	17	0	0	17
TOTAL		841	343	420	1604	345	188	225	758

Sl. No.	State	Under Construction	Court Halls	Under Construction Residential Units
1	Andhra Pradesh	99		16
2	Assam	2		3
3	Arunachal Pradesh	99		6
4	Bihar	86		82
5	Chhattisgarh	1		0
6	Chhattisgarh	21		434
7	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0		0
8	Daman & Diu	3		0
9	Delhi	50		70
10	Goa	28		0
11	Gujarat	140		29
12	Haryana	75		65
13	Himachal Pradesh	14		1
14	Jammu And Kashmir	46		8
15	Jharkhand	0		0
16	Karnataka	144		84
17	Kerala	62		18
18	Madhya Pradesh	409		147
19	Maharashtra	498		73
20	Manipur	8		0
21	Meghalaya	30		97
22	Mizoram	26		6
23	Nagaland	12		2
24	Odisha	53		56
25	Puducherry	0		0
26	Punjab	72		36
27	Rajasthan	192		131
28	Sikkim	0		0
29	Tamil Nadu	0		0
30	Telangana	45		6
31	Tripura	8		6
32	Uttar Pradesh	289		251
33	Uttarakhand	70		3
34	West Bengal	91		32
Total		2673		1662

ANNEXURE-II
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1728 FOR REPLY ON 16.12.2022.

ANNEXURE-III**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1728 FOR REPLY ON 16.12.2022.***(in Rs. crore)*

Sl. No.	State	Release in 2017-18	Release in 2018-19	Release in 2019-20	Release in 2020-21	Release in 2021-22	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	10.00	20.00	10.28	0.00	40.28
2	Bihar	42.90	62.04	87.62	65.72	0.00	258.28
3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	19.68	19.83	7.84	0.00	47.35
4	Goa	0.00	3.15	4.06	3.80	3.20	14.21
5	Gujarat	50.00	15.02	16.49	13.50	0.00	95.01
6	Haryana	15.00	11.91	14.06	22.00	0.00	62.97
7	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	4.08	5.72	5.50	0.00	15.30
8	Jammu & Kashmir	10.00	19.01	10.00			39.01
9	Jharkhand	50.00	9.59	13.74	9.05	6.00	88.38
10	Karnataka	50.00	38.12	44.04	29.72	27.00	188.88
11	Kerala	25.00	30.82	15.82	13.00	50.00	134.64
12	Madhya Pradesh	50.00	79.42	66.90	45.60	55.00	296.92
13	Maharashtra	50.00	10.58	61.09	23.11	18.00	162.78
14	Odisha	0.00	22.50	35.69	0.00	0.00	58.19
15	Punjab	50.00	26.47	39.78	16.48	16.50	149.23
16	Rajasthan	17.34	17.41	64.21	29.90	41.50	170.36
17	Tamil Nadu	0.00	6.09	38.71	18.17	35.66	98.63
18	Telangana	0.00	10.00	5.65	16.00	0.00	31.65
19	Uttarakhand	25.00	22.02	28.50	5.86	80.00	161.38
20	Uttar Pradesh	75.00	128.06	169.66	111.00	219.00	702.72
21	West Bengal	17.34	35.22	61.43	31.07	0.00	145.06
	Total (A)	527.58	581.19	823.00	477.60	551.86	2961.23
North Eastern States							
1	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.69	5.00	4.09	11.78
2	Assam	20.00	32.09	36.54	25.00	27.40	141.03
3	Manipur	0.00	8.87	9.66	5.00	0.00	23.53
4	Meghalaya	8.63	14.82	22.85	7.71	28.02	82.03
5	Mizoram	20.00	5.94	5.24	5.00	9.50	45.68
6	Nagaland	20.00	3.21	3.42	5.00	13.27	44.90
7	Sikkim	0.00	2.57	2.78	2.95	0.00	8.30
8	Tripura	0.00	0.00	18.82	7.74	0.00	26.56
	Total (B)	68.63	67.50	102.00	63.40	82.28	383.81
Union Territories							
1	A & N Islands	0.00	1.31	0.17	0.35	0.00	1.83
2	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Delhi	25.00	0.00	48.52	45.00	30.00	148.52
6	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	3.31	0.00	0.00	3.31
8	Jammu and Kashmir			5.00	6.65	20.00	31.65
9	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (C)	25.00	1.31	57.00	52.00	50.00	185.31
	Grand Total (A+B+C)	621.21	650.00	982.00	593.00	684.14	3530.35

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1734
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2022**

Admn. III (LA)

Usage of International Law Vocabulary

**1734. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:
SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the usage of international law vocabulary extensively as India has lost its way in use of international law;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to initiate steps to remove the institutional bottlenecks in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) : The International Law Vocabulary is a guidance document for the Countries which are party to Multilateral Treaties/Conventions and aims at common understanding of the basic terminology of International law. Countries choose different formulations and language that suits the Treaty to be signed. International Law is a living organ and India adheres to the best International Law practice followed globally while entering into the Treaties whether Multilateral or Bilateral and opts for the most suitable vocabulary to draft them without compromising its constitutional goals.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †1737
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16th DECEMBER, 2022**

SS (PPP)
✓

Digitisation of Courts

e-court

†1737. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

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

- (a) whether the Government is seriously considering for digitization of all courts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(a):The Government has launched the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project in the country for computerization of District and subordinate courts, which also includes digitization 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 under which 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerised so far.

(b):In the phase-I of the project from 2011-2015, out of total outlay of Rs.935 crore, the Government incurred an expenditure of Rs. 639.41crore. In the phase- II of the project, which started in 2015, out of total outlay of Rs. 1670 crore, the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1668.43 crore till 31.03.2022 to various implementing agencies involved in the implementation of the project.As per information provided by eCommittee of Supreme Court of India total 18,735 District and Sub-ordinate courts have been digitised under the eCourts Project 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, 2973 courts 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. A new software patch and user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed to help in smart scheduling of cases.
- iv. 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 21.74 crore cases and more than 19.80 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.12.2022). 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.

- v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.50 cr. downloads till 31st October 2022) and JustIS app for judges (17,709 downloads till 31st November 2022). JustIS mobile app is now available in iOS as well.
- vi. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.30 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 31 lakhs (31,67,080) cases online fine of more than Rs. 337.42 crore has been realised till 01.12.2022.
- vii. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 2,97,435 hearings (till 03.09.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (75,80,347 cases and Subordinate Courts 1,65,20,791 cases) have conducted 2.41 crore virtual hearings till 03.09.2022. 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.
- 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 31.10.2022.

- 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 16 High Courts have implemented ePayments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 31.10.2022.
- 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. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 38 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 24 High Courts.
- xiii. 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.

As per data published on Electronic Transaction Aggregation & Analysis Layer (eTaal) portal, eCourts is leading among top 5 MMPs in India with total 639 Cr e-transactions in last one year.

(c):Does not arise in view of (b) above.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †1741
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16th DECEMBER, 2022**

SS(PPP)

National Judicial Data Grid

e-cost

✓ †1741. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court data for trial stage of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is ready to be made available in public domain;
- (b) if so, the estimated time by which the data is likely to be made available on the portal;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure smooth process of e-filing of cases throughout the country; and
- (d) whether the NJDG trial will help reduce the excessive case load and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and case details of connected District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts created as an online platform on which data is updated on a near real-time basis. Now NJDG is under trial and testing stage for making Supreme Court data available in public domain.

(c): The decision for e-filing of cases and documents in the Courts is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the Judiciary and Central Government has no direct role to play in the matter. However, Department of Justice has requested all Central & State Government Departments including the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to use eFiling in all commercial disputes coming up in the commercial courts. Further, instructions have been issued by eCommittee of the Supreme Court to all High Courts to ensure that all Government litigation should be e-filed. Department of Justice has requested Department of Legal Affairs (DoLA) to advise all Central Ministries/ Departments to use eFiling in all Government litigation. Accordingly, a communication has been sent by the Department of Legal Affairs to all Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, as well as to all Law Officers for e-filing in respect of litigation on behalf of Union of India by the Ministries/ Departments concerned, including Autonomous Bodies/ Subordinate Offices/ Attached Offices and PSUs under their administrative control. To ensure a smooth process of e-filing of cases model rules for e-filing of cases have been prepared by Supreme Court of India and shared with the High Courts. Till now, 19 High Courts have implemented the rules of e-filing. Funds have been released to establish the e-Sewa Kendras to facilitate the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and e-filing. As on 31.10.2022, 619 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts.

(d): NJDG works as a monitoring tool to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases. It helps to provide timely inputs for making policy decisions to reduce delays in disposing of cases and helps in reducing case pendency. It also facilitates better monitoring of court performance and systemic bottlenecks, and, thus, serves as an efficient resource management tool. NJDG can be used for effective court management and case management for reducing the caseload.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1746

J-II

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16th DECEMBER, 2022

JS(PPP)
Fast Track Courts

✓ 1746. SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR:

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

- (a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTC) and Fast Track Special Court (FTSC) set up and functional for hearing heinous crimes and the cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act respectively in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the cases pending and disposed of during the last five years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilized for the establishment of the said courts and for the appointment of more judges therein during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether certain States have not shown their interest in setting up FTC and FTSC and have closed down FTCs and FTSCs after their functioning for some time and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons quoted by the respective States therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government intends to increase the number of Fast Track Courts in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): 838 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are functional for hearing heinous crimes etc. in 20 States/UTs, and 733 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) are functional for trial of cases related to rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in 28 States/UTs as per information provided by the High Courts, as on 31.10.2022. Status of Functional FTCs and FTSCs, State/UT wise are given at **Annexure –I**.

(b) to (e): Setting up of FTCs and allocation of funds thereto, lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with their respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission had urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. Information on funds allocated and utilized for setting up these Courts by States is not maintained centrally. The details of cases pending and disposed of by FTCs during the last five years including the current year, State/UT-wise, is given at **Annexure-II**.

As regards FTSCs, the Central Government started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in October, 2019 for setting up of 1023 FTSCs in 31 States/UTs for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act, 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. Initially, the Scheme was for 1 year which has now been continued up to 31.03.2023. 19 States/UTs have fully operationalized earmarked FTSCs, 09 States have partially operationalized earmarked FTSCs, while 3 States/UTs i.e., West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and A&N Islands are yet to join the scheme. While State of West Bengal and UT Administration of A&N Islands have not furnished their consent for joining the scheme, State of Arunachal Pradesh has not joined the scheme for the time being as they have a smaller number of cases. In respect of FTSCs, Central Government has released to various States/UTs 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 10/12/2022. The details of number of Cases Disposed, Cases Pending along with funds released is given at **Annexure-III**.

Annexure-I**Annexure given in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1746 to be replied on 16.12.2022****Status of Functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)****(As on October, 2022)**

S.NO.	State/UT	Fast Track Courts (FTCs)	Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	22	14
2	Assam	15	17
3	Bihar	0	45
4	Chhattisgarh	23	15
5	Delhi	20	16
6	Gujarat	35	35
7	Goa	04	1
8	Haryana	06	16
9	HimachalPr	03	6
10	Jammu & Kashmir	04	4
11	Jharkhand	34	22
12	Karnataka	0	28
13	Kerala	0	28
14	Madhya Pradesh	0	67
15	Maharashtra	111	33
16	Manipur	10	2
17	Meghalaya	0	5
18	Mizoram	02	3
19	Nagaland	0	1
20	Odisha	0	44
21	Punjab	07	12
22	Puducherry	0	-
23	Rajasthan	0	45
24	Sikkim	02	-
25	Tamil Nadu	73	14
26	Telangana	0	34
27	Tripura	03	3
28	Uttar Pradesh	372	218
29	Uttarakhand	04	4
30	West Bengal	88	-
	Total	838	733

Annexure given in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1746 to be replied on 16.12.2022
Status of cases disposed and pending in FTCs

S.NO.	Name of State/UTs	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022 (as on 31 st October, 2022)	
		Disposed	Pending	Disposed	Pending	Disposed	Pending	Disposed	Pending	Disposed	Pending	Disposed	Pending
1	Andhra Pradesh	3835	6664	3949	8179	5456	6763	1177	10069	312	10069	1142	6877
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	2990	1972	2314	1977	3173	8108	2615	10108	3780	9356	6408	10551
5	Bihar	5889	22616	11525	23055	14595	20774	1759	58636	1603	69792	0	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	3840	4546	3862	4999	9392	6882	2877	15310	5324	17779	3559	5394
8	D&NHaveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	560	797	638	1035	19841	4210	393	40733	223	48520	879	7068
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0	1298	0	0	130	0	59974	0	5502	2038
12	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	14318	0	462	33560	37102	35335	3214	4894
13	Haryana	0	0	768	3337	23348	924	825	58511	899	65337	365	887
14	Himachal Pr	0	0	0	0	9388	0	0	15618	5	5102	273	510
15	J&K	0	0	0	0	0	876	27	0	391	0	43	685
16	Jharkhand	979	2475	1946	4604	6244	4632	624	14507	861	19371	2050	7969
17	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	11722	0	210	38365	2051	39458	1257	0
18	Kerala	0	0	0	0	27872	0	217	100479	2333	114020	1650	0
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pr	0	0	0	0	18732	0	1	15584	0	25769	16	0
22	Maharashtra	127362	105301	160641	81104	59279	107491	63470	52079	114254	67315	105960	152312
23	Manipur	210	132	190	719	541	210	45	634	73081	634	276	1023
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	144	109	215	149	130	154	179	0	1758	0	181	223
26	Nagaland	1	11	8	3	89	0	3	66	3	153	0	0
27	Odisha	0	0	0	0	6664	0	0	39670	234	44689	304	0
28	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	126	0	0	1535	0	1452	0	0
29	Punjab	0	0	0	0	24854	0	85	52198	471	85061	214	245
30	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	22346	0	0	44222	32	46048	0	0
31	Sikkim	14	13	19	12	114	6	5	188	5	195	18	13
32	Tamil Nadu	15382	47519	14911	62916	18083	6036	9389	29970	7865	32519	19297	107590
33	Telangana	4118	6949	1694	7948	5044	9950	1525	15469	2849	18095	2645	0
34	Tripura	3591	2921	1423	1456	1399	937	100	2551	347	3604	361	1347
35	Uttar Pradesh	222295	318629	234182	410718	329345	405127	148466	413176	86013	396462	232774	1036970
36	Uttarakhand	608	671	562	886	6215	567	170	15119	215	15997	282	838
37	West Bengal	15482	39420	16358	44231	7753	49723	5202	0	3172	1166	18606	72560
	TOTAL	407300	560745	455205	658626	646063	633370	239956	1078357	405168	1173298	407276	1419994

Annexure given in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1746 to be replied on 16.12.2022

Status of Cases Disposed, Cases Pending and Funds Released to the FTSCs

(As on

S.NO.	State/UT	Cumulative Disposal	Cumulative Pendency	Funds Released (from October, 2019 to 10 th December, 2022)
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	FTSCs including ePOCSO	Amount in Rs. Cr
1	Chhattisgarh	2676	2736	14.93
2	Gujarat	5357	4749	25.01
3	Mizoram	96	47	5.23
4	Nagaland	46	50	1.06
5	Jharkhand	3229	4927	15.72
6	Madhya Pradesh	13859	12753	74.04
7	Manipur	72	128	2.47
8	Haryana	2856	4181	15.02
9	Chandigarh	96	232	Exempted
10	Rajasthan	8302	6864	51.89
11	Tamilnadu	3484	5372	12.59
12	Tripura	181	309	3.19
13	Uttar Pradesh	38330	76952	180.30
14	Uttarakhand	890	838	6.32
15	Delhi	639	4380	7.82
16	Meghalaya	201	991	3.66
17	J&K	95	432	4.77
18	Punjab	1852	1892	5.86
19	Himachal Pr	439	944	4.90
20	Telangana	5727	7349	17.08
21	Andhra Pradesh	1477	6985	1.8
22	Bihar	4692	15513	49.43
23	Assam	2301	3776	14.83
24	Maharashtra	8952	7719	31.05
25	Karnataka	4621	5398	21.00
26	Kerala	7870	6233	15.8
27	Odisha	5971	12009	34.54
28	Goa	22	55	0.48
	TOTAL	124333	193814	621.49

October, 2022)

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1772

Admn. I (Ld)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2022

INDIAN LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

1772. SHRI LORHO S. PFOZE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has felt the need for robust legislative institutions in India from local to national level having qualified and well-trained staff and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to introduce and pass a resolution to create an Indian Legislative Service common to both the Union and the States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINSTER OF LAW & JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c) : At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Union Government.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1813**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2022

Leg. II Sec.

