

2023

RAJYA
SABHA
REPLIES

**WINTER SESSION, 2023 [262ND
SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA]
[04TH December, 2023 to 22ND
December, 2023]**

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *50

Appointment

DS (APPT.)

ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Vacancies in High Courts and the Supreme Court

*50. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL:

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

- (a) the number of vacancies in High Courts and the Supreme Court, and the number of proposals recommended against the said vacancies;
- (b) the duration of time since the Collegium of the Supreme Court recommended the said proposals;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the delay in judicial appointments as well as transfers, if so, the reasons for delay; and
- (d) the detailed reasons for non-clearance of names of judges of various High courts recommended by the Collegium of the Supreme Court?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(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. 50 due for answer on 07.12.2023 regarding "Vacancies in High Courts and the Supreme Court"

(a) to (d): As on 04.12.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, the Supreme Court is functioning at full strength and there is no vacancy. As regards the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 790 Judges are working and 324 post of Judges are vacant in the various High Courts.

As on 01.01.2023, 171 proposals received from High Court Collegiums were at different stages of processing. During the calendar year 2023, 121 fresh proposals were received. Out of the total 292 proposals for consideration during the current calendar year, 110 Judges have been appointed and 60 recommendations were remitted to the High Courts on the advice of the SCC. As on 04.12.2023, 122 proposals are at various stages of processing. Out of these 122 proposals, 87 proposals were sent to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for seeking advice against which the SCC has provided advice on 45 proposals which are at various stages of processing in the Government. 42 proposals are under consideration with the SCC. 35 fresh proposals received recently are being processed for seeking the advice of the SCC. Recommendations are yet to be received from High Court Collegiums in respect of the remaining 198 vacancies.

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.

Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed under Article 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal to fill up of vacancy of a High Court Judge six months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. However, this timeline is often not adhered to by the High Courts. All the names recommended by High Court Collegium are sent with the views of the Government to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Government, however, appoints only those persons as Judges of High Courts who are recommended by SCC.

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As per the existing MoP, the proposal for transfer of High Court Judges is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with four senior-most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The MoP further provides that the Chief Justice of India is also expected to take into account the views of the Chief Justice of High Court from which the judge is to be transferred, as also the Chief Justice of the High Court to which the transfer is to be effected, besides taking into account the views of one or more Supreme Court judges who are in a position to offer views.

The transfer of Chief Justices/Judges of High Courts are to be made in public interest i.e. for promoting better administration of justice throughout the country. No timeline has been prescribed in the MoP for transfer of judges from one High Court to another.

As a result of the collaborative process between the Executive and Judiciary, during the year 2022, 165 Judges were appointed in various High Courts and 08 transfer among High Courts were made (02 Chief Justices and 06 Judges) and during the year 2023, a total of 110 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts and 34 judges have been transferred among various High Courts till 04.12.2023.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *51
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 2023.**

LAP

JSC(NKG) **Free legal assistance to poor people in remote and rural areas**

✓ ***51. Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has drawn any plan to provide weaker sections of the society, seeking legal assistance, with the opportunity to get their legal problems solved with ease and free of cost; and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard, particularly with reference to providing legal assistance to poor people in remote and rural areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 51 for reply on 07.12.2023 regarding 'Free legal assistance to poor people in remote and rural areas' asked by Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta.

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society as covered under Section 12 of the Act, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities.

For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The activities/ programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include Legal Aid and advice; Legal Awareness Programmes; Legal Services/Empowerment camps; Legal Services Clinics; Legal Literacy Clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme. Details of activities/ programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities is at **Annexure-A**.

Further, a scheme on Access to Justice titled "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" is implemented by the Government of India which aims to strengthen Pre-Litigation Advice and consultation through Tele-Law; to ensure pan - India dispensation framework to deliver Pro Bono legal Services through Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme and to empower citizens through Pan India Legal Literacy

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and Legal Awareness Programme. The Scheme embeds use of technology and developing contextualized IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material in regional / local dialect to support its intervention and to achieve easy accessibility of legal services to the poor and weaker sections of the society.

The Tele-Law service seeks to connect the beneficiary with the lawyer via tele/ video conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centers and through Tele-Law Citizens Mobile Application. As on 30th November 2023, Tele-Law services is available across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in 766 districts across 36 States and UTs and has rendered legal advice to 60,23,222 beneficiaries, which includes women, children, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe etc. The Nyaya Bandhu platform enables seamless connect on the Nyaya Bandhu Application (available on Android/ iOS) between the interested Pro Bono Advocates and registered beneficiaries entitled for free legal aid under section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. As on 30th November, 2023, there are 10,629 Pro Bono advocates and 89 law schools have constituted Pro Bono Clubs to facilitate the culture of Pro bono among law students. All these services under the scheme are provided free of cost to all citizens of the weaker sections of the society.

Legal aid and advice:

Years	Persons provided Panel Advocates	Persons benefited through Advice/ Counselling	Persons benefited through other services	Total
2022-23	2,91,410	6,39,230	2,84,129	12,14,769
2023-24 (upto Sept,23)	1,65,362	3,92,999	1,87,354	7,45,715

Legal Awareness Programmes:

Years	No of Legal Awareness programmes organised	No. of Persons attended
2022-23	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,93,605	1,76,93,492

Legal Services / Empowerment Camps:

Year	2022
No. of camps organised	38,541
No. of beneficiaries in all camps	1,15,10,207

Legal Services Clinics:

Year	2022-23		2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	
Categories	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance
Law Colleges/ Universities	1,093	37,351	1,025	9,520
Villages	4,134	2,82,140	3,953	1,15,321
Community Centres	776	88,638	744	39,174
Courts	904	1,16,563	936	66,921
Jails	1,177	2,64,593	1,200	1,55,588

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JJB/CWC/ Observation Homes	439	29,280	454	21,151
For the people of North-East	64	1,170	52	348
Others	3,124	1,94,729	2,771	88,674
Total	11,711	10,14,464	11,135	4,96,697

Lok Adalats:

National Lok Adalats

	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto Sept, 23)	4,94,88,552	1,06,83,225	6,01,71,777

State Lok Adalats

	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2022-23	94,939	7,56,370	8,51,309
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	42,352	6,10,724	6,53,076

Permanent Lok Adalats(Public Utility Services)

Years	Cases settled
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,10,412

Implementation of Victim Compensation Schemes:

Years	Compensation Awarded in (Rs.)
2022-23	3,47,80,37,352/-
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,97,09,14,235/-

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *60
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

N/M

JS(NM-JR)

Backlog of petty civil and criminal cases

✓*60. Shri Jaggesh:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge backlog of petty civil and criminal cases across several tiers of the judiciary resulting in high litigation expenses;
- (b) whether these petty civil cases and criminal offences can be addressed out-of-court and through a mediated method;
- (c) whether Government proposes Gram Panchayat-level mediation for petty civil and criminal issues on the lines of Panchayat-level mediation in Bihar and Himachal Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): 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. 60 FOR ANSWER ON 07.11.2023 REGARDING 'BACKLOG OF PETTY CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES.

