

# 2022

## RAJYA SABHA REPLIES

**WINTER SESSION, 2022 [258<sup>th</sup>  
SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA]  
[7<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 to 29<sup>th</sup>  
December, 2022]**

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

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**RAJYA SABHA**

*Admn III (LA)*

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.263  
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**VACANCIES IN LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA AND CAT**

**263. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:  
SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:  
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairperson of the Law Commission of India has been vacant since September 2018;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same and the details of acting Chairperson of the Law Commission; and
- (c) the date by when Government will appoint a new Chairperson of the Law Commission?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRIKIREN RIJJU)**

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**(a)to (c):** The 22nd Law Commission of India has been constituted for a term of three years w.e.f. 21st February, 2020. Mr. Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Retired Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court has been appointed as Chairperson of 22nd Law Commission of India.

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 264**

JK

JS(GRR) ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022

**LACK OF JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

✓ 264. **SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI  
SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH**

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

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

**ANSWER**

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

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

by providing financial assistance to state governments / UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between Centre and States. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of district and subordinate judiciary. As against the sanctioned strength of 24,982 and working strength of 19,251 judges/judicial officers there are 21,140 court halls and 18,547 residential units available as on 31.10.2022.

A sum of Rs. 9291.79 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 5847.48 crore (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 central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. Besides the construction of court halls and residential quarters, the scheme now also covers the construction of lawyers' halls, digital computer rooms and toilet complexes in the district and subordinate Courts. The scheme guidelines also include the Norms and Specifications for the Court Buildings which suggests the state governments to comply with the existing standards for disabled friendly people, while preparing the construction plan for ongoing court complexes and facilities and the new projects.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 265  
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022

NM

JS(GRR)

PENDING COURT CASES

✓ 265. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether 4.67 crore cases are pending in various courts in the country;  
(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, State-wise;  
(c) the details of new cases filed in various courts and disposed of during 2022 till date; and  
(d) the details of the number and percentage of cases in the country as on date wherein Central/State Governments are party, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) & (b): According to information obtained from the Supreme Court of India, as on 29.11.2022, the number of cases pending is 69744. The number of cases pending as on 05.12.2022 in the High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts is at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II*, respectively.

(c): As per information received from the Supreme Court of India, the number of cases filed and disposed in various courts during 2022 is as under:-

Name of the Courts	Cases filed during 2022	Cases disposed during 2022
Supreme Court* (as on 31.10.2022)	28651	29109
High Courts* (as on 30.09.2022)	1540254	1494201
District & Subordinate Courts* (as on 30.09.2022)	19377109	17624307

\* Source Supreme Court of India



(d): The Government has been in the forefront to promote an alternative system to dispose of cases out of the court where the Government is a party and between private parties. A legal framework for the resolution of disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has been provided under the Section 89 of the CPC. Besides, the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 recourse to ADR can be taken under the Companies Act, 2013, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, to name a few. The parties can resolve their dispute outside the courts by using the ADR mechanism provided by the law.

As regards commercial disputes, where both parties are government/department or where one party is government/department and other is one of its instrumentalities (CPSEs/Boards/Authorities, etc.), the Department of Legal Affairs has issued a guideline namely, “Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of Disputes (AMRD)”. The AMRD applies to any/all dispute(s), other than those related to taxation, between central government ministries/departments and other ministries/ departments/organization(s)/subordinate/attached offices/ autonomous and statutory bodies, etc., under their administrative supervision/control. As per the Department of Legal Affairs, the total number of pending cases in various courts are 6.17 lakhs on Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS Portal) where Union of India is a party.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 265 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2022 REGARDING  
PENDING COURT CASES.

High Court Wise Pendency as on 05.12.2022

S.No	Name of the High Court	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total
1.	Allahabad High Court	542336	460544	1002880
2.	Bombay High Court	489624	99093	588717
3.	Calcutta High Court	173732	29050	202782
4.	Gauhati High Court	45215	11537	56752
5.	High Court for State of Telangana	214369	33484	247853
6.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	199318	34470	233788
7.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	56788	30948	87736
8.	High Court of Delhi	73335	29112	102447
9.	High Court of Gujarat	102721	54383	157104
10.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	76308	11662	87970
11.	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	36125	7273	43398
12.	High Court of Jharkhand	38075	45961	84036
13.	High Court of Karnataka	245872	46369	292241
14.	High Court of Kerala	154909	39113	194022
15.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	257388	158414	415802
16.	High Court of Manipur	4242	446	4688
17.	High Court of Meghalaya	970	132	1102
18.	High Court of Orissa	119240	41769	161009
19.	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	273163	164267	437430
20.	High Court of Rajasthan	449759	164044	613803
21.	High Court of Sikkim	135	30	165
22.	High Court of Tripura	1511	151	1662
23.	High Court of Uttarakhand	24783	18389	43172
24.	Madras High Court	483899	51736	535635
25.	Patna High Court	108859	98058	206917
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4172676</b>	<b>1630435</b>	<b>5803111</b>

Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 265 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2022 REGARDING 'PENDING COURT CASES'.**

**Details of Pending Cases in the country State / UT-wise as on 05.12.2022**

S.No	Name of the State	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total Cases
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	3139	8996	12135
2.	Andhra Pradesh	412290	402880	815170
3.	Arunachal Pradesh*	--	--	--
4.	Assam	93048	394537	487585
5.	Bihar	507274	2931567	3438841
6.	Chandigarh	23025	55042	78067
7.	Chhattisgarh	75275	325912	401187
8.	Delhi	248904	1044983	1293887
9.	Diu and Daman	1430	1468	2898
10.	DNH at Silvassa	1858	1921	3779
11.	Goa	25643	30159	55802
12.	Gujarat	425915	1304109	1730024
13.	Haryana	452311	973766	1426077
14.	Himachal Pradesh	153231	317782	471013
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	98290	197627	295917
16.	Jharkhand	90114	431796	521910
17.	Karnataka	904002	974445	1878447
18.	Kerala	510526	1349431	1859957
19.	Ladakh	640	478	1118
20.	Lakshadweep*	---	---	---
21.	Madhya Pradesh	392136	1561595	1953731
22.	Maharashtra	1556337	3378238	4934575
23.	Manipur	8005	4244	12249
24.	Meghalaya	4518	11713	16231
25.	Mizoram	2323	2836	5159
26.	Nagaland	578	2398	2976
27.	Odisha	301755	1255255	1557010
28.	Puducherry	13015	19902	32917
29.	Punjab	400250	518283	918533
30.	Rajasthan	528985	1586472	2115457
31.	Sikkim	656	1195	1851
32.	Tamil Nadu	759100	669989	1429089
33.	Telangana	419915	623991	1043906
34.	Tripura	11213	28294	39507
35.	Uttar Pradesh	1857821	9093207	10951028
36.	Uttarakhand	44529	284805	329334
37.	West Bengal	607743	2093001	2700744
<b>Total</b>		<b>10935794</b>	<b>31882317</b>	<b>42818111</b>

\*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 & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 266  
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COURTS AND APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES**

AS(L&A)  
✓ **266. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:**

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

- (a) the details of pending cases/ ongoing trials in various courts of the country till 31st October 2022, State-wise and district-wise including Punjab;
- (b) the number of judges serving in different courts of the country till 31st October 2022, State-wise and district-wise including Punjab;
- (c) whether Government is planning to establish more courts and appoint new judges in various courts in the country, including Punjab to deal with pending/undertrial cases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a):** According to information available on the Supreme Court website and the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal, the number of cases pending is as under:-

Name of Courts	Pendency
Supreme Court (as on 01.11.2022)	69781
High Courts (02.12.2022)	5808413

The number of cases pending State-wise and district-wise, in the district & subordinate courts as on 02.12.2022 is at *Annexure-I*.

**(b):** The number of judges serving in different courts of the country till 31st October 2022, state-wise and district-wise including Punjab is given at **Annexure-II & Annexure-III**.

**(c) & (d):** 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 the 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. Filling up vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated, and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation with and approval from various constitutional authorities, both at the state and central levels. While every effort is made to fill existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of judges in high courts continue to arise as a result of retirement, resignation, or elevation of judges as well as an increase in the strength of judges.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 266 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2022 REGARDING 'ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COURTS AND APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES'.**

**State and District-wise Pendency in District & Subordinate Courts**

Sl. NO.	State/UTs	District	Pendency as on 02.12.2022
1.	<u>Andhra Pradesh</u>	Ananthapur	67261
		Chittoor	75401
		East Godavari	76383
		Guntur	88953
		Kadapa	46960
		Krishna	87702
		Kurnool	71934
		Nellore	48135
		Prakasham	59012
		Srikakulam	26750
		Visakapatnam	78399
		Vizianagaram	25640
		VIZIANAGARAM	0
		West Godavari	61389
		<b>Total</b>	<b>813919</b>
2.	<u>Assam</u>	Baksa	4617
		Barpeta	18962
		Bongaigaon	13160
		Cachar	30932
		Charaideo	1414
		Chirang	5263
		Darrang	16144
		Dhemaji	3935
		Dhubri	30020
		Dibrugarh	21510
		Dima Hasao	730
		Goalpara	14190
		Golaghat	10485
		Hailakandi	16527
		Hojai	6275
		Jorhat	17305
		Kamrup	14501
		Kamrup Metro	106013
		KarbiAnglong	4470
		Karimganj	17581
		Kokrajhar	4979
		Lakhimpur	11578
		Morigaon	15923
Nagaon	32531		
Nalbari	11367		

		Sivasagar	13615
		Sonitpur	15581
		South SalmaraMankachar	4046
		Tinsukia	11664
		Udalguri	2789
		<b>Total</b>	<b>487021</b>
3.	<u>Bihar</u>	Araria	73753
		Aurangabad	63891
		Banka	54162
		Begusarai	92901
		Bettiah	127492
		Bhagalpur	120162
		Bhojpur	102954
		Buxar	62139
		Darbhanga	90757
		Gaya	160105
		Gopalganj	91552
		Jamui	48202
		Jehanabad	43957
		Kaimur at Bhabhua	51902
		Katihar	75218
		Khagaria	49906
		Kishanganj	25199
		Lakhisarai	33887
		Madhepura	50362
		Madhubani	100392
		Motihari	175307
		Munger	56864
		Muzaffarpur	184255
		Nalanda	113299
		Nawada	76131
		Patna	437954
		Purnea	74380
		RohtasSasaram	100084
		Saharsa	59768
		Samastipur	115032
		Saran at Chapra	158197
		Sheikhpura	16770
		Sheohar	11332
		Sitamarhi	83995
		Siwan	103694
		Supaul	53338
		Vaishali	100709
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3440002</b>
4.	<u>Chhattisgarh</u>	Balod	7342
		Balodabazar	16967
		BalrampurRamanujganj	8074
		Bastar	9083

		Bemetara	6243
		Bilaspur	49075
		Dantewada	2475
		Dhamtari	9575
		Durg	44866
		Janjgir	18706
		Jashpur	5472
		Kanker	5284
		Kawardha	8805
		Kondagaon	3128
		Korba	18573
		Koriya	12107
		Mahasamund	15304
		Mungeli	8230
		Raigarh	24273
		Raipur	78473
		Rajnandgaon	22007
		Surajpur	12797
		Surguja at Ambikapur	13867
		<b>Total</b>	<b>400726</b>
5.	<u>Goa</u>	North Goa	39658
		South Goa	16154
		<b>Total</b>	<b>55812</b>
6.	<u>Gujarat</u>	Ahmedabad	520264
		Amreli	25433
		Anand	40252
		Aravalli at Modasa	15861
		Banaskanth at Palanpur	40857
		Bharuch	50944
		Bhavnagar	57332
		BOTAD	13542
		ChhotaUdepur	10319
		Dahod	20579
		DevbhumiDwarka at Khambhaliya	9767
		Gandhinagar	42477
		GirSomnath at Veraval	24892
		Jamnagar	30531
		Junagadh	31889
		Kachchh at Bhuj	65893
		Kheda at Nadiad	42326
		Mehesana	52667
		Mahisagar at Lunawada	9803
		MORBI	28404
		Narmada	6961
		Navsari	22183
		Panchmahal at Godhra	31006
		Patan	25993



		Porbandar	12617
		RAJKOT	119327
		Sabarkantha at Himmatnagar	29140
		Surat	154307
		Surendranagar	24183
		Tapi	6400
		Vadodara	121905
		Valsad	43276
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1731330</b>
7.	<u>Himachal Pradesh</u>	Bilaspur	25396
		Chamba	14883
		Hamirpur	36407
		Kangra	64251
		Kinnaur	19693
		Kullu	43450
		Mandi	51541
		Shimla	93696
		Sirmaur	26397
		Solan	58416
		Una	36295
		<b>Total</b>	<b>470425</b>
8.	<u>Haryana</u>	Ambala	61894
		Bhiwani	64698
		Faridabad	127445
		Fatehabad	28256
		Gurugram	344807
		Hisar	67252
		Jhajjar	42815
		Jind	38166
		Kaithal	41234
		Karnal	88688
		Kurukshetra	46704
		Narnaul	39652
		Nuh	39692
		Palwal	42271
		Panchkula	24348
		Panipat	52628
		Rewari	47576
		Rohtak	58261
		Sirsa	44651
		Sonepat	67600
		Yamunanagar	54358
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1422996</b>
9.	<u>Jharkhand</u>	Bokaro	20744
		Chatra	19845
		Daltonganj	33939
		Deoghar	27302

		Dhanbad	62927
		Dumka	14360
		East Singhbhum at Jamshedpur	46304
		Garhwa	28447
		Giridih	42943
		Godda	18408
		Gumla	10430
		Hazaribagh	38356
		Jamtara	7116
		Khunti	4640
		Koderma	15478
		Latehar	9072
		Lohardaga	6171
		Pakur	7177
		Ramgarh	14847
		Ranchi	66885
		Sahibganj	7859
		Seraikella	8699
		Simdega	3492
		West Singhbhum at chaibasa	7189
		<b>Total</b>	<b>522630</b>
10.	<u>Kerala</u>	Alappuzha	86736
		Ernakulam	299417
		Idukki	72473
		Kannur	67853
		Kasaragod	26026
		Kollam	222824
		Kottayam	121686
		Kozhikode	81703
		Lakshwadeep	0
		Malappuram	69222
		Palakkad	81875
		Pathanamthitta	123338
		Thiruvananthapuram	383486
		Thirssur	196340
		Wayanad	25167
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1858146</b>
11.	<u>Karnataka</u>	Bagalkot	51780
		Ballari	57364
		Belagavi	129374
		Bengaluru	351133
		Bengaluru Rural	148295
		Bidar	27193
		Chamrajnagar	20598
		Chikkballapur	39570
		Chikkamagaluru	32600

		Chitradurga	38161
		Dakshina Kannada	53475
		Davangere	38060
		Dharwad	45009
		Gadag	18150
		Hassan	82734
		Haveri	34987
		Kalaburagi	44697
		Kodagu	18269
		Kolar	41973
		Koppal	31611
		Mandya	85953
		Mysuru	119436
		Raichur	34552
		Ramanagaram	49176
		Shivamogga	48087
		Tumakuru	86493
		Udupi	33978
		Uttara Kannada	35786
		Vijayapura	61713
		Yadgir	17333
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1877540</b>
12.	<u>Maharashtra</u>	Ahmednagar	196725
		Akola	89754
		Amravati	136753
		Aurangabad	201944
		Beed	104352
		Bhandara	24131
		Buldhana	109214
		Chandrapur	92411
		Dhule	45596
		Gadchiroli	16370
		Gondia	29325
		Jalgaon	110141
		Jalna	71796
		Kolhapur	133221
		Latur	95836
		Mah State Cooperative Appellat	20462
		Maharashtra Industrial and Lab	61544
		Maharashtra-Family Courts	59322
		Maharashtra-School Tribunals	6635
		Mumbai City Civil Court	133877
		Mumbai CMM Courts	530763
		Mumbai Motor Accident Claims T	7975

		Mumbai Small Causes Court	28012
		Nagpur	289349
		Nanded	97113
		Nandurbar	27433
		Nashik	244694
		Osmanaabad	85246
		Parbhani	85235
		Pune	592384
		Raigad	90057
		Ratnagiri	29062
		Sangli	101209
		Satara	112456
		Sindhudurg	17644
		Solapur	210326
		Thane	407092
		Wardha	73480
		Washim	46137
		Yavatmal	117576
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4932652</b>
13.	<u>Madhya Pradesh</u>	Alirajpur	6562
		Anuppur	15367
		Ashoknagr	17998
		Balaghat	25124
		Barwani	16667
		Betul	25519
		Bhind	35906
		Bhopal	126668
		Burhanpur	12609
		Chhatarpur	35009
		Chhindwara	36239
		Damoh	22270
		Datia	18421
		Dewas	40040
		Dhar	46173
		Dindori	12389
		Guna	31934
		Gwalior	95157
		Harda	11888
		Hoshangabad	29768
		Indore	236115
		Jabalpur	136738
		Jhabua	14104
		Katni	37523
		Khandwa	20706
		Mandla	13111
		Mandleshwar	25301
		Mandsaur	39770