ISSUANCE OF ELECTORAL BONDS

1813. Shri A. Raja:

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

- (a) whether the Government had approved issuance of 23rd tranche of electoral bonds at the time of Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Opposition parties and civil society groups had questioned the timing of approval of electoral bonds; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Yes sir, the Government had approved issuance of 23rd tranche of electoral bonds from 9th to 15th November, 2022, under the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018 (as amended vide Gazette Notification dated 7th November, 2022).

(c) and (d): No such references have been received.

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

LOK SABHA

JR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1817

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2022

JS (GRR)

MODERNISATION OF DISTRICT COURTS

✓ **1817. SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP:**

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the poor situation of the litigants including women lawyers, attending witnesses and public and even the dismal standard of court rooms of judges which requires immediate attention especially in the District Courts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to modernize the District Courts and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): While the Government of India is committed to the needs of providing good physical infrastructure to the lower and subordinate judiciary to facilitate better justice delivery, it is the primary responsibility of the State Government to provide for Judicial Infrastructure in order to supplement the resources of the State Government including the UTs. In district and subordinate courts. The Union Government has been administering a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary. The scheme has been under implementation since 1993-94. It covers construction of Court Halls, Residential Units, Lawyers' Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer

Rooms. As on date, Rs. 9445.15 crores have been sanctioned since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. Out of this, Rs. 6001.15 crores (63.53%) have been sanctioned to the States and UTs since April, 2014. 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of the District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme as on date against the working strength of 19,235 Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts in the country. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction in various States. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned Rs. 1479.33 crores have been sanctioned since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. 2,748 court halls and 2,333 residential units are available and 289 court halls and 251 residential units are under construction.

(b): 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. A total of 18,735 District and Subordinate courts have been digitised under the eCourts Project Phase II so far.
- ii. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, 2973 courts sites have been commissioned with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- iii. 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.

- iv. A new software patch and user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed to help in smart scheduling of cases.
- v. 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 21.74 crore cases and more than 19.80 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized (as on 01.12.2022). 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.
- vi. 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 31stOctober 2022) and JustIS app for judges (17,709 downloads till 31stNovember 2022). JustIS mobile app is now available in iOS as well.
- vii. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.30 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts

and in more than 31 lakhs cases online fine of more than Rs. 337 crore has been realised till 01.12.2022.

- viii. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 2,97,435 hearings (till 03.09.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (75,80,347 cases and Subordinate Courts (1,65,20,791 cases) have conducted 2.41 crore virtual hearings till 31.10.2022. 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.
- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption.
- x. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund of India. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 31.10.2022.
- xi. Government has released Rs. 12.54 crore for setting up eSewaKendras. As on 28.02.2022, 619eSewa Kendra's have been made functional in District Courts under 25 High Courts.

- xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiii. A new “Judgment Search” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.
- xiv. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public, 38 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 24 High Courts.
- xv. 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 12 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the eCourt 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 AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1820

TO ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16.12.2022

t/f to MHA on 12.12.22

Liberty from Arrest for Custodial Investigation

1820. SHRI THIRUMAVALAVAN THOL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the Supreme Court observation that it is not necessary to arrest persons as provided in the law, except in the cases of requirement for Custodial Investigation or heinous crime or to prevent influencing the witness or the absconding of the accused;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to amend the relevant law to make the above observation legally enforceable; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a)to(c):The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 111th, 128th and 146th Reports recommended for a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system of the country and for introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bringing about piecemeal amendments in respective Acts. The Government agrees to the recommendation of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for a comprehensive review of criminal laws viz. IPC, CrPC and Indian Evidence Act.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1821
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16th DECEMBER, 2022.**

Leg. III (LO)

Bill for Bail System

1821. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the Supreme Court guidelines for creating a separate legislation for the bail system in India;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is planning to introduce a bill for the same; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

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

- (a) to (c) The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 111th, 128th and 146th Reports recommended for a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System of the country and introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bringing about piece meal amendments in respective Acts.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1828**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2022

Leg. II Sec.

FACILITY OF PROXY VOTING TO NRI

1828. Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to provide the facility of proxy voting to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is facing challenges related to logistics or other issues in the identity verification of NRI voters; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1838
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2022

CASES PENDING IN COURT

JS(GRR)

✓ †1838. SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD:
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:
DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:
SHRI BALAK NATH:
SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:
SHRI SANJAY SETH:
SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:
MS. CHANDRANI MURMU:
SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:
SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

- (a) the number of cases including violent crimes against women lying pending since 2014 in Supreme Court, High Courts, district and other subordinate courts, State/UT, court and category-wise along with the reasons identified for pendency;
- (b) the percentage increase or decrease in pending cases since 2014, year-wise and court-wise;
- (c) the number of cases disposed and average time taken in their disposal, court and State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether any study on effect of COVID-19 pandemic on pendency of cases and to introduce Artificial Intelligence in judiciary has been conducted, if so, the details thereof;

- (e) the details of pending cases disposed of through virtual courts, special adalats, fast track courts and settled mutually during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the details of funds sanctioned for the purpose during the said period and the success achieved therefrom, Court and State/UT-wise?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The total number of pending cases including, violent crime against women since 2014 till date in the Supreme Court of India is placed at *Annexure-I* and the corresponding information for the High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts is placed at *Annexure-II* and *Annexure-III* respectively.

Further, the Supreme Court of India does not maintain the information in the manner as sought for relating to crime against women. As per Supreme Court Subject Categories, Subject Category 1403 deals with “Matters relating to harassment, cruelty to women for dowry, dowry death, eve teasing, domestic violence, etc”. The total number of pending cases in the above subject category filed since 2014 in Supreme Court of India stands at 283, as retrieved from the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) as on 12.12.2022.

Information of cases relating to crime against women, including violent crimes, in High Court and District and Subordinate Courts is not maintained centrally in Department of Justice. However, the information relating to category of “Cases Filed by Women” High Court-wise and State-wise available as per National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is placed at *Annexure - IV* and *Annexure-V* respectively.

Myriad factors come into play in deciding the disposal of cases in courts which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial

officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

(b): The percentage increase or decrease for pending cases since 2014 w.r.t. the Supreme Court, the High Courts and the District & Subordinate Courts is placed at *Annexure-VI*.

(c): The information for number of cases disposed with respect to Supreme Court is not maintained in the manner as sought for. However, the total number of cases disposed of in the Supreme Court of India till 31.10.2022 is 29,109. The detailed statement of Year-Wise disposal from 2014 to 2022 for High Courts and the District & Subordinate Courts is placed at *Annexure-VII* and *Annexure-VIII* respectively. However, the information with respect to average time taken for disposal is not maintained centrally by the Department of Justice.

(d): Though no such study on effect of COVID-19 pandemic on pendency of cases has been initiated, post the announcement of national lockdown, several directions were issued from time to time by the respective High Courts to the Subordinate Courts under their administrative jurisdiction for hearing of urgent civil and criminal matters in virtual or physical mode depending on local conditions. A mix of virtual and physical hearings was adopted by the courts as per the situation on the ground.

Under the National eGovernance Plan, an eCourts project is under implementation since 2007 for information and communication technology enablement and outreach for the Indian Judiciary. The project is being implemented

under the joint partnership of Department of Justice, Government of India and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. To explore the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in judicial domain, the Supreme Court of India has constituted Artificial Intelligence Committee which has mainly identified application of AI technology in translation of judicial documents, assistance in legal research and process automation.

Under the supervision of the AI Committee, an Artificial Intelligence Tool, SUVAS (Supreme Court VidhikAnuvaad Software) for translating Judicial domain English documents in vernacular languages and vice versa has been developed. AI based Legal Research Assistance Tool, SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency) has been developed by Artificial Intelligence Committee for such purpose.

A Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been approved by the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India for eCourts Project Phase III that includes components incorporating AI and Blockchain technology that would be developed and procured from the best available technology in the market following the due process of procurement as stipulated by the government.

(e): The details of cases pending and disposed of through Virtual Courts for traffic challan, National Lok Adalat, Fast Track Courts and Fast Track Special Courts individual State/UT-wise is at *Annexure-IX*.

(f): The details of funds sanctioned with respect to the various courts and the success achieved there from are as follows:

Virtual Courts under E-Courts Mission Mode: 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 fund released under e-Courts Project Phase I (2011-2015) is Rs. 639.41

crores and under Phase II is Rs. 1668.43 crores.

The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.3% 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). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access the case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 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-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 efilings facilities.

21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs As on 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Special Adalat/National Lok Adalats under aegis of NALSA: 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. Funds released to National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) under whose aegis Lok Adalats are established, are as follows :

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Funds released
2019-20	140
2020-21	100
2021-22	145
2022-23 (as on 03.12.2022)	120.85

In order to reduce the pendency of cases in courts and also to settle the disputes at pre-litigation stage, National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

Fast Track Courts: 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. In addition to the above, the central government has also 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. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022.

As on 31.10.2022, 838 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). 731 FTSC are

functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN COURT'.

Cases pending in Supreme Court from 2014 to 2022

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Pending Cases at the end of the Year
1.	2014	62791
2.	2015	59272
3.	2016	62537
4.	2017	55588
5.	2018	57346
6.	2019	59859
7.	2020	65086
8.	2021	70239
9.	2022 (till 31.10.2022)	69781

Source :- Supreme Court of India

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING
'CASES PENDING IN COURT'.**

Cases pending in various High Courts from 2014 to 2022

S. N	Name of High Court	Total Number of Pending Cases								
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	Allahabad	1014146	918829	916046	908827	939475	944657	993031	1031587	1030538
2	Andhra Pradesh	249701	270272	291761	325608	354833	193594	205556	223783	240569
3	Telangana						206413	223064	240029	236549
4	Bombay	364576	246441	261649	274305	287864	305962	325332	353143	371787
5	Calcutta	286306	221282	219064	222648	231576	228060	237363	234909	223636
6	Chhattisgarh	45077	50111	55642	59456	63574	69316	75836	81001	88089
7	Delhi	66989	68784	67082	70284	74536	80950	91279	101685	106110
8	Gujarat	87356	84954	82846	113775	114962	129184	143167	155006	159711
9	Gauhati	43048	25948	29469	30909	33445	37243	40998	44356	46624
10	Meghalaya	738	899	700	697	782	757	1064	1201	89689
11	Manipur	4374	3315	3286	3670	3062	2468	2849	3218	47323
12	Tripura	4465	3037	2918	2759	2977	2586	2343	1736	86291
13	Himachal Pradesh	39616	32100	29874	31359	36177	54452	74158	82354	258493
14	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	102156	56453	59404	62062	64042	71693	59162	48318	237641
15	Jharkhand	80815	80419	85757	90988	88932	85272	88435	88364	420758
16	Karnataka	214120	237454	277620	323725	357604	271929	249733	246413	241448
17	Kerala	145906	157369	166735	177262	192754	196823	212515	226494	3121
18	Madhya Pradesh	258713	273827	289445	307420	331388	357929	383784	408527	908
19	Madras	263569	284428	297615	302476	293004	272722	269417	259980	170187
20	Orissa	202082	169453	168003	168297	167909	150562	172900	196483	212203
21	Patna	138251	128738	134459	144667	153486	172425	179462	226071	444370
22	Punjab & Haryana	279699	288351	302313	331538	337231	353888	378856	451985	590071
23	Rajasthan	228887	245453	254729	261943	285012	459828	518499	560062	164
24	Sikkim	108	114	170	210	252	234	239	179	1695
25	Uttarakhand	23105	26680	32004	30022	34049	35407	37923	40963	43309
	Total	4143803	3874711	4028591	4244907	4448926	4684354	4966965	5307847	5351284

Source :- Supreme Court of India

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN COURT'.

Cases pending in District & Subordinate Courts from 2014 to 2022

S. N	States/Uts	Total Number of Pending Cases								
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	Uttar Pradesh	5517004	5574490	5980071	6390684	6987417	7807863	8781104	9966606	10641073
2	Andhra Pradesh	1014372	1031515	1077944	1040864	1068400	567096	649157	785379	827790
3	Telangana						580193	691646	790360	822658
4	Maharashtra	2868764	2994074	3239540	3340050	3531425	3821487	4504573	4800895	4919254
5	Goa	35001	39615	42074	39249	42783	49049	58967	59414	56082
6	Diu and Daman &	4717	5626	5486	5295	5468	5344	6281	6523	2857
7	Silvassa									3784
8	West Bengal	2556461	2618813	2728753	2141254	1950492	2048697	2170788	2384020	2481419
9	Andman & Nicobar	9230	9495	8767	9227	10229	9795	9839	9321	9163
10	Chattisgarh	278887	285962	290434	277338	267429	285025	331849	381984	403266
11	Delhi	459267	568909	636121	747704	834813	882366	1018642	1231373	1440149
12	Gujarat	2179979	2142011	1822311	1555203	1447459	1595813	1917992	1952262	1808627
13	Assam	240597	242503	258639	276520	291960	301427	360753	415024	478356
14	Nagaland	3553	3862	4430	4749	4994	3361	4206	4569	4605
15	Meghalaya	14249	14988	15239	14775	13584	13673	15830	16010	15576
16	Manipur	15147	6885	6978	6799	6216	6516	6957	8183	7654
17	Tripura	115209	129789	148275	107089	58261	27491	44654	43096	38986
18	Mizoram	3730	4671	4665	5148	6154	6589	6338	6304	5843
19	Auranchal Pradesh	5895	8776	14583	9878	9652	10658	12651	14318	16029
20	Himachal Pradesh	226224	206727	235193	234639	256640	293706	420891	464892	504912
21	Jammu & Kashmir	185078	199699	145999	161674	163520	172769	198771	216245	258228
22	Jharkhand	315484	324357	342768	338680	330607	365642	427130	490905	499687
23	Karnataka	1226112	1268966	1362167	1432952	1494608	1531008	1709220	1780802	1878045
24	Kerala	1331558	1345127	1482667	1623212	1652509	1614277	2089289	2089147	1992343
25	U.T of Lakshadweep	418	380	357	354	364	397	453	470	539
26	Madhya Pradesh	1181459	1191799	1260637	1332566	1354602	1455435	1727293	1920613	1957175
27	Tamil Nadu	1038820	1082793	1071366	1065878	1084286	1137684	1263758	1331944	1383865
28	Puducherry	24431	24973	28155	26930	27161	30094	33470	32998	32216
29	Orissa	1070377	1064039	1049325	1178882	1319031	1433522	1592250	1789677	1846520

30	Bihar	1923649	2073303	2128325	2223744	2502204	2714344	3016743	3276696	3434130
31	Punjab	507663	504028	504320	572802	602014	642327	843791	945609	952777
32	Haryana	493768	524281	547736	643394	728097	853375	1101330	1313881	1445775
33	Chandigarh	40414	36322	38907	41695	56357	62955	70633	72384	88805
34	Rajasthan	1454566	1479173	1573986	1635389	1732308	1769823	1947688	2162774	2248201
35	Sikkim	999	1460	1434	1405	1208	1142	1455	1616	1645
36	Uttarakhand	145326	166618	190948	210018	232338	195281	249350	287204	318743
	Total	26488408	27176029	28248600	28696040	30074590	32296224	37285742	41053498	42826777

Source: Supreme Court of India

Annexure-IV**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN COURT'.**

Cases Filed by Women in High Courts as per NJDG (as on 15.12.2022)				
S. NO.	Name of High Courts	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Allahabad High Court	23626	15904	39530
2	Bombay High Court	44163	7281	51444
3	Calcutta High Court	3944	484	4428
4	Gauhati High Court	5932	523	6455
5	High Court for State of Telangana	15615	1967	17582
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	7239	1058	8297
7	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	10167	1887	12054
8	High Court of Gujarat	676	1551	2227
9	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	5444	304	5748
10	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	2302	369	2671
11	High Court of Jharkhand	3988	1803	5791
12	High Court of Karnataka	2725	250	2975
13	High Court of Kerala	6192	738	6930
14	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	46501	10818	57319
15	High Court of Manipur	336	26	362
16	High Court of Meghalaya	135	11	146
17	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	14750	7138	21888
18	High Court Of Rajasthan	49832	12017	61849
19	High Court of Sikkim	17	2	19
20	High Court of Tripura	216	7	223
21	High Court of Uttarakhand	4001	1877	5878
22	Madras High Court	7812	4504	12316
23	Orissa High Court	11698	1506	13204
24	Patna High Court	9992	4354	14346
	TOTAL	277303	76379	353682

Source: NJDG (National Judicial Data Grid)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN COURT'.