(a) & (b): Pendency of civil and criminal cases in the country at the level of District and Subordinate Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court are reflected in real time basis on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) developed by NIC under the aegis of eCommittee of the Supreme Court and funded by Government of India's eCourts Project.

As per NJDG, the backlog of total number of civil and criminal cases across different tiers of judiciary is as under:

Backlog of Civil and Criminal Cases in Judiciary (as on 1.12.2023)				
Sl. No	Court	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Total
1	Supreme Court	17,430	62,610	80,040
2	High Court	17,46,313	44,29,266	61,75,579
3	District & Subordinate Courts	3,36,23,288	1,10,06,949	4,46,30,237

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

The information regarding pending petty civil and criminal cases categorized in the manner sought are not separately maintained on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). In case of petty criminal offences, The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 under Section 206(2), defines petty offence as "any offence punishable only with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, but does not include any offence so punishable under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (4 of 1939). However, petty criminal offences are generally regarded as those offences for which the maximum punishment under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 or any other law for the time being in force is imprisonment up to three years such as Criminal Breach of Trust (Section 406), Theft (Section 379), Extortion (Section 384) etc. As such, petty civil cases have not been statutorily defined.

Many categories of petty civil cases and criminal offences can be addressed out-of-court and through a mediated method.

Lok Adalat, established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 is primarily a "People's Court" wherein decisions are arrived at between two or more disputing parties on mutually acceptable terms amicably. Lok Adalats can take up any kind of Civil Matters and all Criminal Compoundable Matters, mostly petty in nature that are pending in a court or at the Pre-Litigative stage. There are three types of Lok Adalats: National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats. Mobile Lok Adalats are also organized in various parts of the country, which travel from one

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location to another to resolve disputes in order to facilitate the resolution of disputes through a mediated mechanism. Since June, 2020, Online Lok Adalat/e-Lok Adalats have been organised virtually that facilitates party interaction and exchange of information, allowing people to effectively participate from their homes with the help of internet technology.

The recently enacted Mediation Act, 2023 lays down that mediation can be conducted in civil and commercial matters in terms of the provisions of the Mediation Act, 2023 barring such matters explicitly listed in the First Schedule of the Act which are not fit for mediation and in which mediation can not be conducted. It can be seen from the exempted list in the first schedule that only major offences have been excluded, thus leaving majority of the petty offences under the ambit of Mediation Act, 2023.

(c) & (d): As per the information provided by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), it had constituted an Expert Committee on the subject of "*Community Mediation/Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16.3*" to provide policy and operational guidance for expanding access to justice and reduce inequalities in access to justice at the grass-roots level. The Committee has recommended that the States may formulate State-led Composite Model, which may comprise one or more of the Development of Panchayat Model (as in Bihar/ Himachal Pradesh), Panchayat Facilitated Community Mediation, Panchayat Justice Delivery through SHG-PRI Partnership, Jagratha Samiti Model and Semi-formal systems towards alternate dispute resolution to allow scalable sustainability while allowing for participatory empowerment. 'Panchayats' being a 'State' subject, the recommendations of the Committee have been forwarded to the States for taking up suitable actions towards their implementation.

In the State of Bihar, the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 1993, provides for setting-up of *Gram Kachahari* for resolution of village disputes. A *Gram Kachahari* is at the Gram Panchayat level and adjudicates on local issues and provide legal redressal. These village courts have jurisdiction for the trial of certain criminal and civil offences committed within its jurisdiction. The bench tries to come to amicable settlement for any suit that is filed. Only in cases where there is no possibility of amicable settlement, the bench examines the dispute and gives its decision. Upon conviction, the bench can declare legitimate punishment under Section 107 of the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act.

In case of Himachal Pradesh, under the provisions of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 Gram Panchayats are empowered to take cognizance of 38 types of offences under various

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Acts including hearing and deciding applications for maintenance under Section 125, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and cases transferred by the revenue court to the Gram Panchayat. Initially the Gram Panchayats mediate for civil and revenue cases to resolve the issues by compromise. Thereafter, the Gram Panchayat conducts proper trial as per law for disposal of the cases.

Under The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, enacted by Government of India, village-level judicial institutions called Gram Nyayalayas have been established at the grass roots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps in rural areas. Under Section 26 of the Act, it is mandated that as a duty, in every civil or criminal suit or proceeding, arising at the local level, endeavor shall be made by the Gram Nyayalaya in the first instance, to assist, persuade and conciliate the parties in arriving at a settlement in respect of the subject matter of the suit, claim or dispute.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 584

ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

ELECTIONS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Leg. II Sec. 2D

584. Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to conduct assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the timeline by which the process of holding assembly elections is expected to begin and completed; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Election Commission of India (the Commission) has informed that by virtue of its powers, duties and functions under Article 324 read with Article 172 (1) of the Constitution and section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951), the Commission is under a constitutional mandate to hold General Elections to constitute the new House of the People in Parliament and new Legislative Assemblies in the States within a period of six months before the expiry of the present term or within six months of the premature dissolution of the House or the Assembly, Further, the Commission considers all relevant aspects such as law and order situation in the State, school/college examinations, festivals, weather conditions, holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (26 of 1881) and availability of Central Armed Police Forces as well as availability of Electronic Voting Machine/Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail and conducive atmosphere to conduct election before finalizing the dates of poll and counting while announcing any election.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-585
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

LAP

STATUS OF LOK ADALATS

JS(NKG)

✓ 585. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) the details of Lok Adalats organised in rural areas during the last three years to date, State-wise and place-wise;
- (b) the details of total number of cases settled in these Lok Adalats, State/UT-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether Government proposes to make these Lok Adalats more effective and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the State-wise total number of Lok Adalats proposed to be organised during the current year?