		Morena	49206
		Narsinghpur	19745
		Neemuch	20864
		Panna	14332
		Raisen	23755
		Rajgarh	36005
		Ratlam	40731
		Rewa	82881
		Sagar	62276
		Satna	61124
		Sehore	23109
		Seoni	22712
		Shahdol	27838
		Shajapur	31890
		Sheopur	7670
		Shivpuri	30456
		Sidhi	31183
		Singrauli	38146
		Tikamgarh	29744
		Ujjain	69300
		Umaria	10283
		Vidisha	33159
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1951485</b>
14.	<u>Manipur</u>	Bhisnupur	907
		Chandel	81
		Churachandpur	201
		Imphal East	2444
		Imphal West	6468
		Senapati	350
		Tamenglong	117
		Thoubal	1510
		Ukhrul	164
		<b>Total</b>	<b>12242</b>
15.	<u>Meghalaya</u>	East Garo Hills	323
		East Jaintia Hills	1437
		East Khasi Hills	6482
		KHADC Court	3045
		North Garo Hills	244
		RiBhoi	1736
		South West Garo Hills	186
		South West Khasi Hills	0
		West Garo Hills	1221
		West Jaintia Hills	1161
		West Khasi Hills	386
		<b>Total</b>	<b>16221</b>
16.	<u>Mizoram</u>	Aizwal	4477
		Kolasib	343
		Lunglei	341

		<b>Total</b>	<b>5161</b>
17.	<u>Nagaland</u>	Dimapur	1947
		Kohima	749
		Mokokchung	134
		Wokah	146
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2976</b>
18.	<u>Odisha</u>	Anugul	73539
		Balangir	42731
		Balasore	111397
		Bargarh	43961
		Bhadrak	95004
		Boudh	13078
		Cuttack	146785
		Deogarh	10323
		Dhenkanal	36858
		Gajapati	7049
		Ganjam	71640
		Jagatsinghpur	33787
		Jajpur	63194
		Jharsuguda	38922
		Kalahandi	38991
		Kandhamal	15001
		Kendrapada	35964
		Keonjhar	49682
		Khurda	180709
		Koraput	33747
		Malkangiri	7665
		Mayurbhanj	71176
		Nabarangpur	20729
		Nayagarh	22022
		Naupada	12480
		Puri	71001
		Rayagada	19653
Sambalpur	79307		
Sonepur	13438		
Sundargarh	98406		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1558239</b>
19.	<u>Punjab</u>	Amritsar	79232
		Barnala	14259
		Bathinda	47219
		Faridkot	17095
		Fatehgarh sahib	19612
		Fazilka	30313
		Ferozepur	29199
		Gurdaspur	39083
		Hoshiarpur	39658
		Jalandhar	82022
		Kapurthala	25466

		Ludhiana	164084
		Mansa	19608
		Moga	22260
		Mohali	52883
		Pathankot	18069
		Patiala	78210
		Rupnagar	24918
		Sangrur	53201
		SBS Nagar	14554
		Sri Muktsar Sahib	25697
		Tarn Taran	23386
		<b>Total</b>	<b>920028</b>
20.	<u>Rajasthan</u>	Ajmer	96664
		Alwar	129680
		BalotraBarmer	31470
		Banswara	19701
		Baran	32743
		Bharatpur	63157
		Bhilwara	77066
		Bikaner	61727
		Bundi	29004
		Chittorgarh	50134
		Churu	31915
		Dausa	35532
		Dholpur	21084
		Dungarpur	12902
		Ganganagar	66739
		Hanumangarh	43899
		Jaipur District	64281
		Jaipur Metro I	236205
		Jaipur Metro II	247314
		Jaisalmer	12118
		Jalore	19838
		Jhalawar	33206
		Jhunjhunu	36939
		Jodhpur District	26642
		Jodhpur Metro	109128
		Karauli	25019
		Kota	93670
		MertaNagaur	44270
		Pali	64133
		Pratapgarh	11828
		Rajsamand	33093
		SawaiMadhopur	27282
		Sikar	60222
		Sirohi	23149
		Tonk	36210
		Udaipur	107036

		<b>Total</b>	<b>2115000</b>
21.	<u>Sikkim</u>	Gangtok	1183
		Gyalshing	163
		Mangan	27
		Namchi	428
		PAKYONG	33
		SORENG	13
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1847</b>
22.	<u>Tamil Nadu</u>	Ariyalur	13840
		Chennai	166782
		Coimbatore	86658
		Cuddalore	53331
		Dharmapuri	22479
		Dindigul	43523
		Erode	44785
		Kancheepuram	71554
		Kanniyakumari	44368
		Karur	23594
		Krishnagiri	35223
		Madurai	75990
		Nagapattinam	22200
		Namakkal	28441
		Perambalur	9752
		Pudukkottai	22718
		Ramanathapuram	19095
		Salem	63839
		Sivagangai	27587
		Thanjavur	36037
		The Nilgiris	9073
		Theni	24147
		Thoothukudi	36687
		Tiruchirappalli	58813
		Tirunelveli	78976
		Tiruppur	53295
		Tiruvallur	61588
		Tiruvannamalai	34814
		Tiruvarur	14888
		Vellore	54457
Viluppuram	57038		
Virudhunagar	33515		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1429087</b>		
23.	<u>Telangana</u>	Adilabad	9412
		BhadradiKothagudem	18021
		Hanumakonda	34629
		Hyderabad Central	158105
		Jagitial	15068
		Jangoan	10387
		JayashankarBhupalapally	6340



		JogulambaGadwal	17946
		Kamareddy	10817
		Karimnagar	33276
		Khammam	33324
		KamuramBheemAsifabad	4534
		Mahabubabad	10194
		Mahabubnagar	18167
		Mancherial	14152
		Medak	11954
		MedchalMalkajgiri	106024
		Mulugu	106024
		Nagarkurnool	24164
		Nalgonda	41994
		Narayanpet	8455
		Nirmal	10045
		Nizamabad	19224
		Peddapalli	20014
		RanjannaSricilla	10243
		Rangareddy	118523
		Sangareddy	51006
		Siddipet	41935
		Suryapet	53164
		Vikarabad	30914
		Wanaparthi	20895
		Warangal	43425
		YadadriBhuvanagiri	29602
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1039498</b>
24.	<u>Tripura</u>	Dhalai Tripura	2501
		Gomati District	3523
		Khowai Tripura	3254
		North Tripura	3573
		Sepahijala Tripura	4457
		South Tripura	3526
		Unakoti Tripura	2660
		West Tripura	15637
		<b>Total</b>	<b>39131</b>
25.	<u>Uttarakhand</u>	Almora	2520
		Bageshwar	849
		Chamoli	1486
		Champawat	3262
		Dehradun	122372
		Haridwar	86033
		Nainital	25585
		PauriGarhwal	7307
		Pithoragarh	4337
		Rudraprayag	746
		TehriGarhwal	3046
		Udham Singh Nagar	68761

		Uttarkashi	2861
		<b>Total</b>	<b>329165</b>
26.	<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>	Agra	359753
		Aligarh	180335
		Allahabad	319400
		Ambedkar Nagar	84547
		Amroha	69301
		Auraiya	60248
		Azamgarh	158764
		Baghpat	66957
		Bahraich	168606
		Ballia	116194
		BalramPur	77140
		Banda	87715
		Barabanki	122331
		Bareilly	216599
		Basti	124630
		Bhadohi SR Nagar	51266
		Bijnor	147676
		Badaun	122443
		<del>Bulandshahr</del>	<del>142581</del>
		Chandouli	88866
		Chitrakoot	30199
		Deoria	153966
		Etah	77877
		Etawah	78617
		Faizabad	151554
		Farrukhabad	102388
		Fatehpur	129379
		Firozabad	150726
		Gautam Buddha Nagar	643976
		Ghaziabad	244245
		Ghazipur	132066
		Gonda	194608
		Gorakhpur	308470
		Hamirpur	55258
		Hapur	74758
		Hardoi	149021
Hathras	91702		
Jalaun	67533		
Jaunpur	205156		
Jhansi	106499		
Kannauj	103346		
Kanpur Dehat	159961		
Kanpur Nagar	524232		
Kasganj	52736		
Kaushambi	67425		
Kushinagar	165356		

		Lakhimpur	160910
		Lalitpur	64005
		Lucknow	459541
		Maharajganj	101596
		Mahoba	32280
		Mainpuri	90050
		Mathura	153616
		Mau	111423
		Meerut	258728
		Mirzapur	95114
		Moradabad	158564
		Muzaffarnagar	143383
		Pilibhit	110286
		Pratapgarh	165989
		Raebareli	159648
		Rampur	93200
		Saharanpur	208617
		Sambhal at Chandausi	82846
		Santkabir Nagar	90495
		Shahjahanpur	134485
		Shamli	52164
		Shravasti	47917
		Siddharthnagar	107468
		Sitapur	198835
		Sonbhadra	70624
		<del>Sunampur</del>	<del>207158</del>
		Unnao	103254
		Varanasi	308491
		<b>Total</b>	<b>10957093</b>
27.	<u>West Bengal</u>	Bankura	38836
		Bhirbum	63527
		Calcutta	698805
		Coochbehar	36216
		Darjeeling	31713
		Hooghly	107848
		Howrah	114664
		Jalpaiguri	75451
		Jhargram	13647
		Kalimpong	1493
		Malda	52555
		Murshidabad	191888
		Nadia	129562
		North Twenty Four Parganas	276902
		North Dinajpur	41969
		PaschimBardhaman	108156
		PaschimMedinpur	92798
		PurbaBardhaman	75716

		PurbaMedinipur	99297
		Purulia	30913
		South Dinajpur	30937
		South Twenty Four Parganas	387851
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2700744</b>
28	Andman and Nicobar	Port Blair	12135
		<b>Total</b>	<b>12135</b>
29	<u>Chandigarh</u>	Chandigarh	78165
		<b>Total</b>	<b>78165</b>
30	<u>Delhi</u>	Central	178417
		East	66949
		New Delhi	179719
		North	86217
		North East	42090
		North West	139805
		Shahdara	76092
		South	115806
		South East	123835
		South West	187508
		West	97495
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1293933</b>
31	<u>Puducherry</u>	Karaikal	6273
		Mahe	513
		Puducherry	25746
		Yanam	385
		<b>Total</b>	<b>32917</b>
32	<u>Daman &amp; Diu</u>	Daman	2168
		Diu	730
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2898</b>
33	<u>Ladakh</u>	Kargil	574
		Leh	541
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1115</b>
34	<u>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</u>	Anantnag	15151
		Bandipora	4642
		Baramulla	19794
		Budgam	11938
		Doda	6543
		Ganderbal	4531
		Jammu	62861
		Kathua	10005
		Kishtwar	2994
		Kulgam	5694
		Kupwara	13002
		Poonch	4095
		Pulwama	9115
		Rajouri	10081
		Ramban	4482

		Reasi	4558
		Samba	6881
		Shopian	6183
		Srinagar	83225
		Udhampur	9645
		<b>Total</b>	<b>295420</b>
35.	<u>DNH at Silvasa</u>	Silvasa	3779
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3779</b>

\* Data Source – National Judicial Data Grid Portal (NJDG) of DoJ

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 266 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2022 REGARDING 'ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COURTS AND APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES'.****State-wise working strength of Judicial Officers as on 31.10.2022**

Sl. No.	States & Uts	Working Strength
1	Andaman and Nicobar	13
2	Andhra Pradesh	536
3	Arunachal Pradesh	33
4	Assam	426
5	Bihar	1351
6	Chandigarh	30
7	Chhattisgarh	436
8	D & N Haveli	2
9	Daman & Diu	4
10	Delhi	682
11	Goa	40
12	Gujarat	1154
13	Haryana	471
14	Himachal Pradesh	165
15	Jammu and Kashmir	236
16	Jharkhand	508
17	Karnataka	1133
18	Kerala	469
19	Ladakh	9
20	Lakshadweep	18
21	Madhya Pradesh	1527
22	Maharashtra	1940
23	Manipur	42
24	Meghalaya	51
25	Mizoram	41
26	Nagaland	24
27	Odisha	769
28	Puducherry	11
29	Punjab	596
30	Rajasthan	1257
31	Sikkim	21
32	Tamil Nadu	1069
33	Telangana	410
34	Tripura	109
35	Uttar Pradesh	2481
36	Uttarakhand	270
37	West Bengal	918
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>19237</b>

Note: District wise working strength not available/maintained on MIS portal.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 266 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2022 REGARDING 'ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COURTS AND APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES'**

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (As on 31.10.2022)

A.	Supreme 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	42	24	66	29	-1	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	45	1	46	1	13	14
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	11	0	11	2	4	6
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	32	0	32	7	14	21
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	35	0	35	5	13	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	39	17	56	25	4	29
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	27	0	27	11	12	23
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	4	0	4	0	1	1
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	7	0	7	2	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>334</b>

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 267

ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022

# M

JSC(RR)

PENDENCY OF CASES

✓ 267 # SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of criminal and civil cases are pending in various courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the complete details of such cases pending for completion of trials for more than ten years; and
- (c) whether Government has issued any advisory to courts for minimum adjournments and for speedy trials of cases and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): As per information received from the Supreme Court of India, the number of matters pending for more than 10 years is 11049. The following data on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), which reflects the number of civil and criminal cases pending in high courts, district & subordinate courts for more than 10 years is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Civil	Criminal
1	High Courts* (as on 02.12.2022)	877669	374636
2	District & Subordinate Courts* (as on 02.12.2022)	691827	2726167

\*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

(c): The time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors, such as category of case (civil or criminal), the complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of various stakeholders, viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses, and litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, and applicable rules of procedure. Several factors may lead to delay in disposal of



cases which, *inter-alia*, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments, the number of revisions / appeals and lack of adequate arrangements to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. As such, it is not practicable to assess the average delay in the disposal of cases due to adjournments alone.

In order to expedite the trial of court cases a number of legislative changes have been made in procedural laws, which include provisions for limiting adjournments of court proceedings in criminal and civil matters as contained in Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Order XVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. The Government has adopted a coordinated approach to assist the 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.

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 268**

AS(AA)

**ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 08.12.2022**

**VACANCIES IN COURTS**

✓ **268. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:  
DR. JOHN BRITTAS:**

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court recently expressed its opinion over delay in notifying the names of judges recommended by the collegium;
- (b) number of collegium proposals pending with Government as on date and the reasons for delay;
- (c) number of collegium proposals returned by Government during the last five year, the reasons therefor;
- (d) State-wise details of proposals recommended by High Courts pending with the Supreme Court collegium and Government, the reasons therefor;
- (e) number of vacancies as on date in the Supreme Court and High Courts; and
- (f) whether Government proposes to reintroduce National Judicial Appointments Commission with suitable modifications?

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

(a) to (d): Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level. Government appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium

(SCC). As on 05.12.2022, there is 01 proposal for appointment of a Supreme Court Judge and 08 proposals for appointment of High Courts Judges recommended by the SCC are pending with the Government. Further, there are 11 proposals of transfer of High Court Judges, 01 proposal of transfer of a Chief Justice and 01 proposal of appointment of Chief Justice of a High Court recommended by the Supreme Court under consideration of the Government. Supreme Court while hearing a court case has expressed its opinion over delay in notifying the names of judges recommended by the collegium.

During the last five years, a total of 256 proposals have been remitted by the Government to the High Courts. The proposals are remitted to the concerned High Courts on the advice of the Supreme Court Collegium.

As on 05.12.2022, 146 proposals recommended by the High Court Collegiums are at various stages of processing with the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. The High Court-wise details is at Annexure.

(e) As on 05.12.2022, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, 27 Judges are working in the Supreme Court leaving 07 vacancies. In the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1108, 778 Judges are working leaving 330 vacancies.

(f) No Sir, at present there is no such proposal.

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Annexure

**Details of 146 proposals recommended by the High Courts and pending with  
- GoI and SCC**

Sl. No.	High Court	Number of proposals
1.	Allahabad	30
2.	Andhra Pradesh	03
3.	Bombay	16
4.	Calcutta	04
5.	Chhattisgarh	04
6.	Delhi	01
7.	Gujarat	11
8.	Gauhati	01
9.	Karnataka	11
10.	Kerala	02
11.	Madhya Pradesh	12
12.	Madras	18
13.	Manipur	02
14.	Meghalaya	01
15.	Orissa	01
16.	Patna	02
17.	Punjab and Haryana	01
18.	Rajasthan	18
19.	Telangana	03
20.	Uttarakhand	05
<b>Total</b>		<b>146</b>

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.269  
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022

LAP

SSCNK(2)

LOK ADALAT CAMPS

✓ 269. SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

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

- a) whether Lok Adalat Camps are organized continuously in the country;
- b) if so, the number of camps organized in the State of Gujarat during the last two years;
- c) the total number of complaints received in these camps; and
- d) the total number of complaints resolved through these camps, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) Lok Adalat is primarily a "People's Court" wherein decisions are arrived at between two or more disputing parties on mutually acceptable terms amicably. 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. 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 (LSAs) innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-Lok Adalat, wherein affected parties could get this matter resolved without visiting the venue of the Adalat physically.