Cases Filed by Women in District and Subordinate Courts as per NJDG (as on 15.12.2022)

S. NO.	State/UT	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar	734	23	757
2	Andhra Pradesh	84851	20480	105331
3	Assam	21203	28487	49690
4	Bihar	95341	282544	377885
5	Chandigarh	4396	2833	7229
6	Chhattisgarh	15999	15235	31234
7	Delhi	31198	53739	84937
8	Diu and Daman	154	69	223
9	DNH at Silvassa	130	90	220
10	Goa	5819	1745	7564
11	Gujarat	36235	63054	99289
12	Haryana	60143	44146	104289
13	Himachal Pradesh	18308	14945	33253
14	Jammu and Kashmir	8361	7466	15827
15	Jharkhand	14075	39763	53838
16	Karnataka	157582	58453	216035
17	Kerala	122703	47216	169919
18	Ladakh	67	68	135
19	Madhya Pradesh	87121	95527	182648
20	Maharashtra	227543	155920	383463
21	Manipur	1624	813	2437
22	Meghalaya	1566	1087	2653
23	Mizoram	386	123	509
24	Nagaland	22	32	54
25	Odisha	359	292	651
26	Orissa	43644	36402	80046
27	Puducherry	2996	952	3948
28	Punjab	53205	48234	101439
29	Rajasthan	77501	73959	151460
30	Sikkim	167	81	248
31	Tamil Nadu	143304	22340	165644
32	Telangana	74963	41668	116631
33	Tripura	2936	2342	5278
34	Uttar Pradesh	232618	547960	780578
35	Uttarakhand	6412	8873	15285
36	West Bengal	97229	158584	255813
	TOTAL	1730895	1875545	3606440

Source: NJDG (National Judicial Data Grid)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN COURT'.

Percentage increase/ decrease in pending cases across various since 2014 till 2022				
Year		Supreme Court	High Court	District and Subordinate Courts
2014	Total Pending Cases	62791	4143803	26488408
2015	Total Pending Cases	59272	3874711	27176029
	% Increase/ Decrease	-5.60%	-6.49%	2.60%
2016	Total Pending Cases	62537	4028591	28248600
	% Increase/ Decrease	5.51%	3.97%	3.95%
2017	Total Pending Cases	55588	4244907	28696040
	% Increase/ Decrease	-11.11%	5.37%	1.58%
2018	Total Pending Cases	57346	4448926	30074590
	% Increase/ Decrease	3.16%	4.81%	4.80%
2019	Total Pending Cases	59859	4684354	32296224
	% Increase/ Decrease	4.38%	5.29%	7.39%
2020	Total Pending Cases	65086	4966965	37285742
	% Increase/ Decrease	8.73%	6.03%	15.45%

2021	Total Pending Cases	70239	5307847	41053498
	% Increase/ Decrease	7.92%	6.86%	10.11%
2022	Total Pending Cases	69781	5351284	42826777
	% Increase/ Decrease	-0.65%	0.82%	4.32%

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABH
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING
'CASES PENDING IN COURT'.**

Cases disposed in High Courts from 2014 to 2022

S. No	Name of High Court	Total Number of Cases Disposed								
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	Allahabad	310294	265298	280986	301259	298035	319573	169158	243392	111491
2	Andhra Pradesh	66239	61690	69638	62047	66513	21516	26572	31860	17703
3	Telangana						35514	22701	40334	21651
4	Bombay	130580	81809	82484	93917	91690	90757	34615	57835	23684
5	Calcutta	95656	75248	70862	62209	50979	63148	24785	52466	29057
6	Chhattisgarh	30429	25892	28085	31493	37215	39488	23678	30809	9348
7	Delhi	40154	44184	46027	39779	44096	41013	19578	27490	13569
8	Gujarat	70332	82367	97217	87164	58765	65424	43394	58412	24329
9	Gauhati	27467	14191	11601	16097	14552	14154	6755	9359	3713
10	Meghalaya	1724	924	612	673	737	1008	458	649	10858
11	Manipur	1926	1611	1726	1325	2527	2265	717	1151	4380
12	Tripura	5144	4372	2761	3128	2401	3650	2434	2800	13183
13	Himachal Pradesh	62270	33436	24941	21233	23116	27752	22203	30054	25596
14	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	23151	12761	12293	14386	14875	10223	19431	23617	21081
15	Jharkhand	22327	31314	28725	32632	39822	45298	28337	40637	32996
16	Karnataka	119824	121951	116951	100279	102451	231024	161110	89988	54319
17	Kerala	72173	81452	80188	80255	86341	82070	50590	57003	5461
18	Madhya Pradesh	128253	117860	120020	120310	109766	110626	77032	103415	3341
19	Madras	179287	141154	145239	142084	162081	179144	105586	146244	44723
20	Orissa	76523	105104	71474	74798	63236	93224	61335	105525	38846
21	Patna	81449	99530	87482	98191	117984	117707	51637	60822	49680
22	Punjab & Haryana	114799	119968	114486	105966	122972	128085	71835	87310	45606
23	Rajasthan	113646	80818	94428	112573	102529	172329	84300	124930	4411
24	Sikkim	230	201	169	190	150	223	136	217	586
25	Uttarakhand	13386	13696	12884	22541	18993	21834	13496	14703	4823
	Total	1787263	1616831	1601279	1624529	1631826	1917049	1121873	1441022	602147

Source:- Supreme Court of India

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABH
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDIN
'CASES PENDING IN COURT'.**

Cases disposed in District & Subordinate Courts from 2014 to 2022

S. No	States/Uts	Total Number of Cases Disposed								
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	Uttar Pradesh	3182318	3313424	3618460	3288866	3282885	3426942	2274687	3972255	2112432
2	Andhra Pradesh	647130	658713	603017	760582	741390	364947	166918	244105	142025
3	Telangana						331963	133518	368092	147077
4	Maharashtra	1536322	1649187	2281027	2378096	2196271	1877895	752986	1388604	459756
5	Goa	30625	34765	34130	34814	36235	32634	14130	32953	7302
6	Diu and Daman	2771	3323	3810	3302	4001	4081	2225	3875	554
7	Silvasa									533
8	West Bengal	1078273	1091807	1050880	1694427	1016319	683238	307850	476809	226450
9	Andman & Nicobar	11036	7936	8761	7776	7284	8563	4054	10124	2788
10	Chattisgarh	176144	195174	195514	208498	229548	214399	78278	195240	66791
11	Delhi	930732	636078	644624	740779	808156	814555	245879	353683	186126
12	Gujarat	1132433	1093664	1586926	1386529	1418688	1142383	394455	1447320	350239
13	Assam	276138	272538	251119	313617	311150	254823	94574	182346	77553
14	Nagaland	3047	4826	4415	2957	3514	5728	2488	3921	1440
15	Meghalaya	11691	18429	11100	12316	8517	7890	3163	5232	1863
16	Manipur	14257	7395	6588	5256	4379	3717	1747	1411	1222
17	Tripura	193003	209282	185283	169763	139931	90786	26095	55417	15537
18	Mizoram	10747	10355	10905	12497	12563	15107	11524	11236	3773
19	Auranchal Pradesh	7615	5238	4384	12165	7499	7735	4144	8156	3182
20	Himachal Pradesh	409732	316717	322008	317251	343667	483869	187035	384726	130096
21	Jammu & Kashmir	297507	392819	98638	110825	146194	81520	62465	109071	96407
22	Jharkhand	110068	118845	104284	157765	194200	187370	108247	142674	83729
23	Karnataka	1367041	1209127	1079586	1144693	1120397	1272673	961619	1848768	436697
24	Kerala	1355926	1338443	11993996	983409	961840	1005350	365958	816047	260100
25	U.T of Lakshadweep	114	280	269	191	237	201	238	284	71
26	Madhya Pradesh	1113382	1073584	1074131	1218909	1386280	1207541	681333	1122497	322761
27	Tamil Nadu	1949061	1151349	1017111	1015322	906184	849240	429767	646592	231896
28	Puducherry	33519	20409	16624	16770	14052	12137	6533	14628	4176
29	Orissa	470085	408261	468395	365602	255005	296535	126077	223485	175954
30	Bihar	305570	292678	344683	344981	361063	405347	174478	354099	187281

31	Punjab	549300	578681	605324	718292	712529	670175	333826	582027	289279
32	Haryana	587384	542440	593132	579631	628939	614384	281734	558068	307218
33	Chandigarh	180616	145990	143520	101617	139172	146256	35294	55242	45277
34	Rajasthan	1132028	1371762	1378527	1514181	1468290	1508232	786604	1192950	465024
35	Sikkim	2008	3806	550	2583	2440	1906	987	1807	599
36	Uttarakhand	220660	200931	175405	237197	288999	341452	143974	214860	92671
	Total	19328283	18378256	29917126	19861459	19157818	18371574	9204884	17028604	6935879

Annexure-IX**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN COURT'.**

Details of Cases Pending and Disposed through various Courts										
S.no.	State/UT	Virtual Courts for Traffic Challan (as on 1.12.2022)			National Lok Adalats (as on 31.09.2022)		Fast Track Courts (as on 31.10.2022)		Fast Track Special Courts (as on 31.10.2022)	
		Received	Proceeding Done	Paid Challans	Taken Up	Disposed off	Pending	Disposed	Pending	Disposal
1	Andhra Pradesh				1026449	647956	6877	1142	6985	1477
2	A&N Island				5555	3310	0	0		
3	Arunachal Pradesh				7938	1071	0	0		
4	Assam	63873	63793	17261	707744	113989	10551	6408	3776	2301
5	Bihar				2594655	305483	0	0	15513	4692
6	Chandigarh				77646	15569	0	0	232	96
7	Chhattisgarh	81	80	31	1539971	1125318	5394	3559	2736	2676
8	D&N Haveli				4343	1323	0	0		
9	Delhi	11716586	11500973	1129171	617852	535025	7068	879	4380	639
	Delhi Traffic Virtual Court	3854135	3809937	1480983						
10	Diu & Daman				1959	215	0	0		
11	Goa				24461	3934	2038	5502	55	22
12	Gujarat				2731581	1185571	4894	3214	4749	5357
13	Haryana	8205	1554	145	1100069	673487	887	365	4181	2856
14	Himachal Pradesh	43411	32434	1207	255681	111150	510	273	944	439
15	Jammu & Kashmir				459202	390496	685	43	432	95
	Jammu	36158	35139	14167						
	Kashmir	181946	176957	46854						
16	Jharkhand				1386756	1121405	7969	2050	4927	3229

17	Karnataka	44872	44840	37839	5167842	3444607	0	1257	5398	4621
18	Kerala	304063	193811	41440	395978	136101	0	1650	6233	7870
	Kerala Police Deptt.	234713	50995	10415						
19	Ladakh				1948	1444	0	0		
20	Lakshadweep				318	129	0	0		
21	Madhya Pradesh	4644	2180	75	3125248	419776	0	16	12753	13859
22	Maharashtra	30915	14878	967	34223486	4754239	152312	105960	7719	8952
	Pune	6080	6056	480						
23	Manipur				1905	1343	1023	276	128	72
24	Meghalaya	270	269	27	5318	956	0	0	991	201
25	Mizoram				13529	4432	223	181	47	96
26	Nagaland				3229	888	0	0	50	46
27	Odisha	202992	186298	13444	821017	337065	0	304	12009	5971
28	Puducherry				21110	6405	0	0		
29	Punjab				824437	392256	245	214	1892	1852
30	Rajasthan	8500	7892	2925	6685251	4572315	0	0	6864	8302
31	Sikkim				402	232	13	18		
32	Tamil Nadu	116046	108129	46470	840700	447536	107590	19297	5372	3484
33	Telangana				1622035	1611677	0	2645	7349	5727
34	Tripura	146	124	2	30126	4814	1347	361	309	181
35	Uttar Pradesh	6163197	5308812	323318	100809	67438	1036970	232774	76952	38330
36	Uttarakhand				30114718	18698973	838	282	838	890
37	West Bengal	15284	8545	339	1078663	788082	72560	18606		
	GRAND TOTAL	23036117	21553696	3167560	97619931	41926010	1419994	407276	193814	124333

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *243

ANSWERED ON 23/12/2022

USE OF REGIONAL LANGUAGES IN HIGH COURTS

✓ *243. Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato :
Shri Ravindra Kushwaha :

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;
- b) whether the Government has received any request/representation from different High Courts for use of regional languages in their respective High Courts, if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government in this regard;
- 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 if so, the outcome thereof;
- d) whether the Government has prepared a common legal dictionary for the use of courts in legal system of regional languages, 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, if so, the steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *243 DUE FOR ANSWER ON
23.12.2022.**

(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 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.

(c) & (d) 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. In addition, Legislative Department of Ministry of Law and Justice has prepared a legal glossary of 65,000 words in Hindi for digitization and making available in public domain in searchable format for translation in regional language for the usage of all.

(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 2.30 crore cases (2,30,30,037) have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 31 lakhs (31,67,080) cases online fine of more than Rs. 337 (337.42) crores has been realized till 01.12.2022.

However, the establishment of Virtual Courts is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the judiciary and respective State Governments and Central Government has no role to play in the matter.

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 247
ANSWERED ON 23/12/2022**

National Law Universities

Impl. Cell

***247. SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S. :**

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

- (a) the number of National Law Universities in the country and the students studying therein;
- (b) the rate of placement of students from these Universities;
- (c) the details of procedure to monitor the use of grants by these universities;
- (d) whether all the law universities have their own buildings, if not, the time by which these are going to be constructed; and
- (e) the strength of the faculty, their qualifications and vacancies in these universities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 247 FOR ANSWER ON 23.12.2022.