ANSWER

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

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



- (c) The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) vide National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 to organise more Lok Adalats so that pendency of cases could be reduced. Further in view of Covid, E-Lok Adalat was conceptualized which significantly improved access to justice for people who were otherwise unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. The first E-Lok Adalat was held on 27.06.2020 and since then E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 28 States / UTs, wherein 441.17 lakh cases were taken up and 76.16 lakh cases disposed of.
- (d) Every year, NALSA issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats. During the year 2023, National Lok Adalats were held on 11th February, 13th May, 9th September and is further scheduled to be held on 9th December. State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per local conditions and needs.

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Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 585 for answering on 07.12.2023 raised by Shri S. Selvaganabathy, MP - Status of Lok Adalats

Statement containing the information of cases disposed (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in National Lok Adalats during the last three years and current year viz, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (upto September,23)

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2020	2021	2022	2023 (upto Sept.,23)
		Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	248	3997	3310	1045
2	Andhra Pradesh	37896	122839	647956	635667
3	Arunachal Pradesh	104	1054	1071	784
4	Assam	12188	39642	113989	123316
5	Bihar	66451	151620	305483	271680
6	Chandigarh	2569	16833	15569	55630
7	Chhattisgarh	24464	134548	1125318	1178357
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1768	172	1323	903
9	Daman & Diu	31	113	215	19368
10	Delhi	83006	154992	535025	498876
11	Goa	351	1680	3934	2648
12	Gujarat	41584	748722	1185571	1418792
13	Haryana	30298	123413	673487	725866
14	Himachal Pradesh	5971	35556	111150	113598
15	Jammu & Kashmir	13258	166544	390496	296796
16	Jharkhand	53152	232473	1121405	1958541
17	Karnataka	334681	1277856	3444607	12326109
18	Kerala	15010	68681	136101	45030
19	Lakshadweep	8	7	129	41
20	Madhya Pradesh	108365	347333	419776	385462
21	Maharashtra	215837	2440375	4754239	2327460
22	Manipur	204	794	1343	338
23	Meghalaya	303	852	956	503
24	Mizoram	218	790	4432	3566
25	Nagaland	251	941	888	608
26	Odisha	18329	35557	337065	326992
27	Puducherry	1738	5084	6405	5080
28	Punjab	32528	138175	392256	498170
29	Rajasthan	103060	286834	4572315	11613701
30	Sikkim	30	110	232	95
31	Tamil Nadu	88819	191604	447536	285815
32	Telangana	47560	349902	1611677	1280345
33	Tripura	382	1070	4814	6972
34	Uttarakhand	8088	20882	67438	62312
35	Uttar Pradesh	1171022	5551793	18698973	22944164
36	West Bengal	28596	133736	788082	755812
37	Ladakh	0	1463	1444	1335
	Grand Total	2548368	12788037	41926010	60171777

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 585 for answering on 07.12.2023 raised by Shri S. Selvaganabathy, MP - Status of Lok Adalats

Statement containing the information of cases disposed of (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in the State Lok Adalats and benches constituted during the last three years and the current year viz. 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 (upto September, 2023).

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24 (upto September,23)	
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	90	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3585	30461	4874	12123	4999	6720	79	1280
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6	25	24	91	1	4	0	0
4	Assam	6	1	136	13672	0	0	0	0
5	Bihar	28	97	1	6	9	574	0	0
6	Chandigarh	26	1	69	37	30	538	26	1064
7	Chhattisgarh	491	3475	187	228	124	139	0	0
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	300	195359	250	147103	60	11094	192	120363
11	Goa	8	777	30	3209	43	1308	6	141
12	Gujarat	2851	21880	5157	15546	3805	19717	8	212
13	Haryana	33774	52789	54762	115797	43135	230018	43	538
14	Himachal Pradesh	90	3205	260	22031	142	4198	34	1755
15	Jammu & Kashmir	125	9469	24	3271	225	76683	45	6702
16	Jharkhand	607	79649	1310	22954	1523	10868	823	22338
17	Karnataka	1912	121884	412	2524	229	2632	0	0
18	Kerala	721	4837	302	19226	607	23246	277	14127
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1714	14903	808	4110	1242	5367	741	5327
21	Maharashtra	22	605	6	28	30	341	13	440
22	Manipur	1	21	0	0	4	43	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	23	89	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	27	147	17	204	41	1202	1	1
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	239	4628	12	326	6	112422	2	131555
27	Puducherry	24	392	42	262	47	743	18	246
28	Punjab	0	0	339	1108	6	15	73	1281
29	Rajasthan	607	34514	786	845	1202	1628	580	577
30	Sikkim	110	158	110	636	150	887	78	438
31	Tamil Nadu	767	13117	759	13066	1295	16369	806	22095
32	Telangana	1501	24327	2827	7363	2604	25365	1278	70889
33	Tripura	12	6938	93	11624	19	2492	15	3260
34	Uttar Pradesh	200	100305	57	31414	30	259125	15	236496
35	Uttarakhand	121	6166	25	8605	125	26498	58	11951
36	West Bengal	575	13853	774	74999	454	10830	0	0
37	Ladakh	0	0	4	32	4	240	0	0
	Grand Total	50451	744073	74480	532529	62194	851309	5211	653076

Annexure-C

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 585 for answering on 07.12.2023 raised by Shri S. Selvaganabathy, MP - Status of Lok Adalats

Statement containing the information of number of sittings of Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) and cases settled in these sittings during the last three years and current year viz. 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 (upto September, 2023)									
S. No	Name of the State/UT Authority	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24 (upto Sept., 23)	
		Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	431	1283	927	1406	1058	558	650	500
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	99	12	141	56	213	56	96	69
5	Bihar	977	203	482	221	313	157	0	0
6	Chandigarh	246	108	240	687	241	10945	120	6331
7	Chhattisgarh	346	32	1045	1199	1224	2028	613	2357
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	532	14765	791	17395	773	18682	400	8625
11	Goa	24	30	2	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	1	105	9	2238	1	8	0	0
13	Haryana	3413	9654	3547	30960	3416	72440	1841	48593
14	Himachal Pradesh	6	10	9	11	0	0	0	0
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	3554	1943	5144	32514	6216	26154	2661	20483
17	Karnataka	1069	3869	1292	5371	904	4588	287	2179
18	Kerala	336	248	212	1104	226	2564	165	833
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	455	270	886	574	1176	608	548	222
21	Maharashtra	541	249	918	765	1017	1208	515	212
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	583	1350	742	1561	753	1612	493	1070
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	2868	3987	4538	9967	4902	14545	2462	7960
29	Rajasthan	1123	806	2960	3228	4435	5072	2131	3809
30	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	236	80	671	272	1121	528	557	222
32	Telangana	66	549	108	6674	118	7540	59	5278
33	Tripura	1	0	44	81	70	162	52	110
34	Uttar Pradesh	2714	383	3961	1087	3720	1173	2081	1284
35	Uttarakhand	156	522	484	765	590	510	348	275
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	19777	40458	29153	118136	32487	171138	16079	110412