(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, bimonthly, monthly 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 including State of Gujarat.

**(b) to (d):** The details of the Lok Adalats organized and cases disposed off in Lok Adalats in the State of Gujarat during the last two years are as under:-

(i) National Lok Adalat:

Year	No. of Lok Adalats organized	Pre-litigation Cases		Pending Cases	
		Taken up	Disposal	Taken up	Disposal
2021	3	4,99,419	70,424	9,66,644	6,78,298
2022	4	13,49,226	4,37,056	13,82,355	7,48,515

E-Lok Adalat:

Pre-Litigation Cases		Pending Cases in Courts	
Taken Up	Disposal	Taken Up	Disposal
46,189	3,521	37,738	20,945

(ii) State Lok Adalat:

Year	No. of benches constituted	Pre-litigation Cases		Pending Cases	
		Taken up	Disposal	Taken up	Disposal
2021-22	5,157	19,456	255	31,384	15,291
2022 -23 (upto Sept.22)	2,102	18,166	1,316	24,976	10,864

(iii) Permanent Lok Adalat:

Year	Cases settled
2021-22	2238
2022-23 (upto September, 2022)	8

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

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**RAJYA SABHA**

IMPL. CELL

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 271**

**ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**Unemployment amongst Law Graduates**

✓ 271. **SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:**

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

- (a) the number of unemployed law graduates in the country;
- (b) the measures taken by Government to reduce increasing unemployment amongst law graduates;
- (c) whether there are instances of junior advocates working without any pay or remuneration; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to address this issue?

**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 is deemed to have entered 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.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 272

SSC WK 2) ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022  
NYAYA MITRA SCHEME

✓ 272. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM:

A2J

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

- a) whether Government has launched Nyaya Mitra Scheme to assist the district judiciary in reducing the number of pending cases in several States of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- b) the States where it has been implemented so far; and
- c) whether the aims and objectives of the scheme have been achieved, if so, the State/UT wise details of the number of cases disposed of thereunder?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Nyaya Mitra (NM) aims to facilitate expeditious disposal of 10-15 years old pending cases in High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Since introduction of Nyaya Mitra programme in 2017, a total of 39 Nyaya Mitras were engaged in the States of Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as per the details given under Annexure- 'A'. The Nyaya Mitras engaged so far have assisted the Court concerned in disposal of 6832 old cases which includes matrimonial cases, accident claim and also criminal cases. The State/UT wise details of cases disposed is at Annexure- 'B'.

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## Annexure- 'A'

**Statement as referred to in reply to part (b) Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 272 for answering on 08.12.2022 raised by SMT KANTA KARDAM, MP on Nyaya Mitra Scheme**

**A State-wise Statement containing number of Nyaya Mitra engaged from (2017-2022)**

S.No	State	Year 2017-2018	Year 2018-2019	Year 2019-2020	Year 2020- 2021	Year 2021-2022	Total
1	Assam	-	-	-	NIL*	02	02
2	Bihar	01	-	-		-	01
3	Maharashtra	-	-	03		01	04
4	Odisha	-	-	02		02	04
5	Rajasthan	04	03	02		02	11
6	Tripura	01	-	-		-	01
7	Uttar Pradesh	05	-	01		02	08
8	West Bengal	04	01	01		02	08
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>09</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>

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

**Annexure-‘B’**

**Statement as referred to in reply to Part (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 272 for 08.12.2022 raised by SMT KANTA KARDAM,MP on Nyaya Mitra Scheme**

**A State-wise Statement containing number of cases disposed by Nyaya Mitra  
(2017-2022)**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>No. of cases disposed (2017-2022)</b>
1	Assam	14
2	Bihar	44
3	Maharashtra	1163
4	Odisha	1786
5	Rajasthan	2545
6	Tripura	13
7	Uttar Pradesh	1224
8	West Bengal	43
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6832</b>

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

J-II

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.273

ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022

Fast Track Special Courts under POCSO Act

✓ 273 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

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

- (a) the details of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts set up under POCSO Act;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the period of the above courts is only up to March, 2023;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to extend the period of these Fast Track Special Courts;
- (d) if so, details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the reasons that only 1 out of every 3 cases results in conviction under POCSO Act?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): Department of Justice has started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in October 2019 for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018. Initially, the scheme was for 1 year which has been continued up to 31.03.2023 at a cost of Rs.1,572.86 crore with central share of Rs.971.70

crore.733 FTSCs including 413 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 28 States/UTs (up to 31.10.2022).

(b to d): Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) is operational till 31.03.2023. FTSCs have disposed more than 1,24,000 cases till October, 2022. However, more than 1,93,000 cases are still pending in these courts and hence, there is a need to extend the Scheme beyond March, 2023. Accordingly, an evaluation study of the Scheme has been taken up as per the instant provisions.

(e): Trial of cases comes under the domain of Judiciary. Lack of proper investigation, insufficient evidences and witnesses, family members, victim, turning hostile etc. are some of the reasons of less conviction under POCSO Act, as per information received from the High Courts.

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

JUDL.SEC.

**Rajya Sabha  
Unstarted Question No. 274  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 08.12.2022  
Vacancies and pendencies in quasi-judicial bodies**

✓ 534. Shri Raghav Chadha  
Will the Minister of *LAW AND JUSTICE* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of issues like high pendency pertaining to quasi-judicial bodies/tribunals/regulatory bodies in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by Government for increasing transparency, efficiency and impartiality of quasi-judicial bodies in the country in recent times;
- (c) whether vacancies in Tribunals/Appellate Tribunals have not been filled up;
- (d) if so, the number of Tribunals and the number of vacancies along with the time from which these posts are lying vacant; and
- (e) the reasons for not filling up the vacancies?

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

(a) to (e) : Yes sir. Information has been compiled and is as per Annexure-A

a	b	c	d	e				
<p>Whether Government is aware of issues like high pendency pertaining to quasi judicial bodies/tribunals/regulatory bodies in the country and if so, the details thereof</p>	<p>The steps taken by Government for increasing transparency, efficiency and impartiality of quasi-judicial bodies in the country in recent times</p>	<p>Whether vacancies in Tribunals / Appellate Tribunals have not been filled up</p>	<p>if so, the number of Tribunals and the number of vacancies along with the time from which these posts are lying vacant</p>	<p>The reasons for not filling up the vacancies</p>				
<p>949 cases have been disposed off in the current year 2022 till 31.10.2022 and there are 5102 cases pending before TDSAT as on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022</p>	<p>-----</p>	<p>No vacancy.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>				
<p>The pendency of appeals in ITAT as on 01.01.2022 was 54315 and as on 31.10.2022 are 40463. Necessary instructions have already been issued by the ITAT to all its Benches to scrutinize and identify cases, which are covered by the decisions of ITAT, High Courts and Supreme Court of India and post them on priority basis</p>	<p>The steps taken by the ITAT includes Computerization, Improved ITAT Official Website, ITAT Online Project, Digital Display Boards, Mobile Application, CCTV Cameras, E-Court, E-Filing, Publishing of Daily Orders, Paperless Courts, API linkage with LIMBS, Electronic Communication of Hearing Notices, ITAT Members' e-Library Portal, etc.</p>	<p>Occurring and filing up of vacancies in the ITAT, like other Government organisations, is a continuous process. From time to time, the Government issues instructions for filling up the vacancies.</p>						
<p>Pendency as per CONFONET portal:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="33 1340 707 1379"> <tr> <td>Consumer</td> <td>Filed</td> <td>Disposed</td> <td>Pendency</td> </tr> </table>	Consumer	Filed	Disposed	Pendency	<p>Appointments in the NCDRC are regulated as per the provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.</p>	<p>Existing vacancy in the NCDRC – 1 (Date of occurrence of vacancy - 10.05.2021).</p>		
Consumer	Filed	Disposed	Pendency					

<b>Commission</b>			
District Commissions	1919778	1489626	430152
State Commissions	487078	375619	111459
National Commission	105841	83860	21981

The NGT is deciding disputes independently. All the judgment and orders are available in public domain on the website of the NGT.

Further, the mandate of NGT is to provide better environment for its people as enumerated under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and to provide access to environmental justice for achieving the commitments made in the UN's conferences.

Further, during the period of Covid-19 pandemic, NGT was sensitive towards the environmental matters and continuously delivering environmental justice to aggrieved persons by conducting the hearing through hybrid mode i.e. through video conferencing mode and physical hearing mode.

All the judgment and orders are available in public domain on the website of the NGT.

Further, the mandate of NGT is to provide better environment for its people as enumerated under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and to provide access to environmental justice for achieving the commitments made in the UN's conferences.

Department of Consumer Affairs has already issued vacancy circular for filling up 1 existing vacancy and 4 anticipated vacancy of Members due to arise in June, 2023.

At present, the strength of NGT consists of six (06) Judicial Members and five (05) Expert Members and the Chairperson. Four (04) posts of Judicial Members and five (05) posts of Expert Members are lying vacant.

The process of filling up the four (04) vacant posts of Expert Members of NGT is underway.

An advertisement for filling up the said posts of Expert Members was published in the National Dailies on 03.02.2022. The first meeting of the Search-cum-Selection Committee (SCSC) was conducted on 09.09.2022. The processing of applications by the SCSC is underway. Further, approval of SCSC has also been obtained for publishing the advertisement for one (01) additional vacant post of Expert Member.

The last round of selection of Judicial Members in the NGT was completed in the month of April, 2022.

For the fresh round of Selection process, approval of SCSC has been obtained for publishing the advertisement for filling up of five (05) posts {4 vacant + 1 anticipated vacancy} of Judicial Members. The process of publication of the advertisement for filling up the said posts of Judicial Members has been initiated.



<p>Since its inception in 1985 and up to 30.09.2022, the Central Administrative Tribunal received 8,89,927 cases for adjudication (including those transferred from High Courts), out of which 8,09,340 cases have been disposed of, leaving a pendency of 80,587 cases. The percentage of disposal is 90.94%.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	<p>The total sanctioned strength of Members including Chairman in Central Administrative Tribunal is 70 (01 Chairman, 34 Judicial Member and 35 Administrative Member). As on date, out of the total 70 sanctioned posts of Hon'ble Chairman/ Members of CAT, 19 posts (09- Administrative Member and 10- Judicial Member) are vacant. The process for filling up these vacant posts have been initiated and Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has been requested to indicate convenience to chair the Search cum Selection Committee (SCSC); or nominate a Judge of Supreme Court to be the Chairman of SCSC for making recommendations for selection to the post of Members of CAT for the vacancy year 2022 and 2023.</p>
<p>Vide notification dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, an additional post of Technical Member in Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) was created by this department, and currently, the composition of SAT is one Presiding Officer, one Judicial Member and two Technical Members. Currently, one post of Technical Member is vacant and the process to fill up the post is ongoing.</p>	<p>Vide notification dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, an additional post of Technical Member in Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) was created by this department, and currently, the composition of SAT is one Presiding Officer, one Judicial Member and two Technical Members. Currently, one post of Technical Member is vacant and the process to fill up the post is ongoing.</p>		
<p>As far as pending cases in Debts Recovery Tribunal</p>	<p>In order to digitize the process in DRTs and DRATs</p>	<p>No Vacancy of</p>	<p>Four posts of The steps were</p>

<p>(DRT) is concerned, the total number of pending applications as on 15.11.2022 is 1,93,602. Further, the total number of appeals pending before Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATS) as on 30.06.2022 is 1408</p>	<p>and increase the efficiency of these tribunals, e-DRT system has been made operational since December, 2018.</p>	<p>Chairperson and all 5 posts are filled up.</p> <p>Further, out of 39 sanctioned posts of Presiding Officer, 35 posts are filled up and the process is underway to fill up the remaining 4 vacancies.</p>	<p>Presiding officer at DRT-2, Delhi, DRT-2, Kolkata, DRT-3, Kolkata, DRT Madurai are vacant</p>	<p>taken to fill up the vacancies in DRTs.</p> <p>However, some of the candidates to whom the offer of appointment was issued did not join.</p>
<p>Pending cases as on 28.11.2022 are 34,452.</p>	<p>A decision for implementing e-Courts System in the CGIT-cum-LCs/NITs has been taken for enhancing the efficiency/transparency in the adjudication process</p>	<p>Vacancy of Presiding Officer: 8.</p>	<p>Due to litigation in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the appointment of PO in CGIT-cum-LCs/NITs could not be filled up since 2019.</p> <p>After the notification of the Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021, process has been started and at present, out of 22 posts of PO in CGIT-cum-LCs/NITs, 14 posts are filled up. Additional charge arrangement exists for remaining 8 CGIT-cum-LCs/NITs.</p>	
<p>Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) functions as an attached office Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, DGTR conducts trade remedial measures anti-subsidy and safeguard investigations, under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>Nil</p>

<p>and the rules compatible with provisions of WTO), in a transparent and time-bound manner. Further, DGTR are quasi-judicial in nature and adequate opportunity is given to all the interested their submissions. DGTR critically analyses the submissions and thereafter recommended measures to the central government for imposition, if necessary.</p>				
NIL	NIL	<p>Posts of Administrative Staff are vacant (Principal Private Secretary, Executive Engineer, Private Secretary, Personal Assistant etc.)</p>	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	<p>Posts of Administrative Staff are vacant (Additional Registrar, Registrar, Stenographer, Assistant Section Officer, MTS etc.)</p>	NIL	NIL

NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 275**

**ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 08.12.2022**

JR

**FACILITIES FOR WOMEN IN COURT COMPLEXES**

JS(LRR)

✓ 275. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the data published by National Institute Ranking Framework shows an increase in female lawyers enrolling in LL.B and LL.M courses but most of the court complexes especially at the subordinate level are not equipped with safe private places and washrooms available to women lawyers and women litigants;
- (b) whether Government intends to bring out any policy for creating such facilities; and
- (c) whether Government intends to make any amendment to the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the judiciary to specifically make provisions for woman lawyers and litigants?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c): No such data published by the National Institute of Ranking Framework has been made available to the Department of Justice. However, the Registry of the Supreme Court of India has compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities according to which 74% of court complexes have separate ladies' toilets while 26% of court complexes do not have separate ladies' toilet. 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 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, and it has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including the 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.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 276  
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 08.12.2022

SS(hRR)

JR

**INCLUSION OF EXPERTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY**

✓ 276. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the administration of subordinate judiciary is done through High Courts which lacks expertise in management and statistics;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal for engaging any professional management/ logistic/statistician agencies for scientifically approaching the problem and improving the disposal of cases;
- (c) if not, the manner in which Government seeks to achieve this; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to move all such information related to the pendency of cases to an open data policy?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c):** As per the extant provisions under Article(s) 227 and 235 of the Constitution of India, the power of superintendence and control over all district courts and courts subordinate thereto under its jurisdiction is vested in the respective High Courts. Further, the disposal of cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Hence, the Central Government has no role in the administration of subordinate judiciary nor in engaging of experts/professionals/statisticians for improving the disposal of cases.

However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases. 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. To advise on the goals, objectives and strategies of the National Mission and the Action Plan and its implementation, an Advisory Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of Minister of Law and Justice with a wide ranging membership. 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 to address pendency of cases 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
05.12.2022	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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**(d):** The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), a flagship project implemented under the aegis of the eCourts project, is the national repository of data relating to pending cases and cases disposed of in all district, taluka as well as High Courts of the country.

The information on NJDG is available in public domain for all stakeholders. Through the eCourts services platform using elastic search technology, currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 21.26 crore cases and more than 19.14 crore orders / judgments of District and Subordinate Courts pertaining to these computerized courts as on date 03.10.2022. Case data is available on NJDG for both civil and criminal cases with the ability to perform drill-down analysis based on the age of the case as well as the State and District.

In consonance with the National Data sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) announced by the Government of India, Open Application Programming Interface (API) has been provided to the Central & State Government to allow easy access to the NJDG data using a departmental ID and access key. This

allows the institutional litigants to access the NJDG data for their evaluation and monitoring purposes. It is proposed to expand the facility to non-institutional litigants as well in future.

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 91  
ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022**

NM

JS(GRR)

**Working days of the courts**

✓\*91. Shri Rajeev Shukla:

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

- (a) the details of the average number of days for which High Courts and the Supreme Court were functional during the last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court functions less than 200 days on an average in a year;
- (c) the details of total pending cases in High Courts and the Supreme Court; and
- (d) whether fixing a minimum number of compulsory working days for courts will be useful to reduce the burden of pending cases?