(a) to (b) : As per the provision of Section 7(1)(h) of the Advocates Act, 1961, the Bar Council of India(BCI) is entrusted with the function, interalia, of promoting and laying down the standards of legal education in the country. As per information received from BCI, the number of National Law Universities (NLUs) and their sanctioned seats are enclosed as Annexure-1. Also, the NLUs are creation of State laws and are basically State universities. They are established by the State Government with some distinctive characteristics. As these Universities are creation of State laws, Central Government is not administratively concerned with their functioning in developing the infrastructure or other matter. Due to strict compliance and enforcement of the BCI Rules of Legal Education, 2008, the students of law are better trained in professional skills to meet the emerging challenges of globalization and universalization of law. There is no data maintained by the BCI with respect to placement of students of NLUs in different organizations.

(c) and (d) : NLUs which have been established are creation of State laws and are also managed with support of respective State Government. They have benefited from allocation of land infrastructure, financial grants and other development assistance from the State Governments. The Central Government has no direct responsibilities to grant or to provide the fund for the expenditure of these NLUs and thus, it has no role in monitoring the same.

(e) : In order to enable meaningful and effective law teaching, considerable autonomy has been given to NLUs in matters such as the recruitment of teacher and faculties. Different NLUs appoint their faculties in terms of UGC regulations/guidelines and their respective Acts and Rules made thereunder. The responsibilities of filling up of vacancies of faculties and prescribing qualification thereof in NLUs do not fall in the domain of the Central Government and it is for the respective NLUs to fill these vacancies. No data is centrally maintained with respect to vacancies in these NLUs.

* * * * *

Annexure-I

Sl. No.	Name of the National Law University	No. of sanctioned seats
1.	National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam	120
2.	DamodaramSanjivaya National Law University (DSNLU), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	180
3.	NALSAR University of Law (NALSAR), Hyderabad, Telangana	180
4.	Chanakya National Law Patna, Bihar	120
5.	Hidayatullah National Law university, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	180
6.	National Law University, Delhi	120
7.	Gujarat National Law University, Gandhi Nagar	80
8.	Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU), Shimla	60
9.	National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi, Jharkhand	120
10.	National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, Karnataka	180
11.	The National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi	60
12.	The National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	180
13.	Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur	120
14.	Maharashtra National Law University (NLU), Mumbai, Maharashtra	120
15.	Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU) Nagpur, Maharashtra	120
16.	Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Aurangabad, Maharashtra	60
17.	National Law University Odisha (NLUO), Cuttack, Odisha	120
18.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat	120
19.	Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab	180
20.	National Law University, Jodhpur	120
21.	Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU), Tiruchirappalli, Tamilnadu	180
22.	Dr. Ram ManoharLohiya National Law University, Lucknow	180
23.	The West Bengal National University of Juridical Science, Kolkata	120

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *253
ANSWERED ON 23/12/2022**

e-Just

JS(PPP)

Guidelines for Virtual Hearings

✓ *253. **SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:**

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) whether the Government has any plans to develop online dispute resolution capabilities in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) 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) to (e): **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. *253 FOR 23rd DECEMBER, 2022 REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR VIRTUAL HEARINGS

(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)& (d):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.

(e): 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.

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *254**

ANSWERED ON 23.12.2022

Expenditure Plan of Judiciary

JS(GRR)
✓*254. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

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

- (a) the amount requested for by the judiciary for meeting its expenditure plans with respect to the appropriations from Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) during the last five years;
- (b) whether the entire amount requested by the judiciary was included in the Demands for Grants (DFG) submitted by the Ministry of Law and Justice and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there was any discrepancy in the said amounts and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the process of DFG includes consultation of the members of the judiciary, if so, the details of the consultations held in this regard along with the meetings thereon; and
- (e) whether the amount stated in the Demands for Grants was actually approved and disbursed to the judiciary 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. *254 FOR ANSWER ON 23RD DECEMBER, 2022.**

(a) to (e): Enabling the justice system to discharge its functions efficiently is the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. While the administrative expenses of the Supreme Court and High courts are charged upon the Consolidated Funds of the Centre and States respectively, there is not such financial arrangements guaranteed by the Constitution for subordinate judiciary. The details of expenditure plans with respect to the appropriations from Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) in respect of Supreme Court of India during the last five years are indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Expenditure
2017-18	247.00	255.00	255.00
2018-19	251.06	258.53	258.53
2019-20	269.46	296.55	296.55
2020-21	308.61	328.00	328.00
2021-22	334.96	350.86	341.41

The Demand for Grants is based on information facilitated by the Supreme Court of India. All the expenditure related to judiciary of Supreme Court of India (SCI) is planned, managed and executed by the Supreme Court of India. Since the Supreme Court comes under the purview of Ministry of Law & Justice, its grants are included in the Demand for Grants (DFG) of the Ministry.

As far as Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice is concerned, the following major schemes are being implemented in the Department. The process of allocating funds in the Demand for Grants is initiated by the Department based on the approved allocation:

1. **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary:** 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 ratio is 90:10 for the 8 North-Eastern and 2 Himalayan States and 60:40 for remaining States. There is 100% assistance for Union Territories. The disbursement under the scheme accounts for 60% for the States other than in NER and Himalayan Region and, 90% for the States in NER and Himalayan Region. The remaining allocation i.e. 40% / 10% is for the State Governments to incur from their own Budget. If required, the States are free to spend additional funds under the scheme.

The details of funds approved under the Scheme, funds allocated and expenditure incurred during the last five years are given below:

<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>			
Financial Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Expenditure
2017-18	621.20	621.21	621.21
2018-19	622.00	650.00	650.00
2019-20	710.00	982.00	982.00
2020-21	754.00	593.00	593.00
2021-22	776.00	770.44	684.14
Total	3483.20	3616.65	3530.35

2. **eCourts:** 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. The phase-I of eCourts was concluded in 2015. Phase-II of the project started in 2015 under which 18,735 district and subordinate courts have been computerized so far. In the phase – II of the project, out of total outlay of Rs. 1670 crore from the Financial Year 2015-16 to 2021-22, the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1668.43 crore till 31.03.2022 to various implementing agencies involved in the implementation of the project

including a sum of Rs. 1164.37 crore to all High Courts. Details of funds allocated and released under the scheme during the last five years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Expenditure *
2017-18	416.00	375.00	374.11
2018-19	480.00	300.00	282.76
2019-20	256.53	180.00	179.26
2020-21	250.00	180.00	179.31
2021-22	98.82	98.82	98.30
Total	1501.35	1133.82	1113.74

*Rs. 635.36 has been released to the High Courts.

3. **Scheme for setting of Fast Track Special Courts :** The Union of India, based on pendency of cases in March 2018, is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO courts (e-POCSO) for disposal of pending cases of rape and POCSO Act, 2012, since October 2019. The scheme was embarked to be implemented in 31 States/UTs. The FTSCs were to be set up initially for one year. However, the Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the scheme for further two years (upto March 2023) with a total outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore having a Central Share of Rs. 971.70 crore to be paid from the Nirbhaya Fund. As of 31.10.2022, 733 FTSCs including 413 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 28 States/UTs across the country. A sum of Rs. 621.48 crore has been disbursed under the Scheme, as per the detail below:

(in Rs. crore)

Financial Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Expenditure
2019-20	100.00	140.00	140.00
2020-21	150.00	160.00	160.00
2021-22	200.00	180.00	134.55
Total	450.00	480.00	434.55

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *260**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 23RD DECEMBER, 2022

Leg. II Sec. **LOW TURN OUT IN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

***260. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the lower turn out of voters in the Delhi Municipal Election and Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly Elections, especially in town areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to make voting compulsory for the persons enrolled in the voters list; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps if any, taken by the Government, in this regard?

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 RESPECT OF PART (a) TO (d) OF THE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *260 DATED 23RD DECEMBER,
2022**

- (a) and (b): Voters turn out in any election depends on the factors like addition or deletion of electors in the electoral rolls, candidates fielded by the contesting political parties and the effectiveness of the campaigns by the political parties, amongst others. However, the Election Commission of India, after successful completion of every general election, directs CEOs of the concerned States/UTs to conduct a KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practices) Endline Survey to understand the reasons for gaps in electoral participation. Further, the Election Commission conducts various programmes and schemes to enhance voting percentage such as Systematic Voters Education and People's Participation (SVEEP), Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs), Interactive School Engagement Programme, National Elections Quiz, 2018, Millennium Voters Initiative, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the Electoral Process, Targeting Service Voters, Community Radio Program, Voice Network, Voters Awareness Forums, National Media Campaign, Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP), e-Electoral Photo Identity Card etc.
- (c): No sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.
- (d): Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2769**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 23RD DECEMBER 2022

Leg. II Sec.

ELECTORAL LITERACY

2769. Shri Ramalingam S.:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any new steps to create awareness to increase electoral literacy among the masses and students and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of electoral literacy programmes conducted during the last five years, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a): As informed by the Election Commission of India (ECI), a program namely, 'Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation' (SVEEP), has been launched to achieve the overarching goal of Electoral Participation. It has three primary objectives increasing electoral participation, promoting ethical and informed voting and continuous electoral education. It is ECI's constant endeavour that every election is free, fair, accessible, participative and inclusive.

As part of ECI's advance planning, much ahead of election, a baseline Knowledge Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey is conducted in order to identify and assess gaps if any. This also helps to build in state wise, district wise, constituency wise and booth wise SVEEP strategies since there cannot be any one size fits all approach to this issue considering the myriad social economic, geographical and ethnic diversities in India

Enrolment of voters and purification of electoral roll is a major component of the SVEEP program. Special campaigns are launched before election for citizens to verify their names in the electoral roll, make changes in particulars, new registration and corrections. Besides this, the Commission also encourages use of the digital initiatives like National Voter's Services Portal (NVSP) and Voter Portal for easy

registration and access to voter services at the click of a button. 1950 - single, unified Help line is also strengthened and made a significant part of SVEEP creatives and advertisements to reach out to the maximum number of people.

SVEEP undertakes its campaigns based on an understanding of differential perspectives and requirements of diverse set of people. Hence, several campaigns are targeted at the youth, women, persons with disabilities, service voters, overseas voters and many others in order to foster a vibrant interaction with the youth and future voters, campus ambassadors are appointed. ECI also partners with Universities, Civil Society Organisations, National Service Scheme, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in order to have a constant engagement with the youth. Appreciating that the idea of civic responsibility must be inculcated young, ECI has also developed a repository of children's material in the form of Chunav ki kahaniyan, cartoon strips and the recently launched Chalo Karen Matdaan which was developed in collaboration with Amar Chitra Katha.

ECI appoints National and State SVEEP icons personalities whose inspiring life stories motivate the voters with their dedication, commitment and ephusiasm etc. Icons like Dr Niru Kumar, Mary Kom, Pankaj Tripathi etc. record their messages to the people which are beamed across various mediums to encourage people to come out to vote.

Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELC) have emerged as a powerful medium of connecting to the young voters. ELCs focus on participatory activities, games, films etc. in order to familiarise students with the electoral process, instill the ideas of ethical and informed voting and ensure a wholesome citizenship participation till now more than 9 lakhs ELCs have been established in the country.

ECI also comes out with several publications which carry stories from the field, election accounts and tales of grit and determination of polling officials, responses of voters pictures and photographs which convey more than words could of the enthusiasm of the voters from the length and breadth of the country. "My Vote Matters" is one such publication which carries articles on various themes of contemporary interest and stories from the states.

Further initiatives on SVEEP programme provided in at Annexure 'A'.

- (b) On the 8th National Voters' Day of January 25, 2018, the ECI took a landmark step towards the cause of electoral literacy with its initiative 'Mainstreaming of Electoral Literacy through Educational Institutions, Organisations and Communities in India', under its SVEEP Programme. Formed in schools & colleges (ELC), Communities (Chunav Pathshalas) and organizations (Voter Awareness Forums) across the country, these

clubs of learning taught the value of democracy and one's role in it through hands on experience to develop and strengthen the culture of electoral participation. Till now more than 9 lakhs ELCs have been established in the country. State-wise status of ELCs are annexed as Annexure 'B'.



SVEEP is designed according to the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state as well as history of electoral participation in previous rounds of elections. SVEEP works on the three pronged strategy of Information, Motivation & Facilitation (IMF). The core interventions like Situation Analysis through Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) Surveys and existing data, chalking out targeted interventions like urban apathy, youth, women, PwD voters, inclusive, accessible and ethical elections etc., both communication and facilitation related, monitoring and evaluation, some of the recent and past initiatives taken towards improving voter experience and voter participation in the electoral process are as follows:

1. Recently Launched initiatives

- a) **Letter to New Voters:** The Commission in the year 2021 has taken an initiative to connect with the youth by providing a specially deigned EPIC kit on their enrolment. The Commission has directed all DEOs to issue a personalized letter along with Voter Id card to newly enrolled electors. This will also include a Voter Guide and a Pledge.

The Commission has designed this letter along with a Voter Guide giving out complete details of the Voting Process, EVM & VVPAT Information, COVID Protocols & BLO details among other important information. It also includes a feedback option to receive first hand inputs from young voters.

- b) **National Voter Awareness Contest:** On the occasion of 12th National Voters' Day, the Election Commission of India launched a national voter awareness contest – “My Vote is My Future- Power of On Vote” to reiterate the importance of every vote through creative expression.

The National Voter Awareness Contest by the Election Commission of

program taps into the talent and creativity of people, while also strengthening democracy through their active involvement. Open to all age groups, the contest aims at celebrating ideas and content curated on the theme of the importance of every single vote in a democracy. The national contest has five categories of contest – Slogan writing, song composition, video making, poster design and Quiz Contest.

- c) **Pocket size- Voter Guide Booklet:** A pocket size version of the voter guide is being provided to every household in Poll Going States for ease of information on election related queries like searching name in the voter list, information on EVM-VVPAT, helpline numbers, Assured Minimum Facilities at polling stations and COVID safety measures amongst others.

- d) Furthermore, with booth as the focal point for SVEEP strategy, the Commission has directed the states to strengthen Booth Level Action Plans and to conduct Minimum level of SVEEP activities to inform and educate all voters. This include explanatory information displays regarding EVM-VVPAT, Voter Registration, Ethical Voting & IT Apps at all polling stations and crowded locations in the assembly constituency. The efforts would be made to give a festival look to each polling station through a minimum level of décor. Low voter turnout Polling Stations have been identified with reasons for low turnout analysed and targeted interventions planned in accordance to meet the objective of ‘No Voter to be Left Behind’

- e) **SVEEP 4.0 strategy Document:** Systematic Voters’ Education & Electoral Participation (SVEEP) is a multi-intervention Programme that reaches out to educate citizens about the electoral process in order to increase their awareness & participation. With the national elections envisaged in 2024, the Commission is in the process of developing a **SVEEP National Strategic Communication Roadmap (SVEEP 4.0) document**. This strategy document will also guide the states to develop their next phase of State specific SVEEP Strategies and Action plans.

f) **Natioanl Voters' Day (NVD)celebration 2022** :- NVD which marks the Foundation Day of Election Commission of India, is celebrated on 25th January, every year. The celebrations take place at over ten lakh locations across the country, including polling stations areas, sub divisions, divisions, district and state headquarters. NVD was started in 2011 and since then, NVD has been institutionalized as an annual features to celebrate democracy and electoral participation in the country.

g) **NVD 2022 celebrations at New Delhi:-** In view of safety, NVD celebrations all over the country was a combination of both physical and virtual events. While Hon'ble Vice President Sh. M. Venkaiah Naidu was the Chief Guest, Union Minister for law and justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju graced the function as Guest of Honour during the NVD celebration in New Delhi. During the event National voter Awareness Contest was launched based on the theme of **My Vote is My Future, Power of One Vote**, with an aim at crowd sourcing innovative content from across the country while reiterating the importance of every single vote in a democracy. Besides '**Leap of Faith**' journey of Indian Elections to mark the 75th year of India's Independence and '**Pledging to Vote**' **A Decadal Journey of the National Voters' Day in India** in India was launched which includes addresses of the dignitaries who have graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, Speeches of CECs, Messages, Curtain Raiser, Press note as well as the National Award winners over the years. National awards were also given by the Law Minister Sh. Kiren Rijiju to District Election Officers/ Superintendent of Police/Govt Depts/Media Agency for their significant contribution in the recent held elections in 2021. An interactive digital Multimedia Exhibition on the theme was also put up during the event.