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 586
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

ADR Cell (LA)

Alternate Dispute Resolution

586. Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to promote Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the country;
- (b) the average time taken by the ADR bodies to dispose of a case compared to conventional judicial mechanisms;
- (c) the quantum of finances delegated by Government to the ADR bodies in the last five years;
- (d) the number of ADR bodies in the country, State-wise;
- (e) whether Government has any specific mechanism regarding the functioning of ADR bodies, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to create awareness regarding ADR among the public?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

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

The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 provided for expeditious, fast track and time bound conclusion of arbitral proceedings, neutrality of arbitrators and cost effective delivery mechanism. This was followed by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 with the main objective of giving boost to institutional arbitration and to reduce the share of *ad-hoc* arbitration in the country. Further, Section 34 of the Act was amended *vide* Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 which was replaced by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021. The amendment *inter-alia* provides for unconditional stay of enforcement of arbitral awards where the underlying arbitration agreement, contracts or making of the arbitral award are induced by fraud or corruption.

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

The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, was enacted to provide for the establishment and incorporation of India International Arbitration Centre (Centre) for the purpose of creating an independent, autonomous and world class body for facilitating institutional arbitration and to declare the Centre to be an institution of national importance. The Centre, which has since been established is equipped with necessary infrastructure and professional management offering quality legal and administrative expertise and empaneling reputed arbitrators for conduct of arbitration under its aegis. The Centre shall be providing

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world class arbitration related services at its facilities in a cost effective manner for both domestic and international commercial disputes including requisite administrative support, in the smooth conduct of arbitral proceedings.

The Mediation Act, 2023, lays down the legislative framework for mediation to be adopted by disputing parties, especially institutional mediation where various stakeholders have been identified to establish a robust and efficacious mediation ecosystem in India. Mediation law will prove to be a pivotal legislative intervention towards providing comprehensive recognition to mediation and enabling the growth of a culture of amicable settlement of disputes, out of court.

(b) No such data is maintained by the Government. However, the basic premise of using ADR mechanisms for resolution of disputes is to reduce the burden on the judiciary and thereby enable timely justice dispensation to the parties. A time line to the conclusion of disputes has been prescribed in the respective Acts.

(c) The India International Arbitration Centre, an institution for administering and conducting arbitrations, was established on June 13th, 2022 under the provisions of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019. The funds released to the India International Arbitration Centre, an institution of national importance, is as under:

Year	Funds released (in Indian rupees)
2022-23	2.25 crore
2023-24 (upto 29 th November, 2023)	1.50 crore

The details of the Grants-in-Aid from the Government of India to National Legal Services Authority during the financial years viz. 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 (upto November, 2023) are as given below. However, no separate funds are earmarked for any particular legal aid scheme/ programme. The allocation of funds by the National Legal Services Authority to States/UTs Legal Services Authorities is made on consolidated basis for all activities:

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S. No.	Grant released by Ministry during the year
2019-20	140.00 cr.
2020-21	100.00cr.
2021-22	145.00cr.
2022-23	190.00cr.
2023-24 (upto November, 2023)	150.00cr.

(d) No such data is maintained by the Government.

(e) The various statutory provisions enable and provide for the mechanism regarding various autonomous bodies in the ADR ecosystem. Part IA of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, contains provisions regarding the Arbitration Council of India. The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, provides for the establishment and functioning of the India International Arbitration Centre. The Mediation Act, 2023 contains provisions with respect to the Mediation Council of India.

(f) The Government continues to take steps to create awareness about Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms. In this regard, a book titled as "*A guide to Alternative Dispute Resolution*" has been released by the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, on 26.11.2023, during the celebrations of the Constitution Day.

The India International Arbitration Centre has since its establishment, conducted various workshops, conferences and seminars for various stakeholders in the arbitration ecosystem and encouraged parties to consider adopting institutional arbitration to enable time bound, efficacious and cost effective dispute resolution.

Further, Lok Adalats are one of the Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) mechanism u/s 89 of C.P.C. Lok Adalat is organised across the country as per the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 read with National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009 for the subject matters as prescribed under the said Act and Regulations in the Courts and Tribunals as defined under Section 2 (aaa) of the said Act. In Lok Adalat, the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled amicably. The Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 recognizing its efficacy as an expeditious, less costly and speedier system of administration of justice. 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.

(12)

In the scenario of pandemic, the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-Lok Adalat but even now LSAs continue to espouse the improved methodologies with adaptation of technological platform.

Lok Adalat largely at one point of time remained a court annexed process, essentially working towards cutting short pending litigation and continue to discharge this function but LSAs have gone a step further. The process of early settlement of disputes at the pre-litigative stage, though, has not yet caught the fancy of private or individual litigation; none the less it has received a tremendous response from the institutional litigants such as Bank, Power Distribution and Public utility sector companies etc., which have a large potential of churning out litigation.

NALSA is organising 4 National Lok Adalats across country in a year, primarily on second Saturday, which is a holiday. The State Authorities are free to schedule and organise at State level Lok Adalat in any month or after certain interval.

The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by the NALSA vide National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 to organise more and more Lok Adalats so that pendency of cases could be reduced.

Before, organising of National Lok Adalat, NALSA interact with State Legal Services Authorities to take a stock of the preparations and to boost the morale of all the stakeholders. The Legal Services Authorities under the aegis of NALSA organise various preparatory meetings with stakeholders and also publicise through the local media.

Using technological advancements and virtual platforms, Legal Services Authorities started reaching the doorsteps of the parties. Resultantly, parties were able to join pre-lok adalat meetings as well as the Lok Adalat proceedings from their homes or workplaces, saving them the hassles of travelling. The technology was thus used by NALSA for evolving effective ways of supervision and monitoring of Lok Adalats. The SLSAs have been issued directions for service of notices through digital platforms/online mode to ease pressure on conventional system, consultation with concerned stakeholders to plan and organise Lok Adalats on specific subject matters viz. Motor Accident claims/ Land acquisition cases/ family disputes cases, IPR matters/ Consumer matters/ also other matters pending before any other quasi-judicial authority, Revenue and other ancillary matters, instituted before state/ district/ taluka authorities.

Every year, National Legal Services Authority issues calendar for the year for organising National Lok Adalats.