**ANSWER**

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

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) to (D) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 91 FOR REPLY ON 15.12.2022 REGARDING 'WORKING DAYS OF THE COURTS ASKED BY SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA '**

**(a) & (b):** The number of working days and vacations of the courts are prescribed as per rules framed by the respective courts. The Supreme Court of India, in exercise of the powers conferred on it under Article 145 of the Constitution of India, makes rules for regulating the Court's practice and procedures which includes its sittings and vacations, etc. Accordingly, the Supreme Court has framed the 'Supreme Court Rules, 2013' which was notified on 27.05.2014. Order II of Part I of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 provide for sittings of the Supreme Court, length of summer vacation and the number of holidays of the Court and also the Benches of the Hon'ble Judges during summer vacation and winter holidays. The Supreme Court Rules, 2013, *inter-alia*, provided that the period of summer vacation shall not exceed seven weeks and 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. As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, during the last three years, the average number of court working days of Supreme Court was 224 (2019), 217 (2020) and 202 (2021).

Similarly, the High Courts in exercise of the powers conferred on it under Article 225 of the Constitution of India frames rules for regulating its practice & procedures including its sittings and vacations. According to the available information, all High Courts in the country normally have on an average 210 working days in a year.

**(c):** According to information obtained from the website of Supreme Court of India, as on 01.12.2022, the number of cases pending were 69,598. The number of cases pending as on 01.12.2022 in the High Courts were 59,56,251.

**(d):** The Central Government has no role in fixing the minimum number of compulsory working days for courts. However, 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.

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

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

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

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

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) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)**: The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) of commercial disputes. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 aims at expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

(v) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases**: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. Further, the central government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme.

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 98  
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

JK

JS(GRR)

**Access to libraries at district courts**

✓\*98. **Shri S Niranjan Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether as per the survey report only 54 per cent of the district courts have access to functional libraries;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to switch to a digital library on a web platform and give access of the same to courts and Government lawyers;
- (c) if so, the allocation of funds for the development of such libraries, if not, in what manner Government proposes to address the problem of the lack of libraries in lower courts in the country; and
- (d) the list of the total number of district courts without access to a library, State-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 98 FOR ANSWER ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022.**

(a) to (d): The Registry of Supreme Court of India compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities as per which only 51% of court complexes have a library.

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. There are prescribed norms and specifications for the construction of court halls that have been developed on the basis of the recommendations made by the National Court Management Systems Committee of the Supreme Court, existing norms and practices being followed by different State Governments and certain CPWD norms. These norms and specifications delineate additional facilities / common facilities to be made available in each court complex such as judges' chambers, office rooms, conference rooms, judges' libraries, lawyers' libraries, etc. Also, the States have been given the option to use norms higher than prescribed for creating court infrastructure for which the cost shall be borne by the respective States. The release of funds under the scheme is only supplementary in nature and project / component-wise funds are not released under the scheme.

This Department does not centrally maintain any data on number of district courts not having access to functional libraries.

For the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of the district and subordinate courts, the Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country. Under the eCourts Phase II Project, a component namely, the Judicial Knowledge Management System (JKMS) for promoting computerisation of court libraries has been developed that includes:-

i. *Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS)*: Court libraries have been equipped with robust library management software. This software caters to all functions of a library acquisition, circulation, catalogue generation etc., and is called an Integrated Library Management System (ILMS). KOHA, open-source library management software, is successfully deployed in the Judges' Library at the Supreme Court of India. The computerization of Court Libraries will enable the beneficiaries to access their catalogue online and request books/journals online.

ii. *ILMS as Digital library*: ILMS software is being used as a Digital Library wherein content in digital forms is ported and can be accessed by its beneficiaries online. Legal Research Documents, Committee/Commission Reports, Law Articles, Circulars, Orders, High Court Rules, etc. which are in Open Access content can all be ported to ILMS Digital Library.

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 104**

**✓ TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

US(RTI)

RTI

**ONLINE PORTAL FOR RTI IN THE SUPREME COURT**

**104 # SHRI BRIJLAL**

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has launched its own online portal to enable the public to seeking information under the Right to Information;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the features of the said portal; and
- (c) the manner in which the common people would be benefited by the launch of this portal?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

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

**Statement referred to in the reply to the parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 104 due for answer on 15.12.2022 regarding “Online Portal for RTI in the Supreme Court”**

(a) to (c) Supreme Court has launched its own RTI portal on 24.11.2022 on the official website of the Supreme Court viz. [www.sci.gov.in](http://www.sci.gov.in) for seeking information under the Right to Information.

The details for accessing RTI online portal is available on the official website under ‘RTI Online Portal’ tab. The

Supreme Court RTI Online portal can be used by Indian citizens to file:

- RTI Applications,
- First Appeals, and
- Making payments for Fees, Copying Charges, etc., under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act).

The RTI online portal has been developed by the in-house software development team of Supreme Court of India.

The citizens of India would be benefitted by this online portal by speedy dissemination of information requested, which in turn would only help in achieving the aim of the RTI laws of bringing transparency in administration.

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1058#**

*Leg. II Sec.*

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS OF LOK SABHA  
AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES**

**1058# Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:**

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

- (a) whether Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections were used to be held simultaneously for some years after independence, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of the concept behind Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections being held together and the details of the likely benefits to the country?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): General Elections to the House of People (Lok Sabha) and all State Legislative Assemblies were held simultaneously in 1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967. However, due to the premature dissolution of some Legislative Assemblies in 1968 and 1969, the cycle got disrupted.
- (b): The need for simultaneous election to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies has been felt as elections have become big budget affair and expensive. The Law Commission of India in its 170<sup>th</sup> Report on Reform on Electoral Laws has suggested

simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for the sake of stability in governance. Simultaneous elections would result in huge saving to the public exchequer, avoidance of replication of effort on part of administrative and law and order machinery in holding repeated elections and bring considerable savings to political parties and candidates in their election campaigns. It would also curb the adverse effect/schemes due to prolonged enforcement of Model Code of Conduct for the asynchronous Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections (including bye-election).

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1059**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**Examinations for Permanent Appointment**

AS(L&A)

✓ **1059. Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

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

- (a) examinations conducted by the Ministry for permanent appointments during the last five years, year-wise details thereof;
- (b) the results of the exams that have not been declared on time;
- (c) the number of examinations out of them that have been cancelled during the last five years; and
- (d) the number of posts abolished and being processed to be abolished by the Ministry during the last five years?

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

**(a) to (d):** Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice had conducted 5 (five) examinations for permanent appointment for the post of Personal Assistant in various regional languages during last 5 years. Examination was conducted for one post each of Permanent Assistant in Marathi Language in the years 2018 & 2020; Telugu and Tamil languages in the year 2019; and Manipuri language in 2021. The examination conducted for the post of Personal Assistant, Manipuri Language, was cancelled. During last 5 years, sixteen posts have been abolished.

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

**Rajya Sabha**

**Unstarted Question No. 1060**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 15.12.2022**

**Vacancies in Tribunals**

Judl. Sec.

1060. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi

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

- (a) tribunal-wise data on the vacancies in the appointment of judicial members of tribunal;
- (b) the reasons for the continuance of vacancies/delay in appointment; and
- (c) the details of the break-up of vacancies created and filled during the last five years?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) : Yes sir. Information has been compiled and is as per Annexure-A



## Annexure-A

	(a) tribunal-wise data on the vacancies in the appointment of judicial members of tribunal	(b) the reasons for the continuance of vacancies/delay in appointment;	(c) the details of the break-up of vacancies created and filled during the last five years																																				
Ministry of Corporate Affairs	<b>NCLT</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Post Name</th> <th>No. of post vacant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Judicial Member</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Technical Member</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S. No.	Post Name	No. of post vacant	1	Judicial Member	13	2	Technical Member	11	Total		24	<p>Filling up of vacancies of Members is a continuous process and vacancies are filled from time to time. As far as NCLT is concerned, in 2021, 20 Members were appointed and in 2022, appointment of 15 Members was approved by the Government out of which, 11 have already joined. Process for rest of the vacancies has also been initiated. Similarly, in NCLAT, 05 Members have been appointed in 2022, and process for subsequent vacancies has been initiated.</p>	<b>NCLT (Sanctioned strength-01 President and 31 Technical Members)</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Vacancies created (Members)</th> <th>Vacancies filled (Members)</th> <th>In position (at the end of year)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>8</td> <td>29</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>7</td> <td>--</td> <td>41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>14</td> <td>20</td> <td>47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>20</td> <td>11</td> <td>38</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Vacancies created (Members)	Vacancies filled (Members)	In position (at the end of year)	2018	0	5	27	2019	8	29	48	2020	7	--	41	2021	14	20	47	2022	20	11	38
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**Annexure-A**

<b>Ministry of Environment, Forest &amp; Climate Change</b>	As per Section 4(1) of the NGT Act, 2010, the Tribunal shall consist of not less than ten but subject to maximum of twenty full time Judicial Members. As on 12.12.2022, the sanctioned strength of Judicial Members in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is ten (10). Out of the sanctioned strength of 10 Judicial Members, four (04) posts of Judicial Members are lying vacant.	<b>Year</b>	<b>Vacancies filled up</b>	<b>No. of vacancies of Judicial Members</b>
		2018 (as on 01.01.2018)	5	5
		2019(as on 01.01.2019)	4	6
		2020(as on 01.01.2020)	3	7
		2021(as on 01.01.2021)	3	7
		2022 (as on 01.01.2022)	6	4

**Annexure-A**

<p><b>Ministry of Labour &amp; Employment</b></p>	<p>Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court/National Industrial Tribunal, Presiding Officers at Jaipur, Gauhati, Mumbai-I, NIT, Chandigarh-II, Dhanbad-I, Bengaluru, Nagpur, Jabalpur are vacant and the posts are being held by Additional Charge.</p>	<p>Due to litigation in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the appointment of PO in CGIT-cum-LCs/NITs could not be filled up since 2019. After the notification of the Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021, process has been started and at present, out of 22 posts of PO in CGIT-cum-LCs/NITs, 13 posts are filled up. Additional charge arrangement exists for 8 CGIT-cum-LCs/NITs and a proposal for entrustment of additional charge has been sent to ACC for remaining 01 post, i.e, CGIT, Nagpur.</p>	<p>A statement of occurred and filled up vacancies in the past 5 years is placed</p>																											
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**Annexure-A**

<b>Ministry of Finance (DRT)</b>	As per Section (4) of RDB Act, 1993 the Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) consists of one person only termed as Presiding Officer (PO) and is appointed by the Central Government. The tribunal-wise data on the vacancies as on 13.12.2022 is as under: -  # There are four (04) vacant posts of Presiding Officer in DRTs at (i) DRT, Madurai, (ii) DRT-2, Delhi, (iii) DRT-3 Kolkata and (iv) DRT-2, Kolkata.									the details of the break-up of vacancies created and filled during the last five years																																																						
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**Annexure-A**

<p><b>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pension (DoPT)</b></p>	<p>In CAT, there are 09 vacancies of Judicial Members for the year 2022. The process for filling up these vacancies has already been initiated and Chairman of Search-cum-search Committee (<b>ScSC</b>) has been nominated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India.</p>	<p>Break-up of vacancies of Judicial Members in CAT that arose and filled up during the last five years is as under:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1451 330 2004 581"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Year</th> <th colspan="2">Vacancy of Judicial Member</th> <th>Filed up During year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2018</td> <td>15</td> <td>06</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2019</td> <td>11</td> <td>03</td> <td>01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>2020</td> <td>13</td> <td>03</td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>2021</td> <td>16</td> <td>03+02*</td> <td>02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>2022</td> <td>17</td> <td>09</td> <td>19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*02 posts of JM were created for newly Benches of CAT at Jammu and Srinagar.</p>		S. No.	Year	Vacancy of Judicial Member		Filed up During year	1	2018	15	06	10	2	2019	11	03	01	3	2020	13	03	00	4	2021	16	03+02*	02	5	2022	17	09	19
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5	2022	17	09	19																													
<p><b>Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)</b></p>	<p>There is no vacancy of Judicial Member</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>NIL</p>																														
<p><b>Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)</b></p>	<p>Vacancy position as on 13/12/2022 in Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="387 1039 952 1138"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No.</th> <th>Name of Post</th> <th>Sanctioned Strength</th> <th>Filled</th> <th>Vacant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Judicial Member</td> <td>63</td> <td>45</td> <td>18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.No.	Name of Post	Sanctioned Strength	Filled	Vacant	1.	Judicial Member	63	45	18	<p>Occurring and filing up of vacancies in ITAT, like other Government organisation, is a continuous process. From time to time, the Government issues instructions for filing up the vacancies to all the Ministries/Departments/Organisation and ITAT complies with the same.</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="1366 1044 1809 1263"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Vacancy of Judicial Member</th> <th>Filed up</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>1</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>1</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>6</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Vacancy of Judicial Member	Filed up	2018	3	1	2019	1	--	2020	1	--	2021	6	11	2022	2	1		
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**Annexure-A**

**Railway Claim Tribunal (RCT)**

Vacancy position as on 13/12/2022 in Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT)

S.No.	Name of Post	Sanctioned Strength	Working	Vacant
1.	Vice Chairman (Judicial)	02	00	02
2.	Judicial Member	20	04	16

Filling up of vacancies in RCT is a continuous process and due to Court cases and other Administrative reasons the posts could not be filled up. Vacancy notices for two posts of Vice-Chairman (Judicial), two posts of Vice-Chairman (Technical), 16 posts of Judicial Member and seven posts of Technical Member against vacancies existing and expected in RCT up to 31.12.2022 were issued on 18.09.2021. The selection process has also been finalized by the Search-cum-Selection-Committee under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R.Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court, in October, 2022 and its recommendations have been sent to DoP&T for approval of the ACC, which is awaited.

S. N.	Name of Post	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
		V	F	V	F	V	F	V	F	V	F
1.	Chairman	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
2.	Vice Chairman	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2
3.	Vice chairman (Technical)	2	1	2 (1+1)	1	1	0	2	0	2	0
4.	Judicial Member	11	0	11	0	20 (11+9)	0	2	4	1	0
5.	Technical Member	2	0	12 (2+10)	0	16	13	7 (3+4)	0	7	0

**Annexure-A**

<b>Ministry of Communication, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)</b>	At present, there is no vacancy of Chairperson/ Members in TDSAT.	During last five years, two posts of member of TDSAT got vacant on 12.05.2018 & 19.10.2019 and filled up w.e.f. 13.09.2021 & 15.06.2022 respectively.																															
<b>Ministry of Defence, Arms Force Tribunal (AFT)</b>	AFT has sanctioned strength of 34 Members (17 Judicial Members including Chairperson and 17 Administrative Members). Ministry has been making constant endeavours for appointment of Members in AFT. The process of filling up of 24 vacancies (12 Judicial Members & 12 Administrative Members) was initiated by this Ministry and subsequently, letters were issued on 01.12.2022 for appointment of 23 Members in AFT (11 Judicial Members & 12 Administrative Members) across various Benches of AFT.	<table border="1" data-bbox="1249 412 1919 620"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th colspan="2">Vacancies created</th> <th colspan="2">Vacancies filled</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>03</td> <td>03</td> <td>02</td> <td>02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>06</td> <td>04</td> <td>01</td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>02</td> <td>01</td> <td>05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>01</td> <td>03</td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>02</td> <td>01</td> <td>04</td> <td>04</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Year	Vacancies created		Vacancies filled		2018	03	03	02	02	2019	06	04	01	Nil	2020	Nil	02	01	05	2021	Nil	01	03	Nil	2022	02	01	04	04
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<b>NCDRC, Deptt. of Consumer Affairs</b>	Appointments in the NCDRC are regulated as per the provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 and the rules framed there under, namely the Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021. Similarly, the Consumer Protection (Qualification for appointment, method of recruitment, procedure of appointment, term of office, resignation and removal of the President and members of the State Commission and District Commission) Rules, 2020 made under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 provide for appointment of the Presidents and the Members in the State Commissions and District Commissions.	<p>At present, there is only 1 existing vacancy in the NCDRC (date of occurrence of vacancy - 10.05.2021).</p> <p>Department of Consumer Affairs has already issued vacancy circular for filling up 1 existing vacancy and 4 anticipated vacancy of Members due to arise in June, 2023.</p>																															
<b>Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL)</b>	<p>The post of Judicial Member, APTEL fell vacant on 4.12.2022 following the end of tenure of 3 years by last incumbent ie Justice R K Gauba. In context to this anticipated vacancy, the Vacancy Circular (VC) was issued on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 in accordance with the provisions of new Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 and Rules framed thereunder. The Search-cum-Selection Committee has also been constituted vide notification dated 2.12.2022. The post is likely to be filled up soon.</p> <p>Earlier this post was vacant from 2.5.2019 to 3.12.2019 on completion of tenure of the then Judicial Member, Justice N.K.Patil. Sometimes the approval process takes time while appointing Members in Tribunal.</p>																																

**Annexure-A**

<b>CESTAT, Department of Revenue</b>	Vacancy position as on 14/12/2022 in CESTAT, D/o Revenue			CESTAT	Appellate Tribunal under SAFEMA	For year 2022, one Member (Judicial) is vacant with respect to CESTAT and with respect to Appellate Tribunal under SAFEMA, four Members are vacant.
	Tribunal	CESTAT	Appellate Tribunal under SAFEMA Filled			
	Vacancies	07	NIL			
				<p>The Tribunal, Appellate Tribunal and other Authorities (Qualifications, Experience and other conditions of service of Members) Rules 2017 and later on the Tribunal, Appellate Tribunal and other Authorities (Qualifications, Experience and other conditions of service of Members) Rules 2020 were quashed by Hon'ble Supreme Court. Thereafter, Tribunal (Condition of Service) Rules 2021 were notified in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3 of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.</p>	<p>Nil, at present, all the posts of Chairman &amp; 4 Members in AT, SAFEMA are filled.</p>	



**Annexure-A**

		Thereafter, process for selection and appointment of judicial and technical members for filling of the existing and anticipated vacancies was initiated and final orders are to be issued.			
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1061  
ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022

NM

JS(GRR)  
✓

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BENCH OF PATNA HIGH COURT

1061. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that Bihar is the second largest State by population and 12th largest State by area as it has 94163 Sq KM area and more than 11 crore population in 38 districts, however, the State has only Patna High Court without any bench in other parts of the State, if so, number of cases pending in the court;
- (b) average rate of conclusively dealing with cases by the High Court;
- (c) total strength of judges and number of vacancies;
- (d) if so, time frame to fill them; and
- (e) whether Government considers to establish a bench of Patna High Court?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. At present, there is no Bench of the Patna High Court in any other parts of Bihar State other than the Principal Seat at Patna. The number of cases pending in Patna High Court as on 30.11.2022 is 2,12,135.