2. **Electoral Literacy Clubs:-**

a) On the 8th National Voters' Day of January 25, 2018, the Election Commission of India (ECI) took a landmark step towards the cause of electoral literacy with its initiative - 'Mainstreaming of Electoral Literacy through

Educational Institutions, Organizations and Communities in India', under its Systematic Voters' Education & Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Programme. Formed in schools & colleges (Electoral Literacy Clubs), Communities(ChunavPathshalas) and organizations(Voter Awareness Forums) across the country, these clubs of learning taught the value of democracy and one's role in it through hands on experience to develop and strengthen the culture of electoral participation. Till now 9,07,938 ELCs have been established across the country.

Revitalizing Electoral Literacy Clubs during Covid period through use of online mode of communication, is also a major focus of the Commission. With regards to the same, Guidelines for Online Activities at ELCs have been shared with State Chief Electoral Offices recently.

- b) **Voter Awareness Forums (VAFs):** On lines of ELC in educational institutions and ChunavPathshala in Communities, Voter Awareness Forums (VAFs) are informal forums for generating discussions and awareness around the electoral process, on the how, what and where of registration & voting through the medium of real-time activities. Through VAFs in Government Departments, Government and Non-government Organizations as well as in Corporates, Election Commission of India aims to spread voter awareness and facilitate voter education.

The activities of VAF shall be coordinated by Executive Committee. The Committee shall be elected by the members of the VAF. Existing Clubs like Recreation Club, Sports Club etc or similar bodies in an organization can also act as the Executive Committee of the VAF.

3. Publications

- a) **Leap of Faith: 'Leap of faith : Journey of Indian Election'** is an offering from Election Commission of India to mark the 75th year of India's independence. It narrates the story of election as an institution in India from the colonial times to 21st century. The title resonates well with the journey of elections in India-It was a 'Leap of faith' that India undertook in

implementing universal adult franchise when barely one-fifth of her population was literate (1951), to present scenario (2020-21) when elections have been conducted safely and successfully amidst COVID pandemic.

Elections belong to all of us. This book will help readers to gain the perspective in ensuring free, fair, accessible, participative, festive, inclusive and accessible elections.

- b) **Pledging to Vote' A Decadal Journey of the National Voters' Day in India:** pledging to Vote- A decadal Journey of NVD in India' presents a vivid picture of NVD celebrations since its inception. It includes addresses of the dignitaries who have graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, speeches of Chief Election Commissioners, Messages, Curtain Raiser, Press Note as well as the National Award winners over the years. NVD's Journey is a continuum as an integral part of electoral democracy in the country. The publication with its pictorials is sure to inspire all especially personnel who were as 'Frontline Warriors' of Electoral Democracy.
- c) **Crossing the Barriers:-** Crossing the Barriers: Accessibility Initiatives 2021 takes the reader through the 'Journey of Accessible Elections' followed by 'Ensuring COVID safe and inclusive elections'. through Postal Ballot. The chapters on 'Guiding Principles' and 'Legislative Initiatives', as also the 'Lok Sabha Elections 2019: Good Practices' highlight multiple layers within the genre of Accessibility, that were explored by the ECI and the stakeholders for a participative and inclusive election. The book also showcases the 'Accessibility initiatives taken up by states/UTs.. Moreover, the suggestions and recommendations by the Disability Sector and Civil Service Organizations (CSOs)/ NGOs all over India, on making the elections more accessible provide a comprehensive view, The last chapter on 'way forward' chalks out the strategy on accessible elections for future. 5
- d) **Amar ChitraKatha:** Popularizing the importance of voting among the masses, an edutainment comic booklet, with an engaging narrative, graphic summary pages and quizzes and puzzles is being developed by **Amar Chitra Katha** on behalf of Election Commission of India. The comic book includes information provided in a story format to engage and interest readers of all age groups.

- e) **Chunav Ki Kahaniya**: A set of 12 illustrated storybooks developed from real life stories of voters is to be published and distributed in ELCs and other institutions. These are also being popularized on major social media platforms like twitter, instagram and facebook. Adapted in to a storybook format.
- f) **NLU Report** : A Joint Research Project of NLU-IIIDEM on ‘Electoral Literacy Project in India: Implementation, Assessment and Impact Analysis’ was conducted to analyse the policy, implementation and impact of Electoral Literacy Project in 3 states of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya. The first phase of the project is complete and based on its findings, the Commission will formulate strategic interventions to further expand the ELC program.
- g) **Belief in the Ballot** : Belief in the Ballot is a book having 101 real Human Stories from Indian Elections, documenting the efforts of faceless, nameless and unsung heroes of the Indian elections. First volume was launched in the year 2017, followed by second volume, which was launched by the Hon’ble President during the NVD, 2020 function.
- h) **Coffee Table Book "Unfolding Indian Elections: Journey of the Living Democracy"** :The book mainly is a collection of photographs - elections captured through the lens. It cover various aspects of the election process, from registration of names on electoral rolls to voting, from planning of elections to notification of polls, from training of personnels to voter education and awareness, from movement of election materials and personnel to setting up of polling stations, from nominations to announcement of results. First volume was launched in the year 2017. The second volume of Coffee Table Book was launched during 12th National Voters’ Day in the month of January, 2022.
- i) **VoICE Network, VoICE International and MY VOTE MATTERS**:In congruence with the overall vision and spirit of the Network, the magazines serve as invaluable

repositories on content pertaining to electoral literacy, voter information, communication and education, presenting in-depth articles, essays and academic work on special initiatives from member/associate EMBs and International Organizations.

VoICE International has covered themes as varied as- Empowering Young and Future Voters, Voter Education for Enhancing Gender Participation, Special Initiatives for Enhancing Participation of Persons with Disabilities, Enabling Overseas Electors and Service Voters and Using Digital Technology and Social Media for Voter Education. Additionally, the magazines covered a range of electoral events and happenings around the world and carried interactive content in the form of Quizzes and Glossary of Electoral Terms.

Serving as a vital repository of resources on electoral literacy, education, information and communication from around the world, the VoICE.NET portal presently bears new features (like the VoICE Box) and has been made more vibrant and dynamic. The portal is maintained and updated regularly by the SVEEP Division.

4. 360 Degree Media Communication

a) Voter Awareness Campaign through Community Radio Stations: ECI

tried expanding its outreach by leveraging NIOS Community Radio through a series named 'Mat EvamMatdan, KareLoktantrKaNirman' from June to November 2017. This series on elections was a joint initiative of ECI and NIOS-CR where different aspects of elections and the election processes would be explored. National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is an autonomous institution under Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Government of India and is the largest open schooling organization in the world.

Each of the one-hour episode was aired monthly and incorporated interviews/ panel discussion with expert(s) along with small snippets of different creatives developed by ECI to spread awareness on importance of elections such as songs, jingles, audio/ video plays, statements by icons, advertisements etc. This made the radio programme even more informative and interesting.

Moreover, a question was posed at the end of each programme and first 25 correct entries were given a prize by Election Commission of India. The series was also aired from 167 community radios pan India through Federation of Community Radio Association (FCRS).

- b) **National Media Campaign**:-For the first time, a comprehensive national media campaign was taken up for Lok Sabha 2019. Broadly all major topics were covered and after discussions and deliberation the theme of 'celebration' or 'Mahatyohar' was chosen. Based on past years' experience including the KAP survey, messages were created around the 12 identified topics. A separate campaign targeting Persons with Disabilities was also planned to be disseminated in accessible format to cover all disabilities.

National campaign aimed at supplementing the campaign by CEOs and DEOs. Some states translated the national campaign content in regional language and disseminated, while many others developed their own campaign content more relevant to the audience.

- c) **Indian Railways Network**: Going an extra mile, the Indian Railways and the Election Commission of India collaborated to vinyl wrap trains with the message #GoVote in Lok Sabha Election 2019. Thus, the north-south Kerala Express, Himsagar Express, east-west Guwahati Express and the Howrah Express, traversing the length and breadth of India were selected along with a host of regional trains like Jhelum Express, Konark Express and Diksha Bhumi Express to spread the message of voter awareness far and wide. The beautiful vinyl wrap showcased the national icons of ECI namely Aamir Khan, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Mary Kom, state icons as well as common people, inspiring all to vote. Each train was flagged off by the concerned CEO/DEO at the stations it crossed as it chugged along with the message.

- d) **Workshop for Radio Jockeys (RJs)**: Election Commission of India had organized the workshop for Radio Jockeys (RJs) of leading FM channels including All India Radio and various private FM channels in the month of January, 2019. Total 19 Radio jockeys from major FM channels viz. Big FM, Red FM, Fever 104 FM, Radio Nasha, Ishq FM and Radio City attended 2 hours interactive session, where they participated in activities for dissemination of voter education.

The workshop is a part of the engagement taken up by the commission with the major stakeholders. FM radio is one of the important medium, which connects the voters with the election machinery. The workshop was organized to familiarize the Radio Jockeys with the election process so that they can help in wide and accurate dissemination of information to their listeners.

- a) **Red FM:** A nationwide voter awareness and motivation campaign titled 'AbWatanDabayega Button' 93.5 RED FM was launched during Lok Sabha Election 2019. Several RED FM RJs were identified as Youth Ambassadors in their respective cities by State/UT CEO Offices and they were given trainings to share information about registration, doubts and queries to an audience of 14,21,000 listeners every day! RED FM also organized road shows, registration and awareness drives to promote voter awareness and collaborated with RedBus to provide free travel vouchers to those travelling to their native place to vote.
- b) **Social Media:** ECI forayed into social media in 2016, specifically for voter education. The experiment was slowly scaled up and in January 2018, ECI formally launched its official Facebook Page. A dedicated Twitter handle of the spokesperson to give updates to media already existed but otherwise there was no other presence on any other social media platforms. Ahead of Lok Sabha Election, the Commission launched the Twitter handle and Instagram page specifically for voter education and outreach. In LS 2019 election, the hashtag #GotInked was popularized with voters sharing their selfies with their inked fingers after casting their votes in LS 2019.

5. Other Novel Initiatives

- a) **e-EPIC:-**The Hon'ble President of India officially launched the e-EPIC on National Voters Day (NVD) – 2021. It is a move by the Commission to provide ease of access to voters. E-EPIC is downloadable on mobile or in a self printable form on the computer. A voter can thus store it in his/her mobile, upload it in digilocker or print it and self laminate it. This will initially be in addition to normal photo voter slips and the e-EPIC will have two QR codes: one with static data of photo and demography and the second with details of serial number part number, name of AC and address etc.

- b) **Inclusion of PwDs in the Electoral Process:** Various measures have been taken up to facilitate participation of Persons with Disabilities in the electoral process. These include facilitation of PwDs at the polling station through ramps, volunteers, wheel chairs special arrangement etc.

Election Commission of India recently celebrated 12th National Voters Day on 25th January 2022. The theme for this year's NVD is '**Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative**', envisages focus on ECI's commitment to facilitate active participation of voters during the elections and to make the complete process hassle free and a memorable experience for all categories of voters.

Also series of consultations for Inclusion of PwDs in the Electoral Process were conducted across the country- in Districts and States to identify barriers, challenges, and ways to overcome them and draft strategies to increase their participation. The 4th National Advisory Committee on Accessible Elections meeting was held recently as rechristened National Conference on Accessible Elections, 2021 on 21st September, 2021 To mark the completion of two years of Chairmanship of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), Election Commission of India organised an International Webinar on 26th November 2021 on the theme 'Enhancing electoral participation of Women, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) & Senior citizen Voters: Sharing Best Practices and New Initiatives'.

The webinar was attended by over 100 delegates from 24 countries, 4 international organizations and 20 diplomats.

- c) **Targeting Service Voters:** Consultations and meetings have been held with stakeholders since 2015 to enhance participation of Service Voters, mainly the defence and paramilitary personnel. A detailed SVEEP strategy was developed in 2017 for the Service Voters and interventions rolled out. Various wings of Armed Forces and Paramilitary have been coordinated with to monitor their

part of the action plan. CEOs have rolled out the plan in respective cantonment areas to reach the target audience.

As an important component of the strategy, to promote electoral registration and voting through postal ballot by members of the Indian armed forces, an informative and motivational film was produced through NFDC. The film consists of vivid action-packed visuals which were shot at actual locations so that it resonates with the lives of armed personnel. There is an inspirational song with upbeat music towards the end of the film which has become very popular. Along with the film, an informative brochure and dedicated posters for different armed forces such as Coast Guards, Army, Navy, Air Force, CRPF etc. were also produced and dispatched to their centers in large numbers for dispersal.

- d) **Gaming and Voter Education:-** While LS 2014 saw ECI venturing into edutainment for the first time through development of board games and computer games, second initiative in this direction was taken up when for ChunavPathshala (ELC Community) it was decided to devise some floor games to engage rural community. A set of 6 floor games was developed with Lady Irwin College, Department of Development Communication & Extension, incorporating important learnings/messages.
- e) **Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP):-** Election Commission of India launched a Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP) for citizens for verifications of their names, new registrations, changes in the voter details and corrections in the Voter Id Cards post General Elections 2019. ECI enabled various channels for this VVIP programme and also set up contact centers in all districts across India that were equipped with latest information and telecom infrastructure to help the callers.
- f) **SVEEP Kits:-** These contain resource material such as guide books, booklets with motivating stories, distributed to SVEEP Nodal Officers for the purpose of dissemination in ELCs across the State and District. These kits will contain interesting games about elections and awareness as well.
- g) **Interactive School Engagement Programme:-** The Interactive School Engagement (ISE) programme was the pre-cursor to the ELC project. ISE was conceptualized to target the future voters studying in schools so as to sensitize

them about the electoral process in general and about the registration and voting procedure in particular. It was carried out in run-up to the National Voters' Day 2017 which had the theme 'Empowering Young and Future Voters' and the same was the focus of the Commission for the year. ISE was also meant to provide a platform to connect future voters with the election machinery.

- h) **Topic on 'Indian Elections' launched on QuizUp App**-Empowering Young and Future Electors, ECI launched a new topic- Indian Elections, on the hugely popular gaming app- QuizUp. The topic is available on the app for both Android and iOS users.
- i) **Millennium Voters Initiative** : During the Summary Revision w.r.t. 1.1.2018, ECI took up a special drive to enrol the newly eligible voters, those in the age of 18-19 years. A unique concept was developed -Millennium Voters. Those born on 1st January 2000 and popularly termed Millennium babies turn eligible to become an elector in the ongoing Summary Revision of the Roll. 1.1.2018. These electors were termed Millennium Voters around 74K children are born every day. While encouraging the millennium individuals the campaign aimed to also attract others who are eligible to become electors especially in the 18-19 years age group, where on an average the enrolment remains below 40% of the eligible population. Identifying them through Panchayat Office records, Hospitals and Registrar/Sub Registrar(Birth & Death), DEO/CEO's office also invited Millennium Individuals through their website, Social Media pages. Beginning with the first-stage identification, the subsequent campaign outreach involved micro-engagement initiatives including- Doorstep visit by Booth Level Officers (BLOs), issuing of EPICs and Millennium Voter badges on National Voters' Day functions at the National, State and District Level, felicitating them with personalized certificates signed by the concerned DEO and involvement via social media.