A schedule for National Lok Adalat for the year 2023 is as under;

S. No.	Month	Dates
1.	February	11.02.2023
2.	May	13.05.2023
3.	September	09.09.2023
4.	December	09.12.2023

Apart from this, frequency of State Lok Adalats are determined by State Legal Services Authorities as per local circumstance and needs.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-588
ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

~~XXXX~~
e-Court

IMPLEMENTATION OF VIRTUAL COURTS PROJECT

JS(PPP)
✓ 588. SHRI S. NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) the current status of the Virtual Courts project across various States in the country;
- (b) the protocols being established to safeguard the confidentiality and security of sensitive data and court records in the Virtual Court system;
- (c) the manner by which the Virtual Court system is being integrated with existing case management systems to ensure efficiency and minimize delays in the judicial process; and
- (d) whether there is an ongoing effort to amend the current legal framework to accommodate the nuances of virtual court proceedings and if so, the details of these amendments?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) As on 30.11.2023, 25 Virtual Courts in 20 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Chandigarh, Gujarat (2), Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal and Rajasthan, have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 4.11 crore cases have been handled by these virtual courts and in more than 45 lakhs (45,92,871) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 478.69 crore has been realized till 30.11.2023.
- (b) The Supreme Court in its decision in Justice K S Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India has held that right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms governed by Part III of the Constitution. To

balance the right of privacy, right to information and data security, a Sub-Committee consisting of six judges of the High Courts, assisted by technical working group members consisting of domain experts, has been constituted by the Chairperson of the e-Committee to suggest/recommend secure connectivity and authentication mechanisms for data protection and to preserve the right to privacy. The Sub-Committee is mandated to critically assess and examine the digital infrastructure, network and service delivery solutions created under the e-Courts project and give solutions for strengthening data security and for protecting the privacy of citizens.

- (c) Virtual Court is a concept, aimed at eliminating the physical presence of litigant or lawyer in the court and for adjudication of cases on a virtual platform. The concept has been evolved in order to efficiently utilize court resources and to provide litigants with an effective avenue to settle petty disputes while adhering to all the judicial processes.

Virtual Court can be administered by a Judge over a virtual electronic platform whose jurisdiction may extend to the entire State and function 24x7. Neither litigant nor Judge would have to physically visit a court for effective adjudication and resolution. Communication would only be in electronic form and sentencing / payment of fine or compensation would also be accomplished online. These courts may be used for disposal of cases where there may be proactive admission of guilt by the accused or proactive compliance of the cause by the defendant on receipt of the summons and electronic form as in the cases of traffic violations. Such matters are generally treated as disposed of after the payment of the due fine etc.

- (d) Proceedings of Virtual Courts is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the judiciary and respective State Governments. Central Government as such has no direct role to play in the matter.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-589
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

THIRD PHASE OF E-COURTS

JS(PPP)
✓ 589. SHRI RAVICHANDRA VADDIRAJU:
SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government has approved the third phase of the e-Courts project with a financial outlay of ₹7,210 crore to upgrade digital infrastructure of the lower judiciary; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and progress made phase/court-wise along with the funds sanctioned/spent till date?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) : As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode project is under implementation since 2007 for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". Its vision is to transform the judicial system of the country by ICT enablement of courts and to enhance the judicial productivity, both qualitatively & quantitatively, making the justice delivery system accessible, cost effective, reliable, and transparent. eCourts project is being implemented under the joint partnership of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India and e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. The continuing endeavour of the Indian judiciary in independent India has been to provide expeditious and inexpensive access to justice for citizens. Today, technology is a powerful tool to accelerate this endeavour. It offers the opportunity to make the justice system equitable, facilitating each citizen, especially the marginalized, to approach the courts for redress. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for eCourts Phase-III was approved by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India on 21.10.2022. eCourts Phase III was also announced during the presentation of the Union Budget 2023- 2024

with an outlay of Rs.7210 crore. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) accorded approval to the Phase-III of eCourts Project in its meeting held on 23.02.2023. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 13.09.2023 approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7210 crore. Subsequently, Rs. 225 crore has been released for eCourts Phase III by the Ministry of Finance from the Contingency Fund, out of which Rs. 102.50 crore has been allocated to BSNL and NIC and Rs. 110.24 crore has been sub-allocated to various High Courts for scanning and digitization, e-Sewa Kendras, IT Hardware for existing and newly setup courts, solar power backup etc. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the eCourts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. The proposed timeframe for the eCourts Project Phase-III is four years (2023 onwards). The Phase-III of the project envisions facilitation of various new features, which may prove to be a game changer for last mile justice delivery. The components and financial details of eCourts Phase III are at Annexure I.

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Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.589 for 07/12/2023 regarding Third phase of eCourts. The components and financial details of eCourts Phase III are as below:

S.No.	Scheme Component	Cost Estimate (Total (In Rs. Cr.))
1	Scanning, Digitization and Digital Preservation of Case Records	2038.40
2	Cloud Infrastructure	1205.23
3	Additional hardware to existing courts	643.66
4	Infrastructure in newly set up courts	426.25
5	Virtual Courts	413.08
6	eSewa Kendra	394.48
7	Paperless Court	359.20
8	System and Application Software Development	243.52
9	Solar Power Backup	229.50
10	Video Conferencing set-up	228.48
11	e- filing	215.97
12	Connectivity (Primary + Redundancy)	208.72
13	Capacity Building	208.52
14	CLASS (Courtroom Live-Audio Visual Streaming System)	112.26
15	Project Management Unit	56.67
16	Future Technological Advancements	53.57
17	Judicial process re-engineering	33.00
18	Disabled friendly ICT enabled facilities	27.54
19	NSTEP	25.75
20	Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)	23.72
21	Knowledge Management System	23.30
22	e-Office for High Courts & District Courts	21.10
23	Integration with Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)	11.78
24	S3WAAS platform	6.35
	TOTAL	7210

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 591
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 7th DECEMBER, 2023

High Cost of Arbitration

ADR Cell (LA)

591: Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice(I/C)* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are no prescribed guidelines to regulate the fees of the arbitrators and arbitration processes and if so, the details thereof?
- (b) whether the Government proposes to issue any guidelines to regulate the fees of arbitrators and arbitration processes; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): No Sir. There are guidelines and parameters which exist for regulating fees of the arbitrators and arbitration processes. Party autonomy is central to the resolution of disputes through arbitration. The arbitral tribunal is required to conduct the arbitration according to the procedure agreed by the parties, which may be conducted under the aegis of an arbitral institution or in an ad hoc manner. In case the arbitration is conducted and administered under the aegis of an arbitral institution, the fees payable to the arbitrators would be in terms of the rules of the said institution. In case of ad hoc arbitrations, where the procedure is decided by the arbitral tribunal, on a case to case basis, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. vs Afcons Gunanusa JV (AIR 2022 SC 4413), has laid down the guidelines for deciding the fees of the arbitrators.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 further stipulates the Model Fee payable to arbitrators under the Fourth Schedule. Section 38 of the Act contains provisions relating to Deposits as an advance for costs under the Act and Section 31A contains provisions relating to costs in relation to arbitration proceedings.