The case load per Hon'ble Judge in Patna High Court is 6631 cases, while the Case Clearance Rate(CCR) which is 114.39% in the Patna High Court.

(c) to (d): The total sanctioned strength in Patna High Court is 53, working strength is 34 and vacancies are 19 as on 30.11.2022.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level. 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.

**(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 to be sent by the State Government which is required to provide necessary expenditure & infrastructural facilities and by 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 Bihar. At present, no complete proposal from the State Government of Bihar regarding setting up of a Bench of the Patna High Court is pending with the Government.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

\*\*\*\*\*

J-II

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1062  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022

Efficiency of Fast Track Courts

✓ JS(PPP)  
1062. Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

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

- (a) the details of Fast Track Courts/new Fast Track Courts set up and functioning in the country along with the number of cases lying pending thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government proposes to allocate more funds to States for the establishment of such courts and for the appointment of more judges and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to determine the efficiency of Fast Track Courts vis-à-vis regular courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) The details of Fast Track Courts/new Fast Track Court (FTC) set up and functioning along with the number of cases lying pending thereunder in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, as per information provided by High Courts, is given in **Annexure**.

(b): Setting up of FTC and allocation of funds lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with

the respective High Courts. The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (FC) had recommended the setting up of total 1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled, persons infected with terminal ailments etc and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The FC had further urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTC, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. Further, in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Department of Justice is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) since October, 2019 to provide speedy justice to the victims of rape and POCSO Act. The FTSC scheme which was initially for 1 year, has been continued up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 at a total outlay of Rs.1572.86 Cr. with Rs.971.70 Cr. as Central Share to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund. As on 31/10/2022, 733 FTSCs are functional in 28 States/UTs.

(c)&(d): A Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms is being implemented by the Department of Justice under the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms since 2013. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is being extended for undertaking action research / evaluation / monitoring studies, organizing seminars / conferences / workshops, capacity building for research and monitoring activities, publication of report/material, promotion of innovative programmes / activities in the areas of Justice Delivery, Legal Research and Judicial Reforms. Under this scheme, a study on “Evaluation of Functioning of Fast Track Courts in India” was conducted by National Law University, Delhi. As per the findings of the study, the establishment of FTCs was not

accompanied by special infrastructure, special administration, and separate cadre of staff or relaxation of the procedure. Therefore, their working is no different from regular courts and they face the same structural difficulties as regular courts. The lack of adequate support has caused overburdening of the FTCs. The following recommendations were made to improving the efficiency which has been brought to the knowledge of the concerned State Governments and High Courts:

- Appointment of more experienced Judges in the FTCs.
- Need for specific recommendations of the National Court Management System which are applicable to Fast Track Courts.
- Judges to put case-specific time frames for deciding cases in FTCs as suggested by the 245<sup>th</sup> report of Law Commission of India.
- Monthly meetings at the district level of all judicial officers in FTCs to monitor their progress and ensuring day-to-day hearing in a fast-track proceeding.
- Providing a safe and comfortable environment to victims especially women and children in all FTCs in the country by using modern technology like videoconferencing/videography.
- Judges to be provided with proper and updated modern facilities like computer, technical staff and internet.
- Incentives to be given to judges for the disposal of cases which are pending for more than 5 years
- Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complexes (such as those established in Delhi) to be set up in other districts as well.

**Annexure**

**Annexure given in Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1062 Status of FTCs –functional and Cases pending during last three years including current year (States/UTs wise)**

**(As on October, 2022)**

Sl No.	State/UT	Dec, 2019		Dec, 2020		Dec, 2021		October, 2022	
		Functional Courts	Cases Pending	Functional Courts	Cases Pending	Functional Courts	Cases Pending	Functional Courts	Cases Pending
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	6763	21	10069	21	10069	22	6877
2	Andaman & Nicobar island		0		0		0		0
3	Arunachal Pradesh		0		0		0		0
4	Assam	19	8108	14	10108	16	9356	15	10551
5	Bihar	57	20774	33	58636	0	69792	0	0
6	Chandigarh								
7	Chhattisgarh	38	6882	23	15310	23	17779	23	5394
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0		0		0		0
9	Delhi	10	4210	5	40733	7	48520	20	7068
10	Diu & Daman								
11	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2038
12	Gujarat	0	0	0	33560	35	35335	35	4894
13	Haryana	6	924	5	58511	6	65337	6	887
14	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	15618	0	5102	3	510
15	Jammu & Kashmir	5	876	1	0	4	0	4	685
16	Jharkhand	0	4632	40	14507	6	19371	34	7969
17	Karnataka	0	0	13	38365	18	39458	0	0
18	Kerala	0	0	23	100479	28	114020	0	0
19	Ladakh		0		0		0		0
20	Lakshadweep		0		0		0		0
21	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	2	15584	0	25769	0	0
22	Maharashtra	91	107491	116	52079	110	67315	111	152312
23	Manipur	4	210	6	634	6	634	10	1023
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	2	154	2	0	2	0	2	223
26	Nagaland	0	0	1	66	0	153	0	0
27	Odisha	0	0	0	39670	19	44689	0	0
28	Puducherry		0		1535		1452		0
29	Punjab	0	0	7	52198	7	85061	7	245
30	Rajasthan		0		44222		46048		0
31	Sikkim	1	6	2	188	2	195	2	13
32	Tamil Nadu	74	6036	73	29970	74	32519	73	107590
33	Telangana	29	9950	29	15469	35	18095	0	0
34	Tripura	11	937	11	2551	11	3604	03	1347
35	Uttar Pradesh	368	405127	389	413176	376	396462	372	1036970
36	Uttarakhand	4	567	4	15119	4	15997	4	838
37	West Bengal	88	49723	87	0	88	1166	88	72560
	<b>Total</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>633370</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>1078357</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>1173298</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>1419994</b>

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1063**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 15.12.2022**

**Collegium recommendation on appointment of judges**

AS(A&A)

✓ **1063. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:**

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

- (a) whether Government has recently asked the Supreme Court to reconsider 20 names recommended for appointment as High Court judges;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that 20 per cent of the judicial posts in High Courts are vacant;
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay by the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) to go ahead with collegium recommendation on appointment of judges; and
- (e) the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c): Government has recently referred back 20 names to Supreme Court Collegium recommended for appointment as High Court judges. As on 09.12.2022, against the sanctioned strength of 1108 Judges, 777 Judges are working in High Courts, leaving a vacancy of 331 (30%) judges to be filled. Against 331 Vacancies, at present, 147 proposals received from High Courts are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. Further recommendations from High Court Collegiums are yet to be received in respect of 184 vacancies in High Courts. In the year 2022 till 09.12.2022, Government has appointed a record number of 165 Judges in various High Courts, which is highest in a calendar year so far.



: 2 :

(d) to (e): Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f. 13.04.2015 were declared as unconstitutional and void vide judgement dated 16.12.2015. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative, and all current appointments in the Higher Judiciary are currently being made as per the existing MoP.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JS(WRG)

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1064  
ANSWERED ON-15/12/2022

J-I

✓ TRANSLATION OF SUPREME COURT VERDICTS IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

1064. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI

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

- (a) number of Supreme Court verdicts that have been translated in regional languages using Artificial Technology tools during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the proportion of total Supreme Court verdicts that are yet to be translated to even one regional language during the last three years;
- (c) number of translations that have taken place during the last three years, language-wise;
- (d) total funds allocated and utilized for the translation project;
- (e) reasons for slow progress on the translation project and estimated timeline for completing translations of all pending verdicts; and
- (f) whether any High Courts have initiated similar translation projects, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

**(a) & (b):** As informed by the Registry of the Supreme Court, Hon'ble Supreme Court passes verdicts in many subject categories out of which verdicts passed in 14 subject categories are being translated into any of the related 14 vernacular languages through respective High Courts. The year-wise data of translation for last three years is annexed as 'Annexure-A'.

Further, SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuwad Software) which is Artificial Intelligence based software has the ability to translate judicial domain documents from English to Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Malayalam, Bengali, Urdu and vice-versa. New features like 'Incremental Training' and 'Interactive Translation' for SUVAS have also been developed. The High Courts have been requested to use SUVAS for translation

on an experimental basis, for testing and training. Till now, 16098 documents have been translated during the testing period. A total of 538 judgments have been translated in the last three years.

**(c):** The details of language-wise translation done in the last three years is annexed as '**Annexure-B**'.

**(d):** No separate funds are allocated for the translation project.

**(e):** Translation Cell of Supreme Court, gets the judgments translated in vernacular languages through the respective High Court. The non-availability of trained translators in regional languages and testing & training of SUVAS are the prime reasons for not achieving the desired results of translation project. However, no timeline is fixed for translation of pending verdicts.

**(f):** The information in respect of High Courts is not being maintained by the Supreme Court or the Central Government.

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**Year-wise Breakup of Vernacular  
Judgments**

**From July, 2019 to till date**

<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
209	147	100	82
Grand Total= 538			

**DETAIL OF SUPREME COURT JUDGMENTS  
TRANSLATED IN VERNACULAR LANGUAGE**

**From July, 2019 to till date**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Number of vernacular Judgments received</b>
1	Assamese	6
2	Bengali	3
3	Garo	2
4	Hindi	290
5	Kannada	24
6	Khasi	2
7	Malayalam	47
8	Marathi	26
9	Nepali	3
10	Odia	26
11	Punjabi	10
12	Tamil	76
13	Telugu	18
14	Urdu	5
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>538</b>

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1065  
ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022**

*e-Court*

**eCourt Integrated Mission Mode Project**

✓ JS(PPP)

**1065. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:**

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

- a) whether Government is implementing e-Court Integrated Mission Mode Project;
- b) if so, details thereof, including its objective and status of implementation of the project;
- c) number of district and subordinate courts computerised so far, State-wise, including Karnataka;
- d) total outlay in Phase II of the e-Courts Project and amount released so far;
- e) steps taken for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of subordinate and district courts in the country; and
- f) steps taken to provide efficient and time bound access of citizen centric services of courts to plaintiffs having no access to internet and facing digital divide?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a) to (c):** The Government has launched the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project in the country for computerization of District and subordinate courts with the objective of improving access to justice using technology. 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 including 1031 from Karnataka. The detailed break-up of computerization of court complexes has been attached in Annexure-I.

**(d) & (e):** 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 court sites have been commissioned with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. Case Information Software (CIS) which forms the basis for the e-Court services is based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iii. 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022) and JustIS app for judges (17,709 downloads till 31<sup>st</sup> 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.



(f):Government has setup e-Sewa Kendras to bridge the digital divide.The eSewa Kendras havebeen set up at the entry point of the court complexes with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and e-filing through access to internet. Government has released Rs. 12.54 crore for setting up 235 eSewa Kendras. As on 31.12.2022, 619 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts. Rs. 12.12 cr has been allocated for creating 1732 Help Desk counters for e-Filing in Court Complexes; Judicial Service Centres have been established at all computerized courts to serve as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants / lawyers and for disseminating judicial information related to cause lists and other case related information to the lawyers and litigants through Info Kiosks. Mobile e-courts van equipped with Wi-Fi and computers for video conferencing for speedy disposal of cases have also been started in Uttarakhand and Telangana.

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**Annexure-I**

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Question No.1065 for 15/12/2022 regarding Court Integrated Mission Mode Project. The details of court complex and computerization of courts under eCourts project Phase-II are as under:

S.No	High Court	State	Court Complexes	Courts
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	180	2222
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	218	617
3	Bombay	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3
		Daman and Diu	2	2
		Goa	17	39
		Maharashtra	471	2157
4	Calcutta	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	14
		West Bengal	89	827
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	93	434
6	Delhi	Delhi	6	681
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	14	28
		Assam	74	408
		Mizoram	8	69
		Nagaland	11	37
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	376	1268
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	50	162
10	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	86	218
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	28	447
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	207	1031
13	Kerala	Kerala	158	484
		Lakshadweep	1	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	213	1363
15	Madras	Puducherry	4	24
		Tamil Nadu	263	1124
16	Manipur	Manipur	17	38
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	7	42
18	Orissa	Odisha	185	686
19	Patna	Bihar	84	1142
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	1	30
		Haryana	53	500
		Punjab	64	541
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	247	1240
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	8	23
23	Telangana	Telangana	129	476
24	Tripura	Tripura	14	84
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	69	271
	<b>Total</b>		<b>3452</b>	<b>18735</b>

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1066**

**ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022**

*Leg. II Sec.*

**AADHAAR ID LINK WITH EPIC**

**1066. Shri Narayana Koragappa:**

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

- (a) the time taken for confirmation of Aadhaar link with Electronic Photo Identity Card (EPIC); and
- (b) total number of Form 6B submitted as on date?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): Consequent upon amendments made in the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 launched the programme to collect the Aadhaar number of existing electors as well as prospective electors on voluntary basis from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022 in all States/UTs. The process of Aadhaar linking with the Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) has begun and the concerned electors will be notified authentication result after obtaining the same from Unique Identification Authority of India.

(b): As informed by the ECI, the total number of Form 6B submitted as on 12.12.2022 stand at 54,32,84,760.

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1067**

**ANSWERED ON 15/12/ 2022**

*Leg. II Sec.*

**ANTI-DEFECTION LAW**

**1067 Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the toppling of State Governments across the country has become so common;
- (b) if so, the facts and the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to strengthen the Anti-Defection law, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution by the Constitution Fifty-second (Amendment) Act, 1985. It sets the provisions for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party. In the recent past, owing to implementation of the Tenth Schedule there has been substantive decrease in the defection cases. Since, the provisions of the Tenth Schedule have stood the test of time and several judicial scrutinies, there does not appear to be any need for carrying out any amendments as of now.

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

**RAJYA S A B H A**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1068**

**ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022.**

**Uniform Civil Code by States**

*Leg. III Sec.*

**1068. DR. JOHN BRITTAS**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that some States are proceeding with the formulation of the Uniform Civil Code in respective States; and
- (b) if so, the response of Government thereto and the details thereof ?

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Article 44 of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. Personal laws such as intestacy and succession; wills; joint family and partition; marriage and divorce, relate to Entry 5 of List-III-Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, and hence, the States are also empowered to legislate upon them.

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1069**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 15.12.2022**

**New system for appointment of judges**

AS(A&A)

✓ **1069.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:**

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

- (a) whether Government is considering a new system for appointment of Judges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether Government is satisfied with the present system of appointment of judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

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

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1070  
ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022**

NM

**USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN JUDICIARY**

✓ JS(GRR)  
**1070. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:**

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

- (a) whether Government has drawn any plan to make the judicial system more transparent and more efficient for litigants and lawyers; and
- (b) if so, the details of the technological and other measures that are being taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a):** 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.

**(b):** Towards achieving the goal of "Open Government" and bringing about change for optimal use of human resources and make justice delivery more transparent, efficient and accountable, the Government (Department of Justice) in collaboration with eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has been harnessing the potentiality of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to the fullest through its eCourts Mission Mode Project-Phase I and Phase II under which following measures have been taken:-

- 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. 337crore 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. 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 eSewa Kendras. As on 28.02.2022, 619 eSewa 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 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.