STATUS OF ELCs (AS on 21 December, 2021)					
Sr. No	States/UTs	ELC future voters (in School)	ELC New Voters (in Colleges/ Universities)	Chunav Pathshalas (at PS Level)	Voter Awareness Forums
1.	A & N Island	26	8	172	9
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7212	2460	34492	1161
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	223	71	2206	80
4.	Assam	1960	455	11318	4019
5.	Bihar	2614	416	27034	828
6.	Chandigarh	133	27	595	14
7.	Chattisgarh	395	51	3645	352
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli				
9.	Daman and Diu	13	11	153	3
10.	Delhi	911	161	13051	104
11.	Goa	136	62	1704	56
12.	Gujarat	8562	1260	29282	10314
13.	Haryana	4965	1398	11052	1899
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2105	419	7813	1897
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	4321	103	4326	
16.	Jharkhand	2881	357	26623	972
17.	Karnataka	18,345	7,403	43,161	10,904
18.	Kerala	1256	650		
19.	Lakshadweep	12	3	56	10
20.	Madhya Pradesh	6399	2269	19795	811
21.	Maharashtra	5428	2503	1225	10950
22.	Manipur	528	46	1450	296
23.	Meghalaya	188	74	376	88
24.	Mizoram	38	17		16
25.	Nagaland	74	14	2272	132
26.	Odisha	72100	35604	25629	3198
27.	Puducherry	396	103	954	55
28.	Punjab	2402	599	18491	1328
29.	Rajasthan	17450	1547	50526	1556
30.	Sikkim	155	19	531	
31.	Tamilnadu	8736	4317	35455	849
32.	Telangana	9,376		34,603	2,786
33.	Tripura	915	55	3324	837
34.	Uttarakhand	1334	215	3302	795
35.	Uttar Pradesh	26994	21375	102643	31144
36.	West Bengal	10561			
	Total	219144	84072	517259	87463
	Grand Total		907938		

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2790

ANSWERED ON 23/12/ 2022.

Leg. III Sec.

DIVORCE CASES

2790. DR.VISHNU PRASAD M.K
SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN

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

- (a) the details of divorce cases registered, settled and pending during the last two years, State-wise;
- (b) whether restrictive provisions of the divorce law and the long delay in settlement of divorce cases are linked to a high proportion of separated individuals ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make marriage laws more women-friendly and allow both parties to file for divorce on the ground of “irretrievable breakdown” of marriage; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures/ steps taken by the Government in this regard.

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) No data relating to divorce cases is maintained separately. However, statements giving details of cases registered, disposed and pending in family courts during the last two years, State/UT-wise which *inter alia*, includes divorce cases, is given in the **Annexure**.
- (b)and (c) It cannot be stated with any degree of accuracy that the provisions of the divorce law and the long delay are linked to a high proportion of separated individuals.
- (d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.
- (e) Does not arise.

**Status of Cases Registered/Disposed/Pending in Family Courts During the year 2020
(As on 31.12.2020)**

S.NO.	NAME OF STATE/UTs	2020		
		Registered	Disposed	Pending
1	Andhra Pradesh	3343	2286	10069
2	Andaman Nicobar	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4	Assam	2732	1574	10108
5	Bihar	11969	5729	58636
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	5346	3737	15310
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
9	Delhi	19256	5691	40733
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	14041	8918	33560
13	Haryana	29646	18187	58511
14	Himachal Pradesh	7324	7331	15618
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	6215	3537	14507
17	Karnataka	16618	8988	38365
18	Kerala	43022	23067	100479
19	Ladakh	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	15950	9922	15584
22	Maharashtra	19554	11774	52079
23	Manipur	342	311	634
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	82	88	66
27	Odisha	8038	4159	39670
28	Puducherry	668	374	1535
29	Punjab	23630	14811	52198
30	Rajasthan	21518	15731	44222
31	Sikkim	179	128	188
32	Tamil Nadu	16316	8840	29970
33	Telangana	5733	3451	15469
34	Tripura	1512	1026	2551
35	Uttar Pradesh	190709	112214	413176
36	Uttarakhand	9508	3588	15119
37	West Bengal	298	229	0
	TOTAL	473549	275691	1078357

Status of Cases Registered/Disposed/Pending in Family Courts During the year 2021

(As on 31.12.2021)

S.NO.	NAME OF STATE/UTs	2021		
		Registered	Disposed	Pending
1	Andhra Pradesh	5635	1632	10069
2	Andaman Nicobar	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4	Assam	3935	4103	9356
5	Bihar	19382	7795	69792
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	11525	9527	17779
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
9	Delhi	21382	30166	48520
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	18508	22124	35335
13	Haryana	33315	31589	65337
14	Himachal Pradesh	2706	3096	5102
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	9380	5873	19371
17	Karnataka	21684	22603	39458
18	Kerala	50975	47146	114020
19	Ladakh	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	18758	18140	25769
22	Maharashtra	29321	26789	67315
23	Manipur	441	251	634
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	185	150	153
27	Odisha	10874	8980	44689
28	Puducherry	873	835	1452
29	Punjab	61023	40297	85061
30	Rajasthan	30168	27187	46048
31	Sikkim	240	286	195
32	Tamil Nadu	21774	13468	32519
33	Telangana	10820	11622	18095
34	Tripura	2762	2717	3604
35	Uttar Pradesh	170634	183793	396462
36	Uttarakhand	10749	11319	15997
37	West Bengal	165	118	1166
	TOTAL	497447	531606	1173298

Status of Functional Courts/Cases Registered/Disposed//Pending in Family Courts During the year 2022 (upto 31.10.2022)

S.NO.	Name of States/UTs	Function Family Courts/UTs	2022 till upto 31.10.2022		
			Registered	Disposed	Pending
1	Andhra Pradesh	20	5635	3304	12946
2	Andaman Nicobar	0	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	7	5141	6092	7901
5	Bihar	39	20166	18575	71383
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	25	12703	11890	18978
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	0	22664	21014	0
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	30	20446	19947	35834
13	Haryana	31	39860	41171	62950
14	Himachal Pradesh	3	5679	4706	6092
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	30	10953	13668	15975
17	Karnataka	39	23582	23072	39958
18	Kerala	28	54866	53286	115514
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	0	9386	10162	0
22	Maharashtra	40	32768	32811	67272
23	Manipur	0	557	930	0
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	2	220	185	200
27	Odisha	30	12056	15823	40933
28	Puducherry	2	1040	1114	1269
29	Punjab	33	59388	60415	82413
30	Rajasthan	50	39736	36224	50054
31	Sikkim	4	303	358	161
32	Tamil Nadu	40	21355	22980	31458
33	Telangana	23	11592	10358	18779
34	Tripura	9	3393	3142	3863
35	Uttar Pradesh	189	191001	193854	392734
36	Uttarakhand	18	11147	12022	15122
37	West Bengal	2	272	301	1128
	TOTAL	694	615909	617404	1092917

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2844
ANSWERED 23/12/2022**

JS(GRR)

DEVELOPMENT OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM

✓ †2844. **SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:
SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:
SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:
SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:**

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

- (a) whether a large number of pending cases are denying the rights to the under trials and confining them to prisons;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cases pending in various courts, State-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government has held any consultations with various stakeholders for robust development and reforms in the judicial system in order to clear pendency of cases during the last five years and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon;**
- (d) whether there is any mechanism to ascertain the reasons for continuous increase in the pendency of cases in the courts; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures including increasing the number of courts and judges, taken in this regard?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the domain of the judiciary, however, the Government in coordination with the Judiciary has been proactive in ensuring that the rights of the under trials are not violated and compliance of the

directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter In Re-Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons W.P. (C) No.406/2013 are observed in letter and spirit for release of under trial prisoners who have served half of the sentence giving the benefit of Section 436A of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973.

Under Trial Review Committees (UTRCs) have been established in all the districts across the country. The said committee holds quarterly meetings. UTRCs are headed by the District & Session Judges, who are also the Chairperson of the DLSAs. This apart, Secretary, DLSA is also a member of the Committee, and hence, Legal Services Authorities mandated with providing free legal aid not only become aware of the ground realities but also take appropriate actions wherever permissible under the law of land and also ensure that during remand, proper and effective representation through legal counsel is provided to the unrepresented accused.

Recently, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), had launched on 16th July, 2022 a "*Campaign for Release for Prisoners*" by the Under Trial Review Committee to commemorate the 75th Independence Day in India. Through this campaign the National Legal Services Authority, along with the State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authorities, aimed to make the UTRCs more vigilant in checking unnecessary pre-trial detention, secure the fair trial rights of prisoners and facilitate potential release of prisoners, during and even after the campaign. As per information received from NALSA, more than 24,000 number of Undertrials have been released during the above campaign by the Legal Services Institutions throughout the country.

NALSA has prepared a protocol for providing access to justice to suspects and arrestees. The protocol spells out a framework for providing legal assistance at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stages. Panel Lawyers personally interact with the inmates and

the family members regularly. They also participate in sensitization programmes organised by DLSAs for them.

(b): According to information obtained from the Supreme Court of India, as on 01.12.2022, the number of cases pending is 69,598. The number of cases pending as on 20.12.2022 in the High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts is at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II*, respectively.

(c) to (e): The pendency of cases is a multi-pronged problem. With an increase in the population of the country and enhanced awareness among the public about their rights, filing of fresh cases is also increasing year after year.

There are several reasons for large pendency of cases in the courts which, *inter-alia*, include availability of adequate number 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.

Several initiatives have been taken by the Government to provide a suitable ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a 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 during the last eight years under various initiatives and remedial measure to aid in clearing pendency of cases and early disposal are as follows:

(i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 9291.79 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 21,159 as on 30.11.2022, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022, under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 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. There are 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential units made available under the scheme so far. 2673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction as part of ongoing projects.

(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 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized district and subordinate courts. All stakeholders, including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district &

subordinate courts and high courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access the case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 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 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown began, the district courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the high courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) via video conferencing till 31.10.2022. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 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
21.12.2022	25,042	19,192

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) **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.

(vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 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. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022. 731 FTSC are functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

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

(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 National Lok Adalats during the last two years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
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) **E-LokAdalat** : The Legal Services Authorities innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-LokAdalats to improve people's accessibility to this ADR forum during the pandemic and reduce the burden on courts by settling not only the pending cases but also cases which are at the pre-litigation stage. Another objective is to implement a cost effective and time saving mechanism of dispute resolution for the effected parties. E- LokAdalat has been conceptualized in a way that it facilitates party interaction and the exchange of information, allowing an opportunity to effectively solve a dispute. Pre-LokAdalat sessions are held to identify cases fit for settlement and to facilitate settlement between the parties.

So far, E-LokAdalats have been organized in 28 States and UTs and a total of 2,59,92,657 cases have been taken up and 53,38,300 cases have been disposed of.

(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	8,62,464	31.51%
ST	4,90,729	17.93%
OBC	7,94,986	29.04%
Women	9,19,389	33.59%
General	5,88,932	21.52%
As of 30th Nov 2022,		

(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.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2844 FOR ANSWER ON 23.12.2022 REGARDING 'DEVELOPMENT OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM'.

High Court Wise Pendency as on 20.12.2022

S.No	Name of the High Court	Total Pendency	Pending Criminal Cases
1.	Allahabad High Court	1030828	474692
2.	Bombay High Court	606599	101820
3.	Calcutta High Court	207318	29577
4.	Gauhati High Court	58323	11849
5.	High Court for State of Telangana	253924	34227
6.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	239639	35282
7.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	90555	31980
8.	High Court of Delhi	105271	29921
9.	High Court of Gujarat	161168	55591
10.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	90508	12055
11.	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	44476	7567
12.	High Court of Jharkhand	86647	47951
13.	High Court of Karnataka	300422	47929
14.	High Court of Kerala	197666	39931
15.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	428245	163413
16.	High Court of Manipur	4838	462
17.	High Court of Meghalaya	1192	148
18.	High Court of Orissa	164171	42709
19.	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	447468	167979
20.	High Court of Rajasthan	632785	168072
21.	High Court of Sikkim	169	30
22.	High Court of Tripura	1621	153
23.	High Court of Uttarakhand	44724	19090
24.	Madras High Court	548665	54020
25.	Patna High Court	210965	99772
	Total	5958187	1676220

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2844 FOR ANSWER ON 23.12.2022 REGARDING 'DEVELOPMENT OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM'.**Details of Pending Cases in the country State / UT-wise as on 20.12.2022**

S.No	Name of the State	Total Pendency	Pending Criminal Cases
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	99997	96844
2.	Andhra Pradesh	818632	407027
3.	Arunachal Pradesh*	--	--
4.	Assam	487864	386010
5.	Bihar	3440255	2932896
6.	Chandigarh	78590	55575
7.	Chhattisgarh	406421	331619
8.	Delhi	1293682	1046044
9.	Diu and Daman	2901	1471
10.	DNH at Silvassa	3770	1982
11.	Goa	55933	30278
12.	Gujarat	1736013	1311969
13.	Haryana	1447073	994921
14.	Himachal Pradesh	471714	318536
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	294522	199224
16.	Jharkhand	522875	432995
17.	Karnataka	1890474	980793
18.	Kerala	1909244	1398508
19.	Ladakh	1147	497
20.	Lakshadweep*	--	--
21.	Madhya Pradesh	1976291	1587486
22.	Maharashtra	4969468	3406033
23.	Manipur	12289	4278
24.	Meghalaya	16269	11711
25.	Mizoram	5136	2803
26.	Nagaland	2964	2388
27.	Odisha	1555757	1254419
28.	Puducherry	29791	17941
29.	Punjab	918379	518920
30.	Rajasthan	2123667	1592844
31.	Sikkim	1887	1221
32.	Tamil Nadu	1424863	677142
33.	Telangana	1053349	633940
34.	Tripura	39913	28763
35.	Uttar Pradesh	10965202	9109244
36.	Uttarakhand	329667	284635
37.	West Bengal	2670349	2057057
Total		43056348	32118014

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

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2845
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 23rd DECEMBER, 2022**

A2J

LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

JS(WRG)
✓ †2845. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to create awareness about legal literacy among people in urban slums, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes dominated and remote rural areas at High Court, district and tehsil level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the programmes being run like legal services (aid/assistance), Lok Adalat, Legal Literacy Camps etc., State-wise including Madhya Pradesh?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Yes Sir, creating awareness about legal literacy among people is an important mandate of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) constituted by Government under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Various legal awareness and outreach campaigns are organized to spread awareness regarding the availability of free legal services and to raise awareness of the rights, entitlements under welfare laws and schemes as well as duties and remedies of the individuals. Activities like Door to Door campaigns, Legal awareness programmes, Awareness through Mobile Vans, Awareness through Legal Aid Clinics, Mega Legal Service Camps, exhibitions at the State and District level, Moot court competitions for students of law universities etc are conducted to spread awareness amongst women, children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability and every person residing in the rural, tribal, municipal

towns, at each and every sub division of all the districts and far flung areas of the country.

In addition, Department of Justice is also implementing pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme under its scheme titled “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice” (DISHA) with the aim to create and develop various information, education and communication (IEC) material in a simplified and contextualized manner for the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society, through forging partnerships with various ministries, departments, autonomous bodies etc at the Centre, state and district level.

- (c) Statements for the legal aid beneficiaries, legal literacy / awareness camps and cases dealt under National Lok Adalats are at **Annexure – A, B and C** respectively.

Annexure - A

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †2845 for answering on 23.12.2022 raised by Shri Rodmal Nagar, MP - Legal Awareness Programmes

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the period from April, 2022 to September, 2022.