(b) & (c): The Government presently does not propose to issue further guidelines to regulate the fees of arbitrators and arbitration processes.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 592**

ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

Transfer of High Court Judges

DS (Appt.)
✓ 592. #SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is laxity on the part of Government in approving the recommendations of the Collegium for transfer of High Court judges;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government is issuing orders regarding the transfer of selected High Court judges subsequent to the recommendations of the Collegium; and
- (c) the details of judges of High Courts transferred on the recommendations of the Collegium in the last one year along with the cases where more time was taken and the reasons for the said delay?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Judges and Chief Justices of the High Courts are transferred under Article 222 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case).

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As per the existing MoP, the proposal for transfer of High Court Judges is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with four senior-most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The MoP further provides that the Chief Justice of India is also expected to take into account the views of the Chief Justice of High Court from which the judge is to be transferred, as also the Chief Justice of the High Court to which the transfer is to be effected, besides taking into account the views of one or more Supreme Court judges who are in a position to offer views.

All transfers are to be made in public interest i.e. for promoting better administration of justice throughout the country. No timeline has been prescribed in the MoP for transfer of judges from one High Court to another.

From 01st October, 2022 to 01st December, 2023, 01 Chief Justice and 34 Judges of High Courts have been transferred from one High Court to another.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 593
ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

J-I

USE OF LOCAL LANGUAGE IN COURTS

JS(NKG)
✓ 593# SHRI RAMBHAI HARJIBHAI MOKARIYA:

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

- (a) whether the use of local language in courts has been deliberated upon;
- (b) if so, by when local languages will be introduced in the judicial system of the country; and
- (c) if not, whether Government will consider the use of local language in the future to strengthen the judicial system at the grassroots level, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (c): As regards language of proceedings in the High Courts, 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 provides that notwithstanding anything in sub-

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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 of the High Court having its principal seat in that State, provided that decrees, judgements or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English. The Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court.

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

Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals as per the Cabinet Committee's decision taken in 1965 and the Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 16.10.2012 intimated that the Full Court in its meeting held on 11.10.2012, 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 in July, 2014. The Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 18.01.2016 conveyed that the

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Full Court, after extensive deliberations, unanimously resolved that the proposals could not be accepted.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. As regards, use of Hindi or regional language in lower courts, it is decided by the High Court and State Government concerned in consultation with each other.

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 594
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 7TH DECEMBER, 2023

VACANCIES IN VARIOUS TRIBUNALS

Admn. III (LA)
594. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware of the fact that there are as many as nearly 170 vacancies in 16 Tribunals;
- (b) if so, the reasons for vacancies to such an extent; and
- (c) whether Government has framed any time limit to fill the various vacancies viz., that of Chairman, Presiding Officer and Members, that exist in various Tribunals?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Vacancies in various Tribunals occur on account of retirement, resignation, promotion and voluntary retirement etc. and filled up as per statutory provisions. Occurring and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process; and

(c): Sub-section(7) of Section 3 of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, provides the Central Government with the time frame of three months to take a decision on the recommendations of the Search-cum-Selection Committee, constituted for the purpose for appointment to the posts of the Chairpersons or Members of the respective Tribunals, as the case may be.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(13)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 595
ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

Appointment

DS (AppH.)
✓

Women judges in the High Courts and Supreme Court

595. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) the details of women Judges in the High Courts of the States and the Supreme Court;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by Government to enhance the number of women Judges in the High Court of the States and the Supreme Court; and
- (c) if no such steps are taken, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As on 02.12.2023, 3 women judges are working in the Supreme Court of India, whereas 111 women judges are working in various High Courts.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of person. 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 AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-596
ANSWERED ON - 07/12/2023

e-coust

VIRTUAL COURTS

JS (PPP)
✓ 596. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Virtual Courts have handled over 3.26 crore cases in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there are only 22 Virtual Courts in identified States/UTs and there is no Virtual Court in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for not having a Virtual Court in Andhra Pradesh and the steps taken to set up one court there?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Virtual Courts is a concept, aimed at eliminating the presence of litigant or lawyer in the court and for adjudication of cases on a virtual platform. The concept has been evolved in order to efficiently utilize court resources and to provide litigants with an effective avenue to settle traffic challans. Virtual Court can be administered by a Judge over a virtual electronic platform whose jurisdiction may extend to the entire State and function 24X7. As on 31.10.2023, there are 25 such courts in 20 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chandigarh and Gujarat (2). As per the data received from eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, over 3.95 crore cases (3,95,96,466) have been

handled by 25 virtual courts and in more than 44 lakhs (44,48,543) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 466.32 crores have been realized till 31.10.2023.

(c): As on date, there is no Virtual Court functioning in Andhra Pradesh. In fact, the establishment of Virtual Courts is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the respective State Governments and the concerned High Court. Central Government as such has no direct role to play in the matter.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 597

ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

JS (NMJR)

JR

✓ **SCHEME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES FOR JUDICIARY**

**597 SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:
SMT. SULATA DEO:
SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:**

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

- (a) the funds allocated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of infrastructure facilities for the Judiciary in the State of Odisha in the last five years;
- (b) whether Government is considering the introduction of collaborative initiatives with private stakeholders to enhance and develop the judicial infrastructure; and
- (c) whether there is a provision under this scheme to make the infrastructure more inclusive, considering the needs of differently-abled individuals and vulnerable populations?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The details of fund allocated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of Infrastructure facilities for the judiciary to the state of Odisha in the last five years is as under:

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(Rs. in crore)

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21*	2021-22*	2022-23	2023-24* (As on 30.11.2023)	Total
22.50	35.69	0.00	0.00	30.69	0.00	88.88

**Grants were not released in the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2023-24 to the State Government of Odisha due to unspent balance with the State.*

(b): No Sir, no such proposal is under consideration.

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

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 598
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Appointment

DS (APPT.)
Appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts

✓ 598. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

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

- (a) the number of women Judges and Judges hailing from SC, ST and OBC communities, in the Supreme Court and High Courts, as on date, the details thereof, State-wise and category-wise;
- (b) whether Government has sent suggestions to the Supreme Court for supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court; and
- (c) if so, details of the suggestions made by Government and response thereto?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): A statement details of showing women judges working in the Supreme Court and various High Courts is at **Annexure-I**.