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1071**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

*Judl. Sec.*

**Strict measures on errant litigants**

**1071 # Dr. KirodiLalMeena:**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to adopt strict measures, like recovery of litigation expenses and doubling the fine/punishment against the persons committing the crime of filing false cases repeatedly, in order to bring transparency in the judicial system of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to make provision for imprisonment/punishment in case of non-payment of fine by such persons; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure that the persons filing the cases furnish complete details of their expenses?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a) to (d):** No, Sir. Legal and Constitutional remedies are guaranteed under the provisions of the Constitution. Approaching courts for redressal is a right of all citizens and especially the marginalised, who are fighting to get justice.

As per the contentions of the parties in a case, it is for the Court to decide whether the case/petition/suit is maintainable or not and what relief is admissible or otherwise depending on the facts and circumstances of the case. Further, there are certain laws to deal with the frivolous litigations by errant litigants. Under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, section 35A provides for payment of costs by way of compensation in respect of false or vexatious claims or defences. Also, under section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, the court is empowered to direct payment of compensation to the accused, if the court considers that there is no reasonable ground for making the accusation. Further, as per section 209 of the

Page 1 of 3

Indian Penal Code, 1860, whoever fraudulently or dishonestly, or with intent to injure or annoy any person, makes in a Court of Justice any claim which he knows to be false, is liable to be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine. The Hon'ble Supreme Court and High Courts have also issued certain directions from time to time through their orders/judgements to keep a check on frivolous litigation/false claims. The courts are also concerned that its process are not abused by any persons, organisations and institutions by filing frivolous petitions in the name of PILs. Further, Public-interest litigation is a *rule of declared law* by the courts of record. However, the person (or entity) filing the petition must prove to the satisfaction of the court that the petition serves the public interest and is not a frivolous lawsuit brought for monetary gain.

The Supreme Court, in the case of *State of Uttaranchal vs. Balwant Singh Chauhan and Ors.* (2010) 3 SCC 402, had held that in order to preserve the purity and sanctity of the PIL, it has become imperative to issue the following directions:-

- (a) The courts must encourage genuine and bona fide PIL and effectively discourage and curb the PIL filed for extraneous considerations.
- (b) Instead of every individual judge devising his own procedure for dealing with the public interest litigation, it would be appropriate for each High Court to properly formulate rules for encouraging the genuine PIL and discouraging the PIL filed with oblique motives. Consequently, we request that the High Courts who have not yet framed the rules, should frame the rules within three months. The Registrar General of each High Court is directed to ensure that a copy of the Rules prepared by the High Court is sent to the Secretary General of this court immediately thereafter.
- (c) The courts should *prima facie* verify the credentials of the petitioner before entertaining a PIL.
- (d) The court should be *prima facie* satisfied regarding the correctness of the contents of the petition before entertaining a PIL.
- (e) The court should be fully satisfied that substantial public interest is involved before entertaining the petition.
- (f) The court should ensure that the petition which involves larger public interest, gravity and urgency must be given priority over other petitions.
- (g) The courts before entertaining the PIL should ensure that the PIL is aimed at redressal of genuine public harm or public injury. The court should also ensure that there is no personal gain, private motive or oblique motive behind filing the public interest litigation.

- (h) The court should also ensure that the petitions filed by busybodies for extraneous and ulterior motives must be discouraged by imposing exemplary costs or by adopting similar novel methods to curb frivolous petitions and the petitions filed for extraneous considerations.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Subrata Roy Sahara vs. Union of India & Ors.* (2014) 8 SCC 470, has held that "*The Indian judicial system is grossly afflicted, with frivolous litigation. Ways and means need to be evolved, to deter litigants from their compulsive obsession, towards senseless and ill-considered claims. One needs to keep in mind, that in the process of litigation, there is an innocent sufferer on the other side, of every irresponsible and senseless claim. He suffers long drawn anxious periods of nervousness and restlessness, whilst the litigation is pending, without any fault on his part.*"

Recently, the Supreme Court, in '*CharuKishor Mehta vs. Prakash Patel & Ors., SLP(C) No. 11030 /2022*' vide order dated 22.06.2022 confirmed the Order dated 13.06.2022 of the Bombay High Court, and held that filing frivolous cases in a court of law is an abuse of process of law. The Court also upheld the order of Bombay High Court imposing the cost of Rs. 5 lakhs on the petitioner and dismissed the Special Leave Petition.

The Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the case *H. S. Bedi vs. NHAI* (MANU/DE/0154/2016) has issued a set of guidelines to the lower courts for initiating prosecution under Section 209 of the Indian Penal Code in appropriate cases. The High Court said that the reluctance of courts to take action encourages litigants to make false averments. As stated above, section 209 of the IPC provides for imprisonment up to two years' and fine for the offence of fraudulently or dishonestly making a false claim in the court with the intent to injure or annoy any person.

Since Hon'ble Supreme Court and High Courts have been issuing guidelines from time to time to put a check on the false and frivolous litigation, no further actions at the level of the Central Government is contemplated at this stage.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1072  
ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022

*e-loot*

*JS(PPP)*

**Virtual Functioning of Courts**

✓ **1072. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:**

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

- (a) the total amount of money spent on building infrastructure for Online/Virtual functioning of various Higher, Lower and Quasi-judicial courts during the last 3 years; and
- (b) how much of the report submitted by the Parliamentary Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice has been implemented by Government?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a): 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 & Subordinate courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the High Courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) till 31.10.2022 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court held 2,97,435 hearings till 03.09.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period. 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. Over the last three years the government has provided the courts with Video Conferencing infrastructure such as video conferencing equipment, VC Cabins, VC Licenses and Document Visualizers, etc. Total funds released in the last three years are Rs. 42.79 crores. Year-wise release of funds is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Funds Released for VC Infrastructure</b>
2019-20	Rs. 0.80 crores
2020-21	Rs. 41.48 crores
2021-22	Rs. 0.31 crores

**(b):** On the 103<sup>rd</sup> interim report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice regarding the functioning of Virtual Courts/Court proceedings through Video Conferencing, the Department of Justice had furnished to the Rajya Sabha secretariat on 16/12/2020, an Action Taken Report on the various observations and recommendations as contained in the said report and the same is under consideration before the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1073  
ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022**

JR

JS(GRR)

**BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN COURTS**

✓ **1073. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:**

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

- (a) whether many district courts do not have any toilet/washrooms for females;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) washrooms/toilets for females in district courts constructed during the last three years, State-wise details thereof; and
- (d) the details of numbers of district courts which were equipped with toilet facilities for females as on 31st December, 2014 and on 31st December, 2019, State-wise details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): The Registry of the Supreme Court of India compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities, as per which 74% of court complexes have separate ladies' toilets and 84% have gents' toilets. The primary responsibility for the development of infrastructure facilities including the provision of toilets/washrooms 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 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 Department is not maintaining any data on the number of washrooms/toilets constructed in the district and subordinate courts. 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.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1074

ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022

JS(GRR)

JR

✓ **SHORTAGE OF COURTROOMS AND RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS IN TELANGANA**

**1074. SHRI DAMODAR RAO DIVAKONDA:**

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

- (a) whether Government has contemplated on shortage of Courtrooms, residential quarters for district and subordinate judiciary in the State of Telangana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the constraints, if any, being faced by Government to help the State Government in dealing with infrastructural challenges being faced by lower judiciary and the steps taken to address the same?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

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**(a) to (c):** As per the information made available by the High Courts, there are 21,159 court halls available and 2,673 court halls are under construction as on 30.11.2022 compared to the working strength of 19,235 Judges/Judicial Officers in the Subordinate Judiciary. In addition, there are 18,557 residential units available, and 1,662 residential units are under construction. As far as Telangana is concerned against the working strength of 410, 531 court halls available and 475 residential units are available.

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 (CSS) 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. The release of funds under the scheme is supplementary in nature and project/ component-wise funds are not released under the scheme. Some delay occurred in construction of infrastructure projects in states affected due to lockdown imposed on account of the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. Further, many states failed to implement the Public Financial management System (PFMS) that includes designation of a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) for each CSS; registration of SNA in PFMS and opening of bank account of each SNA and its mapping on PFMS; opening of zero balance account of the Implementing agencies; linkage of these accounts with the SNA account, deposition of central share within 20 days and matching state share within 40 days of receipt of central share. This new system has been introduced as per the Ministry of Finance's revised instructions dated 23.03.2021 for better monitoring of availability and utilization of funds released to the States under CSS and to have more effective cash management and for bringing more efficiency in the public expenditure management. Under the new PFMS, the CSS funds will get released, only after at least 75% of the funds earlier released stand utilized and unspent balance not being more than 25% of the amount proposed to be released to a state in a year. The Department of Justice has been holding regular central level monitoring meetings with all the States and UTs through video conferencing to monitor and resolve infrastructure related issues of the States.

A state-wise statement of available judicial infrastructure in the subordinate judiciary vis-à-vis sanctioned and working strength is in *Annexure*.

Annexure  
Statement referred to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 1074 for reply on 15.12.2022 State/UT-wise details of number of existing and under construction court halls / residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on 30.11.2022

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Court Halls Under Construction	Total Residential Units	Total Residential Units Under Construction
1	Andaman and Nicobar	17	13	17	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	607	536	631	99	16
3	Assam	484	426	424	99	6
4	Bihar	2008	1351	1556	86	82
5	Chhattisgarh	527	436	472	21	434
6	D & N Haveli	3	2	3	0	0
7	Daman & Diu	4	4	5	3	0
8	Delhi	884	682	644	50	70
9	Goa	50	40	53	28	0
10	Gujarat	1582	1154	1506	140	29
11	Haryana	772	471	558	75	65
12	Himachal Pradesh	179	165	151	14	1
13	Jammu and Kashmir	314	236	194	46	8
14	Jharkhand	690	508	659	0	0
15	Karnataka	1365	1132	1186	144	84
16	Kerala	569	469	535	62	18
17	Ladakh	17	9	9	0	0
18	Lakshadweep	3	3	3	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1527	1543	409	147
20	Maharashtra	2190	1940	2350	498	73
21	Manipur	59	42	39	8	0
22	Meghalaya	99	51	53	30	97
23	Mizoram	74	41	42	26	6
24	Nagaland	34	24	30	12	2
25	Nagaland	994	769	812	53	56
26	Odisha	28	11	36	0	0
27	Puducherry	797	596	589	72	36
28	Rajasthan	1587	1257	1334	192	131
29	Sikkim	28	21	20	0	0
30	Tamil Nadu	1335	1068	1207	0	0
31	Telangana	535	410	531	45	6
32	Tripura	128	109	82	8	6
33	Uttar Pradesh	3638	2481	2748	289	251
34	Uttarakhand	299	270	241	70	3
35	West Bengal	997	918	836	91	32
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>24989</b>	<b>19235</b>	<b>21159</b>	<b>2673</b>	<b>1662</b>
					<b>18557</b>	

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

*Leg. I Sec.*

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1075**

✓ **TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**Repeal of Obsolete and Archaic Laws**

**1075. SHRI Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:**

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

- (a) whether it is fact that a large number of obsolete and archaic laws which have no relevance in the present time are hampering the normal life of people;**
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to repeal these laws; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

**A N S W E R**

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

(a) to (c): 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.

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARTED QUESTION NO. 1076**

ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

Judl. Sec.

**REVISED NATIONAL LITIGATION POLICY**

1076. **Shri S Niranjan Reddy :**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to review the National Litigation Policy(NLP) that came out last in 2010, if so, by when;
- (b) whether the Central Government is the largest litigant in India, the details of measures being contemplated to reduce unwanted and avoidable litigation at Government's end;
- (c) whether Government proposes to include a periodic impact assessment programme that was missing from the NLP, 2010 to assess the reduction in Government litigation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) : Sir, National Litigation Policy was formulated by the Department of Legal Affairs in 2010. The draft Note for the Cabinet was circulated to all the Ministries/Departments for their suggestions and inputs. Subsequently, the National Litigation Policy of 2010 was reformulated and the revised policy, after multiple deliberations at various levels including inter-ministerial, committee of Secretaries, informal team of Ministers and Law Commission, was re-submitted for consideration by the Committee Of Secretaries (CoS).

During the meeting on 14.09.2017, the CoS had, inter-alia, recommended that the intent of reducing litigation can be optimally achieved through simplified guidelines rather than formulating a National Litigation Policy.

At present, the drafting of the aforementioned guidelines is under consideration.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA S A B H A

STARRED QUESTION No. \*177

ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022.

*Leg. III Sec.*

LEGAL RECOGNITION OF LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS

✓\*177. SMT.RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL

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

- (a) whether Government intends to introduce a system for registering live- in relationships;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government intends to provide a set of protections for people in live-in relationships;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government intends to recognize non-heterosexual live-in relationships; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE,

(KIREN RIJIJU)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (f) OF THE  
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.177 FOR ANSWER ON  
22/12/2022**

(a) to (f) : In so far as the protection of people in live-in relationships are concerned, 'the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005' (PWDVA) provides for protection of the rights of women who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. As per sub-section (f) of section (2) of the aforesaid Act 'domestic relationship' means relationship between two persons who live or have, at any point of time, lived together in a shared household, when they are related by consanguinity, marriage, or through a relationship in the nature of marriage, adoption or are family members living together as a joint family". The Hon'ble Supreme Court and other Hon'ble Courts in a number of judgements have held the view that 'live-in-relationship', which are in the nature of marriage are covered under the provisions of PWDVA. In *Navtej Singh Johar and Ors Vs Union of India* and Ors (Writ Petition(Criminal) No. 76 of 2016) the Supreme Court held that consensual sexual acts of adults in private is constitutional.

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1791  
ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022**

AS (APP)

**Collegium system for appointments in higher judiciary**

✓ 1791. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

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

- (a) whether Government intends to change the current collegium system for appointing judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts;
- (b) the number of pending appointments in the High Courts after the collegium provided a recommendation and the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for delays in transfers and appointments; and
- (d) the number of vacancies in the High Courts and the Supreme Court?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a) to (d):** In order to make the Collegium system of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts more broad-based, transparent, accountable and bringing objectivity in the system, the Government brought into force the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f. 13.04.2015. However, both the Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.10.2015 declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative. Representations from diverse sources on lack of transparency, objectivity and social diversity in the collegium system of appointment of judges to the Constitutional Courts are received from time to time with the request to improve this system of appointment of judges.



Government has sent suggestions for supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges to the High Courts and Supreme Court.

As on 16.12.2022, 154 proposals received from High Courts are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. Transfer and appointments of Judges of the High Courts require consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

As on 16.12.2022, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, 28 Judges are working in the Supreme Court leaving 06 vacancies to be filled. Against the sanctioned strength of 1108, 775 Judges are working in the High Courts, leaving 333 vacancies to be filled. At present, 154 proposals are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. Further, recommendations from High Court Collegiums are yet to be received in respect of 179 vacancies in High Courts.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1866  
ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022

SS(GRR)

PENDING CIVIL CASES IN DISTRICT COURTS

RM

✓ 1866 # SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

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

- (a) the details of the civil cases pending in the district courts of the country during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is considering to take initiative to settle the civil and criminal cases pending at the judiciary level in a definite time frame so that the pending cases in the courts can be resolved; and
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for increasing number of the cases in the courts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): As per information obtained from Supreme Court of India, the details of the civil cases pending in the district courts of the country during the last five years, State-wise is at *Annexure-I*.

(b) & (c): The disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the domain of the judiciary, by adopting approaches for a litigant-centric justice delivery system in their jurisdiction. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts.

As far as disposal of cases in a definite time frame is concerned, no time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. However, 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 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

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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.

(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 UMANAG Platform.