S.No.	SLSAs	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	66
2	Andhra Pradesh	4480
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3102
4	Assam	15795
5	Bihar	70275
6	Chandigarh	1268
7	Chhattisgarh	20902
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21
9	Daman & Diu	17
10	Delhi	48948
11	Goa	1123
12	Gujarat	17166
13	Haryana	16410
14	Himachal Pradesh	3261
15	Jammu & Kashmir	4374
16	Jharkhand	39950
17	Karnataka	17888
18	Kerala	9954
19	Ladakh	490
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	83468
22	Maharashtra	17925
23	Manipur	13651
24	Meghalaya	1664
25	Mizoram	2751
26	Nagaland	3964
27	Odisha	5918
28	Puducherry	344
29	Punjab	26916
30	Rajasthan	7339
31	Sikkim	650
32	Tamil Nadu	24755
33	Telangana	5783
34	Tripura	2756
35	Uttar Pradesh	11462
36	Uttarakhand	2056
37	West Bengal	24459
	Total	511351

Annexure - B

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †2845 for answering on 23.12.2022 raised by Shri Rodmal Nagar, MP - Legal Awareness Programmes

Statement containing details of Legal Literacy/Legal Awareness Camps/Programme organized during the period from April, 2022 to September, 2022.

S.No.	SLSAs	Programmes Held	Persons Attended
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	394
2	Andhra Pradesh	3503	295485
3	Arunachal Pradesh	34	3271
4	Assam	1393	306668
5	Bihar	2286	218558
6	Chandigarh	693	31634
7	Chhattisgarh	7274	782134
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	17	1280
9	Daman & Diu	23	844
10	Delhi	3354	270733
11	Goa	107	10279
12	Gujarat	5770	441329
13	Haryana	33361	2102692
14	Himachal Pradesh	981	168725
15	Jammu & Kashmir	1797	98528
16	Jharkhand	5050	400246
17	Karnataka	3066	601433
18	Kerala	2025	96213
19	Ladakh	110	15560
20	Lakshadweep	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	7967	6596175
22	Maharashtra	5382	417455
23	Manipur	223	10901
24	Meghalaya	318	33974
25	Mizoram	16	1108
26	Nagaland	181	11476
27	Odisha	979	61465
28	Puducherry	128	3843
29	Punjab	8084	521511
30	Rajasthan	57282	2098924
31	Sikkim	182	7113
32	Tamil Nadu	2016	368226
33	Telangana	1240	158698
34	Tripura	317	61293
35	Uttar Pradesh	2829	506157
36	Uttarakhand	4102	187696
37	West Bengal	5486	254132
	Grand Total	167581	17146153

Annexure- C

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †2845 for answering on 23.12.2022 raised by Shri Rodmal Nagar, MP - Legal Awareness Programmes

Statement containing details of cases taken up and disposed of in National Lok Adalats during 2022 (upto September, 2022)			
S. No.	Authority Name	Cases Taken Up	Cases Disposed Of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5555	3310
2	Andhra Pradesh	1026449	647956
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7938	1071
4	Assam	707744	113989
5	Bihar	2594655	305483
6	Chandigarh	77646	15569
7	Chhattisgarh	1539971	1125318
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4343	1323
9	Daman & Diu	1959	215
10	Delhi	617852	535025
11	Goa	24461	3934
12	Gujarat	2731581	1185571
13	Haryana	1100069	673487
14	Himachal Pradesh	255681	111150
15	Jammu & Kashmir	459202	390496
16	Jharkhand	1386756	1121405
17	Karnataka	5167842	3444607
18	Kerala	395978	136101
19	Ladakh	1948	1444
20	Lakshadweep	318	129
21	Madhya Pradesh	3125248	419776
22	Maharashtra	34223486	4754239
23	Manipur	1905	1343
24	Meghalaya	5318	956
25	Mizoram	13529	4432
26	Nagaland	3229	888
27	Odisha	821017	337065
28	Puducherry	21110	6405
29	Punjab	824437	392256
30	Rajasthan	6685251	4572315
31	Sikkim	402	232
32	Tamil Nadu	840700	447536
33	Telangana	1622035	1611677
34	Tripura	30126	4814
35	Uttar Pradesh	30114718	18698973
36	Uttarakhand	100809	67438
37	West Bengal	1078663	788082
	Grand Total	97619931	41926010

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2862
ANSWERED ON 23.12.2022**

AS(A&A)

Appointment of Judges

✓ **2862. SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI:
SHRI DURGA DAS (D.D.) UIKEY:
SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of judges/staff of the courts in the country;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in appointment of judges ;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any timeframe for fulfilling the commitment of appointment of a certain number of judges in the country, and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total number of judges appointed during the last ten years court and year-wise; and
- (e) the details of judges appointed in Supreme Court and High Courts from subordinate courts and their ratios to that of other judges in the said courts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e): The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 was amended to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court of India from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI). The

Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019 came into force w.e.f. 09.8.2019. In the Joint Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers held on 07.4.2013, a decision was taken to increase the number of Judges of the High Courts by 25%. Accordingly, Government has increased the Judge strength of the High Courts from 906 to 1108 i.e. by 202 posts, during the period from 01.07.2014 to 20.12.2022 with the approval of the respective State Governments, related High Courts and the Chief Justice of India. 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. A Statement showing the details of appointment of Judges for last ten years, High Court wise and year-wise, is enclosed as **Annexure**. During the calendar year 2022, a total of 165 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts, out of which 92 were appointed from service quota i.e. District and Subordinate Courts and 73 from the Bar.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue

of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. Hence, in so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, while in other states, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions. The Central Government has no role in appointment or reservation of Judicial Officers in the district and subordinate judiciary.

Vacancies in Subordinate Judiciary are to be filled up every year in accordance with the time schedule prescribed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 04.01.2007 passed in Civil Appeal no. 1867/2006 Malik Mazhar Sultan &Anr. vs. U.P. Public Service Commission. As per this time schedule, the vacancies for the category of District Judge (Entry Level) and Senior Civil Judge are to be notified commencing on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year.

S. No.	Court	No. of Judges appointed during										2022
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
	Supreme Court	06	06	09	01	04	05	08	10	-	09	03
	High Courts											
1	Allahabad	14	09	13	05	20	31	28	10	04	17	13
2	Andhra Pradesh	02	16	-	-	01	10	-	02	07	02	14
3	Bombay	05	12	14	04	06	14	04	11	04	06	19
4	Calcutta	07	13	01	-	01	06	11	06	01	08	16
5	Chhattisgarh	-	03	02	-	03	03	04	-	-	03	03
6	Delhi	-	08	04	08	05	04	05	04	-	02	17
7	Gauhati	02	03	-	-	05	02	02	04	-	06	02
8	Gujarat	04	03	01	02	05	-	04	03	07	07	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	01	-	03	-	04	-	-	02	-	01	02
10	J & K and Ladakh	-	05	-	01	-	03	02	-	05	02	04
11	Jharkhand	01	02	03	-	04	02	03	02	-	04	01
12	Karnataka	01	05	05	-	05	02	12	10	10	06	06
13	Kerala	02	06	06	-	05	03	04	01	06	12	01
14	Madhya Pradesh	-	05	07	01	18	-	08	02	-	08	06
15	Madras	01	08	-	08	25	12	08	01	10	05	04
16	Manipur	-	-	01	-	01	-	-	-	01	-	-
17	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	01	-	-	-
18	Orissa	01	05	03	-	-	-	01	01	02	04	06
19	Patna	01	-	04	-	06	06	-	04	-	06	11
20	Punjab & Haryana	05	09	14	-	01	08	7	10	01	06	21
21	Rajasthan	-	09	01	09	11	05	-	03	06	08	02
22	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-
23	Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	03	01	07	17
24	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	-	01	-	-
25	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	03	03	01	-	-	-
	Total	47	121	82	38	126	115	108	81	66	120	165

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2873**

ANSWERED ON 23/12/ 2022

OL Wing, LD

PROPAGATION OF HINDI AND REGIONAL LANGUAGES IN LAW

2873. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL :

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

- (a) The details of the number of Voluntary Organizations engaged in propagation and use of Hindi and other regional languages specified in Eight Schedule to the Constitution of India in the field of law and got benefitted through financial assistance under the scheme run by the ministry, State/UT-wise; and
- (b) Whether any future initiatives are proposed to be taken for its progress, if so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice has a Scheme namely "Scheme for promotion of the Official Languages of the Union and the States in the field of Law". The Scheme is for giving financial assistance to Voluntary Organizations for propagation and development of the Official Languages of the Union and the States in the field of law. Details of the Voluntary Organizations which got benefitted during the last ten Financial Years through financial assistance under this scheme for propagation and development of the Official Languages of the Union and the States/UT's in the field of law is given at **Annexure-1**.
- (b) Necessary actions/initiatives are being taken in accordance of the above mentioned Scheme as and when required.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2873 FOR REPLY ON 23-12-2022.****The details of Voluntary Organizations which got benefitted through financial assistance under the scheme for the last ten Financial Years**

S. NO.	NAME OF THE ORGANISATION	SANCTIONED AMOUNT (IN RUPEES)
1.	SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH & WELFARE ACTIVITY (SERWA) BHOPAL, M.P.	48,000/-
2.	SOCIAL ACTION FORUM FOR MANAV ADHIKAR NEW DELHI	72,000/-
3.	RESUGENT TINSUKIA, ASSAM	12,000/-
4.	COLONELGOLA SOCIAL AND DEPRESSED PEOPLE WELFARE ORGANIZATION MIDNAPORE, West Bengal	45,000/-
5.	BIDYA SINNAIBI DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION SINGJAMEI IMPHAL, MANIPUR	38,000/-
6.	THE WESTERN WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION IMPHAL, MANIPUR	12,500/-
7.	SADHNA PURI, ODISHA	22,000/-
8.	KALYAN HEALTH ORGANISATION (KHO) KHURDA, ODISHA	38,000/-
9.	SALEM DISTRICT PEOPLE SERVICE SOCIETY SALEM, TAMIL NADU	12,000/-
10.	SOCIAL ACTION FORUM FOR MANAV ADHIKAR NEW DELHI	70,000/-
11.	SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH & WELFARE ACTIVITY (SERWA) BHOPAL, M.P.	70,000/-
12.	GRAM VIKAS MANDALI ASSOCIATION TRUST MUNGELI, C.G.	70,000/-
13.	THE WESTERN WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION IMPHAL, MANIPUR	70,000/-
14.	COLONELGOLA SOCIAL AND DEPRESSED PEOPLE WELFARE ORGANIZATION MIDNAPORE, West Bengal	70,000/-

15.	KALYAN HEALTH ORGANISATION (KHO) KHURDA, ODISHA	70,000/-
16.	SALEM DISTRICT PEOPLE SERVICE SOCIETY SALEM, TAMIL NADU	70,000/-
17.	CARE SOCIETY HOSUR KRISHANAGIRI, TAMIL NADU	70,000/-
18.	SADHANA PURI, ODISHA	40,000/-
19.	SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (SDO) IMPHAL, MANIPUR	50,000/-
20.	LAMDENG KHUNOU KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION IMPHAL, MANIPUR	50,000/-
21.	SUTANUTIR SAKYA KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL	50,000/-
22.	CLUB RED ROSE KHURDA, ORISSA	50,000/-
23.	PEOPLE ADVANCEMENT CENTRE IMPHAL, MANIPUR	50,000/-
24.	UNITED RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION KARBI ANGLONG, ASSAM	50,000/-
25.	MURSHIDABAD ADIBASHI GAMIN JANAKALYAN SAMITY, MURSHIDABAD, W.B.	50,000/-
26.	KADAMBANI SHIKSHA AVAM SAMAJ KALYAN SEVA SAMITI BHOPAL, MP	75,000/-
27.	SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND WELFARE ACTIVITY BHOPAL, MP	70,000/-
28.	BHOJPURI PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, TINSUKIA, ASSAM	70,000/-
29.	DARAGANJ GRAMODHYOG VIKAS SANSTHAN ALLAHABAD, UP	75,000/-
30.	GRAM VIKAS MANDALI ASSOCIATION TRUST MUNGELI, C.G.	75,000/-
31.	THE WESTERN WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION IMPHAL, MANIPUR	70,000/-
32.	BIDYA SINNAIBI DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION SINGJAMEI IMPHAL, MANIPUR	65,000/-
33.	HUMAN RESOURCE FOR SOCIETY IMPHAL, MANIPUR	65,000/-
34.	KALYAN HEALTH ORGANISATION (KHO) KHURDA, ODISHA	75,000/-
35.	SADHANA PURI, ODISHA	55,000/-

36.	DISABLED CHILDREN WELFARE SOCIETY MALOUT, Punjab	75,000/-
37.	RAJASTHAN GRAMOTHAN AVAM SANSKRIT ANUSANDHAAN SANSTHAN JAIPUR	75,000/-
38.	CFRD, CENTRAL FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT THIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU	75,000/-
39.	PEOPLE ANIMATION FOR UNITED LIVING TRUST THIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU	80,000/-
40.	CARE SOCIETY (CONSUMER AWARENESS AND RURAL EDUCATION SOCIETY) KRISHNAGIRI, T.N.	1,00,000/-
41.	STATE RESOURCE CENTER GUWAHATI, ASSAM	1,00,000/-
42.	GRAM VIKAS MANDALI ASSOCIATION TRUST BILASPUR, CHATTISHGARH	70,000/-

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A25

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2893
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 23rd DECEMBER, 2022

JS(WKG)

HONORARIUM TO LEGAL AID COUNSELS

✓ 2893. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

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

- (a) the details of legal aid clinics that have been set up across the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of posts for full-time secretaries in legal aid clinics, including the current occupancy of such posts;
- (c) whether considering the very low honorarium offered to Legal Aid Counsels (LACs), combined with problem of delayed payments, the Government has taken steps to incentivise them and to ensure LACs are motivated to venture and invest their time on legal aid cases and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether considering that there is lack of awareness about legal aid services in remote areas, the Government has taken steps to spread awareness in rural areas and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) The State-wise details of legal aid clinics set up across the country as on September, 2022 are at **Annexure – A**.
- (b) Legal Aid Clinics or Legal Services Clinics are not manned by Secretaries rather these are manned by Para Legal Volunteers and/or Panel Lawyers. In every district or group of districts, a District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) is created which is manned by a Secretary who is a judicial officer. The details of number of full time Secretaries and part time Secretaries in DLSAs as on March, 2022 is at **Annexure – B**.

(c) Regulation 8 (12) of the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 provides for honorarium payable to Retainer lawyer which is as under:

“The honorarium payable to Retainer lawyer shall not be less than, -

- (a) rupees forty thousand per month in the case of Supreme Court Legal Services Committee;
- (b) rupees twenty five thousand per month in the case of State Legal Services Authority or High Court Legal Services Committee;
- (c) rupees fifteen thousand per month in the case of District Legal Services Authority;
- (d) rupees ten thousand per month in the case of the Taluk Legal Services Committee:

Provided that the honorarium specified in this sub-regulation is in addition to the honorarium or fee payable by the Legal Services Institution for each case entrusted to the Retainer lawyer. Provided further that the State Legal Services Authority may decide to make the payment of honorarium to the Retainer Lawyers on the basis of number of days they man the Front Office. In such cases the honorarium so payable shall not be less than Rs. 1500 per day of sitting at the district and taluka court level and Rs. 2500 at the High Court level.” Apart from monetary benefits, from time to time, necessary training and orientation for Legal Aid counsels are also organized for their capacity building.

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

The major activities carried out during the above campaign included door-to-door campaigns, legal awareness programs, awareness through mobile vans, and awareness

through legal aid clinics. Apart from these major activities, the Legal Services Authorities organised specific legal awareness programs for women and children, organised mega legal services camps, programs for children who lost either or both parents due to covid, exhibitions at State and District level, moot court competitions for students of law universities, etc.