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 reservation for any caste or class of persons. Hence no caste/category wise data is maintained centrally.

However, the Proforma for seeking information on recommendee Judges for elevation to the High Courts, as prescribed by the Supreme Court for all the High Courts was revised in July 2017. Hence, data regarding appointment of judges hailing from SC, ST and OBC communities from year 2018 till 02.12.2023 is at **Annexure-II**. No category-wise data in respect of Supreme Court Judges is available with the Government.

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In present system of appointment of Judges to the constitutional courts through the Collegium system, the onus to provide social diversity and representation to all sections of the society including SC/ST/OBC/Women/Minorities primarily falls on the Judiciary. As per MOP, initiation of a proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of a proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. All the names recommended by High Court Collegium are sent with the views of the Government to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Government appoints only those as recommended by the High Court Collegium/Supreme Court Collegium.

The Memorandum of Procedure was under finalization by the Government in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium in view of Supreme Court judgment of WP(C) 13 of 2015 in NJAC matter vide Order dated 16-12-2015 on supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP). In the draft MoP for appointment of judges in the High Court, it was agreed by the Supreme Court that "Merit and integrity shall be the prime criteria for appointment of a judge in the High Court. As far as possible, representation shall be given to women and marginalized sections of society. However, in case of judicial officers, due weightage shall also be given to their inter-se seniority."

The Supreme Court vide its order dated 4.07.2017 in *Suo Motu* Contempt Petition (Civil) No.1 of 2017 in case of one of the Judges of Calcutta High Court *inter alia* highlights the need to revisit the process of selection and appointment of Judges of the Constitutional Courts. The Government of India conveyed the need to make improvement on the draft MoP to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court vide letter dated 11.07.2017.

Later vide letter dated 18.08.2021 and 06.01.2023, the Government made more suggestions for improving the MoP and requested the Supreme Court to expedite finalization of MoP for making the system of appointment to the Constitutional Courts more transparent, fair, representative and acceptable. The views of the Supreme Court on draft MoP are awaited.

However, the Government remains committed to social diversity in the appointment of Judges in the Higher Judiciary. The Minister of Law & Justice 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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Annexure-I

Women Judges working in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 02.12.2023

Sl. No	Name of the Court	Women Judges
1.	Supreme Court of India	3
High Courts		
2.	Allahabad	6
3.	Andhra Pradesh	5
4.	Bombay	11
5.	Calcutta	8
6.	Chhattisgarh	1
7.	Delhi	9
8.	Gauhati	4
9.	Gujarat	8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1
11.	J & K and Ladakh	2
12.	Jharkhand	1
13.	Karnataka	7
14.	Kerala	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2
16.	Madras	12
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Meghalaya	0
19.	Orissa	1
20.	Patna	1
21.	P&H	15
22.	Rajasthan	3
23.	Sikkim	1
24.	Telangana	7
25.	Tripura	0
26.	Uttarakhand	0
	Total	111

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Annexure-II

Judges from SC, ST, OBC, Minority appointed in High Courts from 2018 till 02.12.2023.

Year	General	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	Not Available	Total
2018	82	2	2	5	6	11	108
2019	64	3	1	8	3	2	81
2020	52	2	-	11	1	-	66
2021	85	5	2	15	13	-	120
2022	137	6	-	17	5	-	165
2023	72	5	5	20	8	-	110
Total	492	23	10	76	36	13	650

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 599
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Vacancies in courts

DS (APPH.)
✓ 599. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

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

- (a) sanctioned strength and vacancies of judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court, as on date;
- (b) number of proposals for appointments in High Courts which are pending with the Supreme Court Collegium and Government, as on date;
- (c) split up details thereof and reasons for delay;
- (d) vacancies in the Supreme Court which are yet to be recommended by the Collegium to Government or pending with Government;
- (e) number of Collegium proposals for appointment to High Courts and the Supreme Court returned by Government during last five years and reasons therefor; and
- (f) number of returned proposals concurred with by the Collegium?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (f): As on 04.12.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges (including Chief Justice of India), 34 Judges are working and there is no vacancy of Judges in the Supreme Court. As regards the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 790 Judges are working and 324 post of Judges are vacant in the various High Courts.

As on 01.01.2023, 171 proposals received from High Court Collegiums were at different stages of processing. During the calendar year 2023, 121 fresh proposals were received. Out of the total 292 proposals for consideration during the current calendar year, 110 Judges have been appointed and 60 recommendations were remitted to the High Courts

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on the advice of the SCC. As on 04.12.2023, 122 proposals are at various stages of processing.

Out of these 122 proposals, 87 proposals were sent to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for seeking advice against which the SCC has provided advice on 45 proposals which are at various stages of processing in the Government. 42 proposals are under consideration with the SCC. 35 fresh proposals received recently are being processed for seeking the advice of the SCC. Recommendations are yet to be received from High Court Collegiums in respect of the remaining 198 vacancies.

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.

Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed under Article 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case).

As per existing Memorandum of Procedure on appointment of High Court Judges, the proposal is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court in consultation with two senior most puisne Judges of the High Court. The views of State Constitutional Authorities on the proposals are also obtained. The Union Minister of Law & Justice considers the recommendations in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The complete material is then forwarded to the Chief Justice of India for his advice. Accordingly, the Government sends all proposals received from the High Court Collegiums to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice.

Proposals received from Supreme Court Collegium are sent back with the observations by the Government only in cases where some new information regarding the recommendee has been received in the interim or there are certain issue or facts, which require the reconsideration by the SCC. Cases are also sent back to the SCC with the requisite information, where the SCC has sought some additional information or raised a query. This is a continuous and collaborative process. The Government finally return back to the High Courts only those proposals, where the SCC has decided to remit the recommendations. Only those persons are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts whose names have been recommended by the SCC.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 600 Appointment
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

DS (Appnt.)

Change of name of High Court in Tamil Nadu

✓ 600. SHRI C.Ve. SHANMUGAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has plans to change the names of some High Courts of States in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has sent a proposal to change the name of its High Court to High Court of Tamil Nadu;
- (d) if so the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on this proposal; and
- (e) the time by which the Government is likely to bring forward such a Bill for passage for changing the name of High Court in the State?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): With the enactment of the city of Madras (Alteration of Name) Act, 1996, the city of Madras was renamed as Chennai, following which the Tamil Nadu Government sent a proposal for changing the name of Madras High Court as High Court of Chennai, in 1997. Since the names of the cities of Bombay and Calcutta were also changed as Mumbai and Kolkata, and the respective High

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Courts of States are located in these cities, it was considered appropriate to change names of these two High Courts as well. The Government brought a legislation titled "The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016" regarding changing the names of High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras as High Courts of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai respectively, and the same was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th July, 2016.