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,		

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

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
Total	3,82,21,509	1,64,92,538	5,47,14,047

The details of the case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last two years are as under:-

Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an 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 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.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1866 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING  
'PENDING CIVIL CASES IN DISTRICT COURTS'**

**Details of Civil Cases Pending in District & Subordinate Courts from 2018 to 2022.**

S. N	States/Uts	Total Number of Pending Cases(Civil)				
		2018*	2019*	2020*	2021*	2022**
1	Uttar Pradesh	1656944	1714208	1805336	1850739	1670274
2	Andhra Pradesh	529427	311798	351110	414077	415444
3	Telangana		246280	281547	322417	327638
4	Maharashtra	1185586	1236874	1363965	1478744	1542796
5	Goa	21499	21993	24332	25820	25603
6	Diu and Daman	2571	2581	2955	3140	1411
7	Silvasa					1892
8	West Bengal	493021	505168	546955	600575	606777
9	Andman&Nicobar	3769	3841	4207	4476	4418
10	Chattisgarh	55924	59642	62912	72062	77563
11	Delhi	187733	197432	216127	249500	251891
12	Gujarat	466855	425827	460382	455312	436650
13	Assam	67993	71550	80793	87179	92704
14	Nagaland	2379	1302	1581	1780	1573
15	Meghalaya	3157	3196	3502	3705	3609
16	Manipur	3417	3932	4309	5257	4889
17	Tripura	8971	8785	10776	11271	11317
18	Mizoram	3021	2624	2586	2648	2792
19	Auranchal Pradesh	1921	1898	2228	2450	2743
20	Himachal pradesh	116269	123264	146485	157703	160134
21	Jammu& Kashmir	55965	59151	69083	75211	77329
22	Jharkhand	61991	67779	77312	88696	87650
23	Karnataka	726513	744463	820004	848853	891724
24	Kerala	421358	432085	512392	543434	542413
25	U.T of lakshadweep	133	156	144	169	165
26	Madhya Pradesh	309147	312221	337383	359364	364164
27	Tamil Nadu	616179	648084	717710	757473	761467
28	Puducherry	12633	14185	15818	14298	13591
29	Orissa	305621	313318	342356	362945	360986
30	Bihar	366915	386715	417183	464456	489861
31	Punjab	256779	273721	349193	393846	405565
32	Haryana	277973	308603	384167	429831	451678
33	Chandigarh	17203	18209	21009	22976	23353
34	Rajasthan	469742	439357	483330	518923	535685
35	Sikkim	387	341	466	499	533
36	Uttrakhand	34038	31414	35548	36474	37887
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8743034</b>	<b>8991997</b>	<b>9955186</b>	<b>10666303</b>	<b>10686169</b>

Source:- Supreme Court of India

\* as on 31<sup>st</sup> December of the end of respective year.

\*\* as on 30.09.2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867  
ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022

JSCARR)

PENDENCY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES

NM

✓1867. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the details of pending, civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country, State-wise as on 15th December, 2022;
- (b) the details of pending civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on 1st January, 2021 and 31st December, 2021, State-wise;
- (c) the details of increase/decrease in pendency of criminal and civil cases, State-wise during the last one year; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government for early disposal of cases along with the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of pending, civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country, State-wise as on 15th December, 2022 is at *Annexure-I*.
- (b): As per information obtained from Supreme Court of India, the details of pending civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on 1st January, 2021 and 31st December, 2021, State-wise is at *Annexure-II*.
- (c): The details of increase/decrease in pendency of criminal and civil cases, State-wise during the last one year, i.e. 2021-2022 is at *Annexure-III*.



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

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

(iv) **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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:-

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OBC	7,94,986	29.04%
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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.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING  
'PENDENCY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES'**

**Details of Cases Pending in Lower Judiciary as on 15.12.2022.**

S No.	State/UTs	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total
1	Uttar Pradesh	1857563	9092346	10949909
2	Maharashtra	1558574	3387479	4946053
3	Bihar	507445	2933205	3440650
4	West Bengal	612878	2137121	2749999
5	Rajasthan	529146	1586987	2116133
6	Madhya Pradesh	392949	1577717	1970666
7	Karnataka	907106	978859	1885965
8	Kerala	510963	1357575	1868538
9	Gujarat	425707	1308024	1733731
10	Orissa	299125	1246164	1545289
11	Haryana	452460	986599	1439059
12	Tamil Nadu	749318	674997	1424315
13	Delhi	247923	1045479	1293402
14	Telangana	419433	632618	1052051
15	Punjab	399542	518608	918150
16	Andhra Pradesh	411886	404676	816562
17	Jharkhand	89983	432894	522877
18	Assam	93253	395325	488578
19	Himachal Pradesh	153497	319841	473338
20	Chhattisgarh	75386	329777	405163
21	Uttarakhand	44684	284949	329633
22	Jammu and Kashmir	98260	198896	297156
23	Chandigarh	22977	55211	78188
24	Goa	25686	30185	55871
25	Tripura	11241	28316	39557
26	Puducherry	11892	18041	29933
27	Meghalaya	4539	11749	16288
28	Manipur	7994	4261	12255
29	Andaman and Nicobar	3143	8722	11865
30	Odisha	2231	9100	11331
31	Mizoram	2314	2842	5156
32	DNH at Silvassa	1858	1921	3779
33	Nagaland	573	2394	2967
34	Diu and Daman	1430	1468	2898
35	Sikkim	656	1195	1851
36	Ladakh	642	492	1134
<b>Total</b>		<b>10934257</b>	<b>32006033</b>	<b>42940290</b>

\*Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES'**

Details of Cases Pending in Lower Judiciary as on 01.01.2021 and 31.12.2021.

S.No	States/UTs	Pendency as on 1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2021			Pendency as on 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2021		
		Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Uttar Pradesh	1805336	6975768	8781104	1850739	8115867	9966606
2	Andhra Pradesh	351110	298047	649157	414077	371302	785379
3	Telangana	281547	410099	691646	322417	467943	790360
4	Maharashtra	1363965	3140608	4504573	1478744	3322151	4800895
5	Goa	24332	34635	58967	25820	33594	59414
6	Diu and Daman & Silvassa	2955	3326	6281	3140	3383	6523
7	West Bengal	546955	1623833	2170788	600575	1783445	2384020
8	Andaman & Nicobar	4207	5632	9839	4476	4845	9321
9	Chhattisgarh	62912	268937	331849	72062	309922	381984
10	Delhi	216127	802515	1018642	249500	981873	1231373
11	Gujarat	460382	1457610	1917992	455312	1496950	1952262
12	Assam	80793	279960	360753	87179	327845	415024
13	Nagaland	1581	2625	4206	1780	2789	4569
14	Meghalaya	3502	12328	15830	3705	12305	16010
15	Manipur	4309	2648	6957	5257	2926	8183
16	Tripura	10776	33878	44654	11271	31825	43096
17	Mizoram	2586	3752	6338	2648	3656	6304
18	Arunachal Pradesh	2228	10423	12651	2450	11868	14318
19	Himachal Pradesh	146485	274406	420891	157703	307189	464892
20	Jammu & Kashmir	69083	129688	198771	75211	141034	216245
21	Jharkhand	77312	349818	427130	88696	402209	490905
22	Karnataka	820004	889216	1709220	848853	931949	1780802
23	Kerala	512392	1576897	2089289	543434	1545713	208914
24	U.T of Lakshadweep	144	309	453	169	301	470
25	Madhya Pradesh	337383	1389910	1727293	359364	1561249	192061
26	Tamil Nadu	717710	546048	1263758	757473	574471	133194

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES'**

**State-Wise Details of Increase/Decrease in Pendency of Criminal and Civil Cases during 2021-2022 in Lower Judiciary**

S.No	States/UTs	Pendency as on 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2021*	Pendency as on 30th September, 2022*	Increase/Decrease**	Pendency as on 31st December, 2021*	Pendency as on 30th September, 2022*	Increase/Decrease**
		<b>Civil Cases</b>			<b>Criminal Cases</b>		
1	Uttar Pradesh	1850739	1670274	-180465	8115867	8970799	854932
2	Andhra Pradesh	414077	415444	1367	371302	412346	41044
3	Telangana	322417	327638	5221	467943	495020	27077
4	Maharashtra	1478744	1542796	64052	3322151	3376458	54307
5	Goa	25820	25603	-217	33594	30479	-3115
6	Diu and Daman	3140	1411	-1729	3383	1446	-1937
7	Silvassa		1892	1892		1892	1892
8	West Bengal	600575	606777	6202	1783445	1874642	91197
9	Andaman & Nicobar	4476	4418	-58	4845	4745	-100
10	Chhattisgarh	72062	77563	5501	309922	325703	15781
11	Delhi	249500	251891	2391	981873	1188258	206385
12	Gujarat	455312	436650	-18662	1496950	1371977	-124973
13	Assam	87179	92704	5525	327845	385652	57807
14	Nagaland	1780	1573	-207	2789	3032	243
15	Meghalaya	3705	3609	-96	12305	11967	-338
16	Manipur	5257	4889	-368	2926	2765	-161
17	Tripura	11271	11317	46	31825	27669	-4156
18	Mizoram	2648	2792	144	3656	3051	-605
19	Arunachal Pradesh	2450	2743	293	11868	13286	1418
20	Himachal Pradesh	157703	160134	2431	307189	344778	37589

\* As per data obtained from Supreme Court of India

\*\* In cases of decrease of pendency of cases it is depicted by (-) prefix



27	Puducherry	15818	17652	<b>33470</b>	14298	18700	<b>32998</b>
28	Orissa	342356	1249894	<b>1592250</b>	362945	1426732	<b>1789677</b>
29	Bihar	417183	2599560	<b>3016743</b>	464456	2812240	<b>3276696</b>
30	Punjab	349193	494598	<b>843791</b>	393846	551763	<b>945609</b>
31	Haryana	384167	717163	<b>1101330</b>	429831	884050	<b>1313881</b>
32	Chandigarh	21009	49624	<b>70633</b>	22976	49408	<b>72384</b>
33	Rajasthan	483330	1464358	<b>1947688</b>	518923	1643851	<b>2162774</b>
34	Sikkim	466	989	<b>1455</b>	499	1117	<b>1616</b>
35	Uttarakhand	35548	213802	<b>249350</b>	36474	250730	<b>287204</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9955186</b>	<b>27330556</b>	<b>37285742</b>	<b>10666303</b>	<b>30387195</b>	<b>41053498</b>

Source:-Supreme Court of India.

21	Jammu & Kashmir	75211	77329	2118	141034	180899	39865
22	Jharkhand	88696	87650	-1046	402209	412037	9828
23	Karnataka	848853	891724	42871	931949	986321	54372
24	Kerala	543434	542413	-1021	1545713	1449930	-95783
25	U.T of Lakshadweep	169	165	-4	301	374	73
26	Madhya Pradesh	359364	364164	4800	1561249	1593011	31762
27	Tamil Nadu	757473	761467	3994	574471	622398	47927
28	Puducherry	14298	13591	-707	18700	18625	-75
29	Orissa	362945	360986	-1959	1426732	1485534	58802
30-	Bihar	464456	489861	25405	2812240	2944269	132029
31	Punjab	393846	405565	11719	551763	547212	-4551
32	Haryana	429831	451678	21847	884050	994097	110047
33	Chandigarh	22976	23353	377	49408	65452	16044
34	Rajasthan	518923	535685	16762	1643851	1712516	68665
35	Sikkim	499	533	34	1117	1112	-5
36	Uttarakhand	36474	37887	1413	250730	280856	30126
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10666303</b>	<b>10686169</b>	<b>19866</b>	<b>30387195</b>	<b>32140608</b>	<b>1753413</b>

\* As per data obtained from Supreme Court of India

\*\* In cases of decrease of pendency of cases it is depicted by (-) prefix

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1868

ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

Formation of bench of women judges

3AS(LASA)

(ASA)

✓ 1868. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

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

- (a) whether for the third time in history of the Supreme Court, bench consisting of only women judges is hearing cases, if so, reasons for not constituting benches of women judges from time to time;
- (b) whether benches of only women judges have been constituted in any High Court, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that no significant efforts have been made during last 70 years to provide adequate representation to women in High Courts/Supreme Court, if so, details of initiative taken by Government to increase representation of women judges in Supreme Court?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): Article 145 empowers the Supreme Court to make rules for regulating generally the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court. Further, the rules made under Article 145 may fix the minimum number of judges who are to sit for any purpose, and may provide for the powers of a single judge and Divisional Courts. Supreme Court Rules, 2013 made under the provisions of Article 145 regulate the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court. Order VI of the said Rules empowers the Chief Justice of India on the issue of Constitution of Division Courts. The Constitution of benches is, therefore the sole discretion of Chief Justice of India, who is master of the roster. Article 225 of the Constitution of India empowers the High Court to make rules regarding proceedings and other matters connected to the High Court. In case of the High Courts, the power to constitute Benches is exercised by the Chief Justice of the High Courts, who are masters

of rosters in their respective High Courts. The constitution of the benches comprising of women judges would also depend upon the availability of lady judges at a particular point in time. The information regarding High Court benches of only women is not centrally maintained.

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.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1869  
ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022

ASSESSMENT ON SHORTAGE OF JUDGES

NM

✓ 1869. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment on the shortage of judges and vacant posts in the courts of the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether the process of recruitment has started against the said vacancies during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the number of such vacant posts in the State of Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): A Statement showing the sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies in Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 19.12.2022 is at *Annexure-I*.

A Statement showing the sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of judicial officers in the District and Subordinate Courts as on 19.12.2022 is at *Annexure-II*.

(b): The filling up of vacancies in the higher judiciary 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 Centre and State level.

As per the Constitutional framework, the appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are made under Articles 124, 217, and 224 of the Constitution of India respectively. Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are appointed as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in year 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India while the same for Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. 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.

From 01.01.2020 till 19.12.2022, 12 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court of India. In case of High Courts, 351 judges have been appointed in various High Courts of the country. As on 19.12.2022, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, 28 Judges are working in the Supreme Court of India, leaving a vacancy of 6 Judges. In case of the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1108 Judges, 775 Judges are working in the High Courts, there is a vacancy of 333 Judges to be filled. The details of the vacant posts filled in Supreme Court and High Court during last three years, as on 19.12.2022 is at *Annexure-III*.

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 issues of appointment, promotion, reservations, etc. 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, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States. Central Government has no direct role in the matter.

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.

(c): At present, there are a total of 22 vacancies in the Madras High Court consisting of 13 permanent posts and 9 additional posts vacant.

As per information obtained from the High Court of Madras, the assessment made by them regarding the vacancies of various categories of Judicial Officers, as on 16.12.2022, in District and Subordinate Courts of the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Services is as follows:

S. No.	Cadre	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	District Judge	341	274	67
2	Senior Civil Judge	351	299	52
3	Civil Judge	648	496	152
	Total	1340	1069	271

Source: High Court of Madras

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1869 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING 'ASSESSMENT ON SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'**

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (As on 19.12.2022)

A.	Supreme Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		34			28			6		
B.	High Court	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	43	10	53	13	9	22
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	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>37</b>

Source: Department of Justice

\* In the High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta, Chhattisgarh, Gauhati, Punjab & Haryana respectively, the number of working Additional judges were more as against the sanctioned strength of Additional judges, therefore leading to (-) negative vacancy position in case of Additional Judges.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1869 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING 'ASSESSMENT ON SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'**

**Statement showing State-wise Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts (As on 19.12.2022)**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	-13
2	Andhra Pradesh	607	534	73
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	33	8
4	Assam	484	425	59
5	Bihar	2016	1351	665
6	Chandigarh	30	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	527	436	91
8	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
10	Delhi	884	681	203
11	Goa	50	40	10
12	Gujarat	1582	1154	428
13	Haryana	772	465	307
14	Himachal Pradesh	179	165	14
15	Jammu and Kashmir	314	223	91
16	Jharkhand	694	508	186
17	Karnataka	1365	1132	233
18	Kerala	578	468	110
19	Ladakh	17	9	8
20	Lakshadweep	3	3	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1524	497
22	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
23	Manipur	59	42	17
24	Meghalaya	99	51	48
25	Mizoram	74	41	33
26	Nagaland	34	24	10
27	Odisha	994	768	226
28	Puducherry	28	11	17
29	Punjab	797	589	208
30	Rajasthan	1587	1256	331
31	Sikkim	30	21	9
32	Tamil Nadu	1340	1068	272
33	Telangana	560	410	150
34	Tripura	128	109	19
35	Uttar Pradesh	3638	2474	1164
36	Uttarakhand	299	270	29
37	West Bengal	1014	918	96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25042</b>	<b>19192</b>	<b>5850</b>

Source: MIS Portal, Department of Justice



**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1869 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING 'ASSESSMENT ON SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'**

**The details of the vacant posts filled in Supreme Court and High Court, during last three years**

(As on 19.12.2022)

S. No.	Court (s)	2020	2021	2022
	<b>Supreme Court</b>	0	09	03
	<b>High Courts</b>			
1	Allahabad	04	17	13
2	Andhra Pradesh	07	02	14
3	Bombay	04	06	19
4	Calcutta	01	08	16
5	Chhattisgarh	0	03	03
6	Delhi	0	02	17
7	Gauhati	0	06	02
8	Gujarat	07	07	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	01	02
10	J & K and Ladakh	05	02	04
11	Jharkhand	0	04	01
12	Karnataka	10	06	06
13	Kerala	06	12	01
14	Madhya Pradesh	0	08	06
15	Madras	10	05	04
16	Manipur	01	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18	Orissa	02	04	06
19	Patna	0	06	11
20	Punjab & Haryana	01	06	21
21	Rajasthan	06	08	02
22	Sikkim	0	0	0
23	Telangana	01	07	17
24	Tripura	01	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>165</b>

Source: Department of Justice

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1870  
ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022

JSC(PPP)

LACK OF DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

✓ 1870. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

e-Court

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that a survey conducted in 2021 by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) office showed that only 41 percent of the district courts had a studio-based video conferencing facility and only 14 per cent of district court complexes had video linkages with medical officers and 38 per cent had video linkages with jails;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to improve this situation; and
- (c) details of steps being taken by Government to improve the digital infrastructure of subordinate judiciary and for installation of fiber optic wires for high speed internet connectivity?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Registry of Supreme Court of India has compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities, as per which 41 percent of the district courts had a studio-based video conferencing facility and only 14 per cent of district court complexes had video linkages with medical officers and 38 per cent had video linkages with jails.