NALSA also devised a Legal awareness and outreach programme campaign, which was conducted from 31st October, 2022 to 13th November 2022 with an aim and objective to reach every village panchayat and organise at least one program in each and every sub division of all the districts at least once.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2893 for answering on 23.12.2022 raised by Shri Anubhav Mohanty, MP - Honorarium to Legal Aid Counsels

Statement containing details of legal aid clinics set up across the country		
S.No.	Legal Service Authority (State/UTs)	Total No. of Legal Services Clinics established/ functioning (as on September, 2022)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	369
3	Arunachal Pradesh	35
4	Assam	267
5	Bihar	316
6	Chandigarh	31
7	Chhattisgarh	94
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13
9	Daman & Diu	8
10	Delhi	173
11	Goa	94
12	Gujarat	442
13	Haryana	528
14	Himachal Pradesh	199
15	Jammu & Kashmir	207
16	Jharkhand	395
17	Karnataka	1720
18	Kerala	181
19	Ladakh	18
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	1120
22	Maharashtra	624
23	Manipur	60
24	Meghalaya	119
25	Mizoram	53
26	Nagaland	131
27	Odisha	502
28	Puducherry	71
29	Punjab	240
30	Rajasthan	695
31	Sikkim	32
32	Tamil Nadu	840
33	Telangana	383
34	Tripura	175
35	Uttar Pradesh	564
36	Uttarakhand	314
37	West Bengal	1145
	Total	12158

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2893 for answering on 23.12.2022 raised by Shri Anubhav Mohanty, MP - Honorarium to Legal Aid Counsels

Statement containing details regarding number of Secretaries, DLSAs as on March, 2022				
S.No.	Legal Service Authority (State/UTs)	Number of Full Time Secretary in DLSAs (A)	Number of Part Time Secretary in DLSAs (B)	Total Secretaries in DLSAs (A+B)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	1	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	13	0	13
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	20	20
4	Assam	33	0	33
5	Bihar	37	0	37
6	Chandigarh	1	0	1
7	Chhattisgarh	23	0	23
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	1	1
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
10	Delhi	12	0	12
11	Goa	2	0	2
12	Gujarat	25	7	32
13	Haryana	22	0	22
14	Himachal Pradesh	11	0	11
15	Jammu & Kashmir	19	1	20
16	Jharkhand	22	2	24
17	Karnataka	30	0	30
18	Kerala	14	0	14
19	Ladakh	0	2	2
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	50	0	50
22	Maharashtra	34	0	34
23	Manipur	5	4	9
24	Meghalaya	0	11	11
25	Mizoram	0	8	8
26	Nagaland	0	11	11
27	Odisha	30	0	30
28	Puducherry	0	2	2
29	Punjab	22	0	22
30	Rajasthan	36	0	36
31	Sikkim	0	4	4
32	Tamil Nadu	20	12	32
33	Telangana	11	0	11
34	Tripura	1	7	8
35	Uttar Pradesh	62	9	71
36	Uttarakhand	13	0	13
37	West Bengal	22	0	22
	Total	570	102	672

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2903
ANSWERED ON 23/12/2022**

Impl. Cell

Unemployment amongst Law Graduates

**2903# SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA:
 SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:**

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

- (a) the number of unemployed law graduates in India;
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to reduce increasing unemployment amongst law graduates;
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of observation of the Supreme Court on issues relating to payment of stipend to junior lawyers;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to regulate the same; and
- (e) whether the Government has in consultation with the Bar Council of India planned to codify payment of stipend in the Advocates Act, 1961 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): There is no data available/maintained in this regard. Once a law graduate enrolls as an advocate he/she enters into the profession of advocacy. Advocates are professionals who enter the profession of legal practice and learn the skilled advocacy in the process of gaining requisite experience. Further, it is the discretion of a party to engage any advocate as per its choice.

(c) to (e) No proposal for payment of stipend to junior lawyers or codifying it under Advocates Act, 1961 is pending or under consideration of the Central Government.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2905
ANSWERED ON 23/12/2022**

LAP

JS(WKG)

LOK ADALAT IN KARNAL REGION

✓ 2905. SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to organize 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; and
- (c) whether such initiatives are likely to be taken thereunder to resolve and settle disputes/cases lying pending in the court of law, amicably at the pre-litigation stage?

ANSWER

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

- (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 30.11.2022 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.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †2905 for answering on 23.12.2022 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 30.11.2022		
	DAILY LOK ADALAT	NATIONAL LOK ADALAT
Total No. of Lok Adalats	29,645	365
Total No. of cases taken up	3,71,522	2,02,221
Total No. of cases settled	2,02,135	84,784
Criminal Cases	16,518	7,508
Section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act	14,284	4,618
Bank Cases	1,071	1,253
MACT Cases	3,230	790
HM Cases	2,985	621
Labour Cases	373	80
Land Cases	36	0
Civil Cases	20,481	3,017
Revenue Cases	2,303	4,455
Others Cases	1,37,839	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
126	1,002	489

PERMANENT LOK ADALAT (PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES)

No. of Lok Adalats/Sittings	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases settled
1,797	9,085	8,518

Public Utility Cases	No. of cases settled
Transport Cases	300
Postal/ Telephone Cases	2,271
Supply of Power Cases	264
Public Conservancy Cases	39
Hospital Cases	14
Insurance Cases	466
Banking Cases	4,905
Housing and Financial Cases	259
Total	8,518

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

NM

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2919
ANSWERED ON 23/12/ 2022**

JS (GRR)
✓

SETTING UP OF ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTRES BY JUDGES

2919. SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the common practice of incumbent judges setting up arbitration and mediation centres in various States of the country, if so, the details thereof; and**
(b) whether the setting up of such centres by incumbent judges without acting in any representative capacity for the court is legally and morally correct, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): Arbitration and Mediation Centres are already being setup under aegis of High Court. The Delhi International Arbitration Centre and Delhi High Court Mediation Centre under the Delhi High Court, Arbitration & Conciliation Centre, Bengaluru (Domestic & International) and Bangalore Mediation Centre under the High Court of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre and the Madras High Court Arbitration Centre under the High Court of Madras, are some of the Centres which are functioning under the aegis of the High Courts.

The said centres have adopted rules for conduct of arbitration and mediation and provide infrastructural, administrative and secretarial support for conducting arbitration and mediation as well. These centres function with the administrative support of the respective High Courts and are contributing in the strengthening of the Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism regime in the country.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, the governing law relating to arbitrations in India, was also amended through the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 to give boost to institutional arbitration and to reduce the share of ad-hoc arbitration in the country. Section 11 of the said Act was amended to facilitate the parties to directly approach arbitral institutes designated by the Supreme Court and the High Courts, for appointment of arbitrators instead of Courts by way of litigation.

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

ADV. (A) & (B)

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2928
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 23rd DECEMBER, 2022**

**LEGAL ADVICE ON OBC QUOTA IN AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITIES**

2928. 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 Agricultural 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) The Department of Agricultural Research & Education made a reference dated 30.08.2022 to the Department of Legal Affairs for 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 30.07.2021 and Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare notice dated 29.07.2021 and subsequently Judgement /Order dated 20.01.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme court in the case of Neil Aurelio Nunes and others vs Union of India.

In this regard, the Ld. Solicitor General of India vide Note dated 11.10.2022 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 is AIQ seats vests with the Union Government. Ideally, an appropriate direction/notification may be issues by the concerned authority providing for reservations in the manner the Government deems appropriate to the extent of the AIQ seats".

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2932
ANSWERED ON 23/12/2022**

SS(GRR)

CASES PENDING IN ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

✓ †2932. SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:

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

- (a) the total number of cases in the Allahabad High Court along with the number of those pending for more than 30 years; and**
(b) the reasons for the long pendency of these cases?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): As per the information provided by Allahabad High Court, the total number of cases in the Allahabad High Court as on 30.11.2022 is 10,31,143 and the number of those pending for more than 30 years is 52,759.

(b): The pendency of cases is a multi-faceted problem. With an increase in the population of the country and enhanced awareness among the public about their rights, filing of fresh cases is also increasing, year after year.

There are several reasons for large pendency of cases in the courts which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number 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.

While the disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the domain of the judiciary, the Government has also taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a 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 during the last eight years under various initiatives for aiding early disposal and their outcomes are as follows:

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9291.79 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 21,159 as on 30.11.2022, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022, under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 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. There are 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential units made available under the scheme so far. 2673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction as part of ongoing projects.

(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 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized district and subordinate courts. All stakeholders, including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district & subordinate courts and high courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access the case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 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 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown began, the district courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the high courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) via video conferencing till 31.10.2022. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 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
16.12.2022	25,017	19,192

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) **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.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 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. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022. 731 FTSC are functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

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

(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	8,62,464	31.51%
ST	4,90,729	17.93%
OBC	7,94,986	29.04%
Women	9,19,389	33.59%
General	5,88,932	21.52%
As of 30th Nov 2022,		

(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 LEGAL AFFAIRS**

LOK SABHA

NDIA Cell

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2966
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 23rd DECEMBER, 2022**

Mediation of Disputes through ADR

2966. SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI:

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

- (a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen mediation and conciliation as an ADR tool at the State/UT level;
- (b) whether it is proposed to refer all the disputes raised against State/UT Governments like land acquisition, infringement of rights at pre-litigation stage to mediation and conciliation as the Government itself is one of the major litigants;
- (c) the steps taken to rationalize honorarium paid to para-legals so as to make the legal services provided by the State more efficient and beneficial to the general public; and
- (d) whether the proposal to convene pre-litigation Lok-adalat after every three months is likely to be accorded consideration to deal with the problem of litigation explosion?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Government is strengthening ADR mechanisms including mediation and conciliation by bringing several legislative measures. These ADR mechanisms are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes *i.e.* through adversarial litigation.

Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, was inserted through the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, and is made effective from 01.07.2002. It states that where it appears to the Court that there exist elements of a settlement which may be acceptable to the parties, the Court shall formulate the terms of settlement and give them to the parties for their observations and after receiving the observations of

the parties, the Court may reformulate the terms of a possible settlement and refer the same for arbitration; conciliation; judicial settlement including settlement through Lok Adalat; or mediation.

The provision of conciliation with regard to its commencement proceedings, the procedure, signing of settlement agreement and termination proceedings was brought into Part III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mechanism is present under section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015. Section 12A of the Act states that where a commercial dispute of specified value does not contemplate any urgent interim relief, the parties have to first exhaust the mandatory remedy of PIMS before approaching the Court. These mechanisms can be availed by any party to a dispute.

To bring a standalone law on Mediation, the Mediation Bill, 2021 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20.12.2021. The Bill redefines the statutory framework on mediation including amending the connected provisions in other existing enactments to the extent necessary and subsumes conciliation within mediation. The Bill aims to *inter-alia* promote, encourage and facilitate mediation for resolution of disputes, commercial or otherwise and enforce mediation settlement agreements. Clause 49 of the Bill empowers the Central and State Governments to frame and notify scheme or guidelines for resolution of any dispute through mediation or conciliation in cases where they or any of their entity or agencies is one of the parties.

(b) As per Entry 14 of the First Schedule to the Mediation Bill, 2021 the disputes raised in matters of land acquisition are disputes or matters which are not fit for Mediation under clause 7 of the Bill. Further, Clause 6 of the Bill stipulates the procedure for pre-litigation mediation which *inter-alia* states that any party before filing any suit or proceedings of civil or commercial nature in any court shall take steps to settle the disputes by pre-litigation mediation. The clause enables that the provision of pre-litigation mediation shall be applicable to tribunals as notified by the Central Government or State Government, as the case may be. Therefore, such matters including matters before tribunals which may be notified by the Central Government or the State Government, in terms of clause 6 of the Bill, shall be required to be referred to mediation at the pre-litigation stage.

(c) The National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) has piloted the Para Legal Volunteers Scheme, 2009, which is aimed at imparting legal training to volunteers selected from different walks of life, to enable that legal aid reaches all sections of the society thereby ultimately removing the barriers to access to justice. The Para Legal Volunteers are aimed at being intermediaries, bridging the gap between the common people and the legal services institutions.

The State Legal Services Authorities in consultation with the National Legal Services Authority may fix an honorarium for the Para Legal Volunteers engaged in the legal aid clinics.

In order to rationalize the honorarium paid, the honorarium for the volunteers who have rendered services on any day has been stipulated to be not be less than Rs. 250/-

per day. The volunteers are also eligible for payment of honorarium if on any particular day they assist persons in connection with the para-legal services by accompanying such persons to various offices including Courts.

A State-wise statement containing the details of the per day honorarium being paid to para legal volunteers as on the month of June 2022 is annexed as Annexure A.

(d) Lok Adalats are organized as per the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 read with the National Legal Service Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009. In the said Lok Adalats, matters pending in courts and matters at pre-litigation stage i.e. disputes between the parties which have not been filed before the court are taken up and attempted to be settled amicably.

NALSA organizes four (4) National Lok Adalats across the country in a year, preferably on a second Saturday, which is a holiday to enable maximum participation. The State Legal Service Authorities are also entitled to schedule and organise State level Lok Adalats as required. NALSA issues a calendar every year for National Lok Adalats proposed to be held in the said year.

The State Legal Services Authorities in terms of the National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 are also organizing Lok Adalats from time to time and regularly in order to reduce the burden on courts and thereby enable timely dispensation of justice to the citizens of the country.

NALSA has been using technological advancements and virtual platforms for enhancing participation and evolving effective ways of supervision and monitoring of the Lok Adalats. NALSA has also issued directions to organize Lok Adalats on specific subject matters to enable settlement of larger number of disputes.

The schedule for National Lok Adalats for the year 2023 is as under:

Sl. No.	Month	Dates
1.	February	11.02.2023
2.	May	13.05.2023
3.	September	09.09.2023
4.	December	09.12.2023

HONORARIUM PAID TO PARA LEGAL VOLUNTEERS AS ON JUNE,2022		
S.NO.	Name of SLSA	Honorarium paid to PLVs per day
1	Andhra Pradesh	Rs.500/-
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs.500/-
3	Assam	Rs.500/-
4	Bihar	Rs.500/-
5	Chhattisgarh	Rs.500/-
6	Goa	Rs.500/-
7	Gujarat	Rs.600/-in HCLSC and Rs.400/- DLSAs
8	Haryana	Rs.400/-
9	Himachal Pradesh	Rs.500/-
10	Jharkhand	Rs.500/-
11	Karnataka	Rs.500/-
12	Kerala	Rs.750/-
13	Madhya Pradesh	Rs.500/-
14	Maharashtra	Rs.500/-
15	Manipur	Rs.500/-
16	Meghalaya	Rs.250/-
17	Mizoram	Rs.500/-
18	Nagaland	Rs.500/-
19	Odisha	Rs.500/-
20	Punjab	Rs.400/-
21	Rajasthan	Rs.500/- (maximum Rs.7000/- per month)
22	Sikkim	Rs.500/-
23	Tamil Nadu	Rs.500/-
24	Telangana	Rs.500/-
25	Tripura	Rs.400/-
26	Uttar Pradesh	Rs.400/-
27	Uttarakhand	Rs.500/-
28	West Bengal	Rs.500/-
29	A & N Islands	Rs.500/-
30	Chandigarh	Rs.550/-
31	D & N Haveli	Rs.500/-
32	Daman & Diu	-
33	Delhi	As per approved fee schedule Rs.600/- to Rs.1800/-
34	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs.500/-
35	Lakshadweep	Rs.250/-
36	Ladakh	Rs.500/-
37	Puducherry	Rs.500/-