One video conferencing equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including Taluk Level Court Complexes in rural areas under the Phase II of the e-Courts Project for virtual hearings. To further augment the Video Conferencing (VC) infrastructure, the eCommittee of the Supreme Court has approved VC equipment to be provided to 14,443 court rooms in these court complexes for which funds to the tune of Rs.28.88 crore has been released (Details at *Annexure-I*). A sum of Rs. 5.012 crore has also been released for setting

up of 2506 VC Cabin in the Court Complexes besides releasing a sum of Rs. 7.60 crore to install Document Visualisers. VC facilities have been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. With the help of the VC infrastructure so made available, the District and Subordinate courts conducted 1,65,20,791 virtual hearings since the beginning of the Covid lockdown period till 31.10.2022. Detailed Project Report (DPR) for phase III of eCourts project has been approved by eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India which has provision for the virtual hearing facility for medical officers too. In addition to it, phase III also includes integration with ICJS making seamless connectivity with prisons, forensics etc.

(c): 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, 2976 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 district and subordinate courts (as on 01.12.2022). Open Application Programming Interface (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 31st October 2022) and JustIS app for judges (17,709 downloads till 30<sup>th</sup> November 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. Since the beginning of lockdown period, the Supreme Court of India conducted 2,97,435 hearings, the High Courts 75,80,347 hearings and District & Subordinate Courts 1,65,20,791 hearings, totaling 2.41 crore virtual hearings till 31.10.2022 making India a global leader in virtual hearings. Funds for 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. 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, 619 eSewa Kendras 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 Information and Communication Technology (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/District System Administrator, Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates.

The Wide Area Network (WAN) Project under eCourts project is aimed at connecting all District and Subordinate court complexes, spread across the country using various technologies like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Radio Frequency (RF), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) etc. So far, 99.4% sites have been connected with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.

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**ANNEXURE-I****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (C) & (D) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1870 FOR ANSWER ON 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2022.****FUND RELEASE FOR VC EQUIPMENT FOR COURT ROOMS**

S.No	High Court	Number of Functioning Court Rooms	Number of VC equipment were already provided	Number of additional equipment to be provided	Total Estimated Cost (In Rs. Lakh)
A	B	C	D	E	F=Ex20000
1	Allahabad	2438	150	2288	457.6
2	Andhra Pradesh	550	212	338	67.6
3	Bombay	2178	486	1692	338.4
4	Calcutta	840	88	752	150.4
5	Chhattisgarh	395	90	305	61
6	Delhi	479	6	473	94.6
7	Gauhati	442	194	248	49.6
8	Gujarat	1078	327	751	150.2
9	Himachal Pradesh	135	43	92	18.4
10	Jammu & Kashmir	218	86	132	26.4
11	Jharkhand	417	28	389	77.8
12	Karnataka	1029	200	829	165.8
13	Kerala	508	159	349	69.8
14	Madhya Pradesh	1274	203	1071	214.2
15	Madras	1169	267	902	180.4
16	Manipur	38	37	1	0.2
17	Meghalaya	36	64	0	0
18	Orissa	688	141	547	109.4
19	Patna	1046	76	970	194
20	Punjab & Haryana	972	118	854	170.8
21	Rajasthan	1239	238	1001	200.2
22	Sikkim	21	17	4	0.8
23	Telangana	440	129	311	62.2
24	Tripura	78	66	12	2.4
25	Uttarakhand	184	52	132	26.4
	Total	17892	3477	14443	2888.6

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1871

ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022

OVERCROWDED COURT ROOMS

JS (RR)

~~NR~~

NR

✓ 1871. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there are scenes of overcrowded court rooms of not only lower courts but the highest court chambers also;
- (b) whether it is hampering the dignity of the court proceedings and sometimes the arguments remain inaudible to those who are present inside the court rooms; and
- (c) if so, the efforts Government is making in consultation with presiding officers of the concerned courts to give a dignified look to the court proceedings?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): The Registry of Supreme Court of India has compiled data on the status of judicial infrastructure and court amenities and *inter alia*, stated that court premises must be armed with better crowd management arrangements along with adequate security measures. It has been seen, time and again, that at the time of court proceedings of cases which are well covered by the media, the crowd management in court premises become a challenge. Measures must be taken to ensure that whenever court premises are thronged with heightened crowds, there is smooth ingress and egress of both vehicular traffic as well as citizens in the court premises.

The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 16.11.2017 while approving the continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of judicial infrastructure for district and subordinate courts from 2017 to March, 2020 also directed to formulate uniform norms and specifications for court buildings and residential units in the country. The Department of Justice has developed norms and specifications for construction of court halls and included in the revised guidelines issued on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. The norms and specifications have been calculated based on recommendations of the National Court Management Systems Committee of the Supreme Court in the Baseline Report on Court Development Planning System chaired by the then Supreme Court Judge, Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed (Retd.). These norms and specifications are in addition to the existing norms and practice being followed by different State Governments and certain CPWD norms. These norms and specifications suggest the size and construction cost applicable, additional facilities / common facilities such as judges' chambers, office rooms, conference rooms, judges' libraries, lawyers' libraries, etc. to be made available in each court complex and are different for different category of States depending upon whether the sanctioned strength of judges is greater or less than 500. Also, the States have been given the option to use norms higher than prescribed for creating court infrastructure for which the cost shall be borne by the respective States.

A sum of Rs. 9291.79 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 5847.48 crore (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 central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. Besides the construction of court halls and residential quarters, the scheme now also covers the construction of lawyers' halls, digital computer rooms and toilet complexes in the district and subordinate Courts. The release of funds under the scheme is only supplementary in nature and project / component-



wise funds are not released under the scheme. The State Governments while formulating the design of the court halls may include the above components or any other component depending upon their local needs and allocate additional funds for the same.

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1872**

LEG. II SEC.

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**ECI RESTRICTION ON CASH DONATIONS TO PARTIES**

✓ **1872 Shri Vaiko:**

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission of India proposed reducing anonymous political donations to ₹ 2000 from ₹ 20,000 and cap cash donations at 20 per cent or at a maximum of ₹20 crore;
- (b) if so, the response of Government thereto;
- (c) whether such measures would usher in reforms and transparency in donations received by political parties; and
- (d) whether all political parties were consulted and if so, their views and details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) : Yes sir.
- (b) and (c): The proposal is under examination.
- (d) No sir.

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1873  
ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022**

ASCA 8A)

**Requirement of NJAC for appointment of judges**

✓ 1873. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

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

- (a) whether National Judicial Appointments Commission is required for the purpose of appointment of judges in higher judiciary; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) & (b): In order to make the Collegium system of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts more broad-based, transparent, accountable and bringing objectivity in the system, the Government brought into force the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f. 13.04.2015. However, both the Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.10.2015 declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative. Representations from diverse sources on lack of transparency, objectivity and social diversity in the collegium system of appointment of judges to the Constitutional Courts are received from time to time with the request to improve this system of appointment of judges.

Government has sent suggestions for supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges to the High Courts and Supreme Court.

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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1874  
ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022

Setting up of Fast Track Courts

JSC(PPP)

J-II

✓ 1874 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

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

- (a) the number of Fast Track Courts set up after 2017 for speedy justice in cases of serious crimes;
- (b) the number of courts particularly set up to hear the POCSO Act; and
- (c) the total number of cases that have come before these courts and the number of cases that have been disposed of out of them?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a):** Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and its functioning comes within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. As per information provided by the High Courts, 242 more FTCs have been setup up after 2017 (596 FTCs were existing as on 31.12.2017 which has increased to 838 FTCs as on 31.10.2022).

**(b) & (c):** The Union Government has started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in October, 2019 for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts 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. As per information received from the High Courts, 733 FTSCs including 413 exclusive POCSO Courts are operationalized in 28 States/UTs which have disposed a total of more than 1,24,000 cases since inception of the scheme and 1,93,814 cases are pending as on 31.10.2022.

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1875  
ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022**

JS(GRR)

**PENDENCY IN GUJARAT HIGH COURT**

NM

✓ 1875 # SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

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

- (a) the total number of pending cases in the Gujarat High Court;
- (b) the total number of cases pending for more than 10 years among these cases;
- (c) whether any special plan is being chalked out for disposal of cases pending since long time; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b):** As per information provided by High Court of Gujarat, the total number of pending cases in the Gujarat High Court as on 16.12.2022 is 1,60,963 and the total number of cases pending for more than 10 years is 17,546.

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

The High Court of Gujarat has taken the following steps for disposal of long pending cases.

1. As directed by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, all ordinary pending matters registered upto-2005 including connected matters, are being notified before the Honourable Courts as per roster w.e.f 01.08.2022 and Assistant Registrar/Court Master attached to the Honourable Courts are informed to ensure that all pending matters registered upto-2005 including connected matters, shall remain on board and shall not be delisted from the board, except stayed or specific direction is given by Higher Forum. Instruction No. Judicial/18/2022 dated 12.07.2022 with regard to the above was published on the Website of the High Court of Gujarat with a request to learned Advocate(s)/Party-in-Person(s) and Officers of the Office of the Government Law Officers to extend cooperation and till final disposal of matters not to ask further adjournment in the matter.

2. Moreover, matters upto year 2001 pertains to Single Judge/Division Bench have been specially assigned to four Honourable Courts (2 Division Benches and 2 Single Judge) in the List of Sitting for early adjudication of these matters.

3. The High Court of Gujarat has introduced three Morning and Evening Courts at Family Court, Ahmadabad, Surat and Rajkot in the State of Gujarat to facilitate working class litigants to seek justice and also to reduce the pendency. The disposal of cases by these courts are given at *Annexure*.

4. As per the decision taken at the Honourable Chamber Meeting held on 18.11.2022, approximately 775 Single Judge First Appeals relating to MACP cases have been assigned to 16 Hon'ble Courts (Single Judge) as determined by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the same were listed before the Hon'ble Courts for adjudication on Wednesday,14.12.2022. These matters have been assigned to the Hon'ble Courts, till final disposal of the matters, over and above their business.

Moreover, in the List of Sitting following provisions have been made in the High Court of Gujarat:-

(i) All admission matters including applications which are not on regular board and are lying with the judicial departments for admission shall be placed before the Honourable Courts as per roster for admission as per seriatim. No request/instructions to the registry to discharge these matters from boards shall be entertained.

(ii) Members of the bar shall take notice that the old matters which are more than 05 years old will not be adjourned ordinarily by the respective Benches and they are requested to co-operate in final disposal of the matters.

(iii) The priority will be given to old matters.

(iv) Leave note will not apply to Criminal cases, Special Civil Applications and matters specially fixed for hearing or expedited by the order of the Court and matters on the Daily Board.

(v) Top Priority will be given to old Criminal Appeals/Petitions of final hearing cases in which the accused are in custody including Appeals wherein bail is rejected and unnecessary adjournment shall not be granted.

(vi) Provision in the List of Sitting had been made for listing of cases which are more than 5 years old. All cases which are more than 5 years old, have already been Marked with the Stamp of "More than 5 years old" and "Priority" on File Cover of the Judicial matters. Such cases are being listed in each Court as per their Judicial business assigned by the Honourable the Chief Justice in the Roster by preparing Board (Cause- list).

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) & (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1875 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES IN MORNING/EVENING COURTS AT FAMILY COURTS, AHMEDABAD, SURAT AND RAJKOT.'**

SI No.	Year	Disposal during the year
1	2016 (From 01.07.2016)	346
2	2017	739
3	2018	1,064
4	2019	831
5	2020	131
6	2021	186
7	2022 (upto 30.09.2022)	268
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,565</b>

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1876**

**ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022**

**Use of regional languages in Courts**

JSC(NK(a))

J-I

✓1876. Shri Brijlal

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

- a) the number of High Courts in the country which are using regional languages in their functioning;
- b) whether Government has received any request/representation from various High Courts across the country regarding the use of regional languages in their functioning and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and
- c) whether Government has prepared a common legal glossary to be used in courts with an objective of using regional languages in legal system and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

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



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

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

Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of 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) Central Government has not prepared a common legal glossary to be used in courts with an objective of using regional languages in legal system.

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

**Rajya Sabha  
Unstarred Question No. 1877  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22.12.2022**

JUDL.SEL

**Delay in cases due to non-filing of affidavits**

**✓1877. Dr. Ashok Bajpai**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that delays in disposal of matters by the Supreme Court and High Courts are often caused on account of non-filing of affidavits/responses on behalf of Government and its corporations;
- (b) whether any time line has been fixed by Government for filing responses from the date of receiving the notices/show cause for filings its response and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the monitoring system, if any, to ensure that responses/affidavits are timely filed on behalf of Government?

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

(a) to (c) : Yes sir. Information has been compiled and is as per **Annexure-A**

**Annexure-A**

S.No.	Name of Ministry/Department	(a) whether Government is aware that delays in disposal of matters by the Supreme Court and High Courts are often caused on account of non-filing of affidavits/responses on behalf of Government and its corporations	(b) whether any time line has been fixed by Government for filing responses from the date of receiving the notices/show cause for filings its response and, if so, the details thereof; and	(c) the details of the monitoring system, if any, to ensure that responses/affidavits are timely filed on behalf of Government?
1.	<b>Ministry of External Affairs</b>	Nil	Nil	It is submitted that Ministry of External Affairs is linked with the Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS) administrated by the Ministry of Law & Justice and has 3 Nodal Officers and 22 users registered under the Limbs portal. The users registered with the LIMBS portal undertake the work of entering/updating the cases involving the Ministry which are pending before various courts in India.
2.	<b>Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</b>	Nil	Nil	The monitoring of the Court cases is primarily being done through the Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS) portal of Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice.
3.	<b>Ministry of Corporate Affairs</b>	No such instances have come to the notice of the Ministry from any subordinate office under its Jurisdiction.	Nil	Legal Information and Monitoring (LIMBS) is the monitoring system to ensure that responses/affidavits are timely filed on behalf of Government.

4.	<b>Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Official Language</b>	NIL	NIL	NIL
5.	<b>Ministry of Finance, Department of Public Enterprises</b>	Department of Public Enterprises follows extant instruction of Government in this regards.	Department of Public Enterprises follows extant instruction of Government in this regards.	Department of Public Enterprises follows extant instruction of Government in this regards.
6.	<b>Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water &amp; Sanitation</b>	Nil.	Nil	Nil
7.	<b>Ministry of Skill Development and Enterprises</b>	Nil	Nil	The monitoring of the Court Cases is primarily being done through the Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS).
8.	<b>Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex Servicemen Welfare</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	<b>Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services</b>	Nil	Nil	The Department of Financial Services has set up Legal Monitoring Cell to Monitor Cell to monitor to the Court Cases received in the Department in these court cases is reviewed by Senior Officers at regular interval.
10.	<b>Ministry of Health &amp; Family Welfare, Department of Health Research</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	<b>National Commission for Scheduled Castes</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil

12.	<b>Ministry of Environment, Forest &amp; Climate Change</b>	No	It is submitted that as and when an advance copy of Petition is received in the matter in the Ministry the same is immediately processed on file along with the draft affidavit without any delay. Further, if the Notice in the matter is issued by the Hon'ble Court, the Affidavit in the matter is filed keeping in mind the time limit given by the Hon'ble Court.	The Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS) Portal designed and developed by the Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J) is used for monitoring of court cases. In addition to this, cases wherein affidavits are not filed within 2 weeks are monitored at the level of the Joint secretary.
13.	<b>Central Electricity Authority</b>	In court cases pertaining to CEA, there has been no delay or pendency in filing of the affidavits in the Supreme Court and/or High Courts and all the affidavits have been filed within the stipulated time limit. For the regular monitoring of the court cases, CEA uses Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS) portal, website of Supreme Court, High Courts, e-Courts etc.		
14.	<b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Director General of Health Services</b>	Nil	Status of Court Case is displayed on Limbs Portal and Status is updated whenever next date of hearing is notified by Court.	
15.	<b>Ministry of Heavy Industries &amp; Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry.</b>	Affidavit/responses of court cases of Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Court related to this Ministry are filed on behalf of Government within stipulated timeline. These cases are updated and monitored periodically on Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS) portal/internal system.		
16.	<b>Ministry of Civil Aviation</b>	Nil	Nil	There is Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) developed by MoLJ wherein MoCA, its subordinate organizations and autonomous bodies constantly upload/update data pertaining to court cases.