Meanwhile the name of Orissa state was changed to Odisha and city of Gauhati as Guwahati. In view of above, it was decided to propose the change in name of High Courts of Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Orissa & Gauhati as Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Odisha & Guwahati, respectively.

To give effect to the above changes, consultations were carried out with the concerned State Governments and the High Courts. The Government of Tamil Nadu conveyed that the name of the Madras High Court be rechristened as "High Court of Tamil Nadu". The Madras High Court, however, did not agree to the proposal to change the name of the High Court. The State Government of Maharashtra and Goa and Bombay High Court agreed to the proposal to change the name of Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court. The Orissa High Court & State Government of Odisha as well as Gauhati High Court and State Government of Assam also conveyed no objection to the proposal to change the name of the respective High Courts. Both, the Calcutta High Court and the State Government of West Bengal, however, did not agree to the proposed change in name of Calcutta High Court.

The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 could not be taken further and lapsed due to dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 401/2020 was filed by Shri V.P. Patil in the Supreme Court for renaming the Bombay High Court as High Court of Maharashtra and similarly changing names of other High Courts as per names of the State in which they are located. The Supreme Court vide its order dated 03.11.2022 has dismissed the said petition. At present there is no proposal to bring legislation on this subject.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 601

JR

ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

JS(NMTR)

IMPROVING THE LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE

✓ 601 # DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to improve the legal infrastructure, provide timely justice and reduce the pending cases in courts;
- (b) the details of the schemes of Government to make the courts more accessible to the common people;
- (c) whether Government has started any project to digitise the data of the courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): 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

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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 primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, the Government is sensitive to the needs of building better infrastructure for the judicial officers of the lower and subordinate judiciary. To supplement the resources of the State Governments/UTs, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary since 1993-94 by providing financial assistance to them in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States.

The scheme covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of the district and subordinate judiciary. From the year 2021, besides court halls and residential units, new components of digital computer room, lawyers' halls and toilet complexes have also been added under the ambit of the above CSS. A sum of Rs. 10403 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6959.16 crores (67%) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore for this scheme.

Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 13.11.2023, 61 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 964 new Judges were appointed and 694 Additional Judges were made permanent in the

High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
10.11.2023	25,423	20,026

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

Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As of 30.09.2023, 848 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. 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 of 30.09.2023, a total of 761 FTSCs including 414 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 1,95,000 cases.

Lok Adalats have gained ground across the country as a viable Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a LokAdalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and

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binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. LokAdalat is not a permanent establishment. National LokAdalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed off in National LokAdalats during the last three years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto September)	4,94,88,552	1,06,83,225	6,01,71,777
Total	8,77,10,061	2,71,75,763	11,48,85,824

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

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

30 th November, 2023	Cases Registered	% Break Up	Advice Enabled	%Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	21,78,743	35.72	21,49,485	35.69
Male	39,20,326	64.28	38,73,737	64.31
Total	60,99,069	-	60,23,222	-

A path breaking initiative of the Department of Justice has been the eCourts Mission Mode Project which is a Central Sector Scheme being implementing in

close association e-Committee, Supreme Court of India. It is under implementation for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) development of the District & Subordinate courts.

Phase I (2011-15) was aimed at basic computerization of courts and providing local network connectivity. It was concluded in 2015 in which 14,249 Court sites were computerized. Phase II of the project started in 2015 in which 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerized. Some of the digital initiatives taken by Government under the eCourts Project to make justice accessible and available are as follows:

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2977 out of earmarked 2992) of total Court Complexes across India.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 24.35 crore cases and more than 23.80 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.11.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed.
- iv. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks.

In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 2.03 crore downloads till 30.09.2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,405 downloads till 31.10.2023).

- v. Video Conferencing has emerged as the viable medium for better and economical delivery of justice, apart from ensuring greater transparency. The High Courts heard 79,92,249 cases (totaling 2.88 crore) till 30.09.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023.
- vi. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- vii. 25 Virtual Courts in 20 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases.
- viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features.
- ix. To bridge the digital divide, 869 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling.
- x. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent

Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

- xi. LED Display Message Sign Board System have been installed. A total of 39 Justice Clocks in 25 High Courts has already been installed. Virtual Justice Clock is also hosted on the portal.

Recently, in September 2023, the Union Cabinet approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore, in which one of the important component is digitisation of entire court record - both legacy court records and pending cases at an estimated outlay of Rs. 2038.40 crore, that would pave the wave for end-to-end digital and paperless courts facilitated through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras for universalizing e-filing of court cases. The eCommittee, Supreme Court of India had constituted a sub-committee for preparing a Digital Preservation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for scanning, storage, retrieval, digitization of court records and preservation of legacy data of the Judiciary. The said SOP have been framed and circulated by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India to all High Courts for better implementation of digitization of court records and are available on the website of eCommittee, Supreme Court of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 602
ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

NM

JS(NMJR)

✓ NEED TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

602. SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to bridge the immense gap between requirements and capacity of justice delivery system in the country;
- (b) whether a huge backlog of small civil and criminal cases across several tiers of the judiciary results in high litigation expenses;
- (c) whether the expert panel strongly recommended Bihar's Kachahari Model for community-led mediation;
- (d) whether Government proposes to consider expert panel recommendation for Gram Panchayat-level mediation for small civil and criminal cases; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Yes Sir, there is a gap between requirement and capacity of justice delivery system in the country. While the primary function of adjudication of cases and providing justice lies with the Judiciary, the Government on its part has taken several initiatives to aid capacity building and provide an ecosystem for an efficient justice delivery system. The Government is 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 human power of judiciary through appointment of judges, undertaking 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 along with providing legal aid services and pre-litigation advice for the common citizens.

(b): No Sir, there is no available data to establish a direct link that huge backlog of small civil and criminal cases across several tiers of judiciary result in high litigation expenses. Further, small civil and criminal cases have not been statutorily defined. However, small criminal offences are generally regarded as those offences for which the maximum punishment under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 or any other law for the time being in force is imprisonment up to three years such as Criminal Breach of Trust (Section 406), Rioting armed with deadly weapon (Section 148), Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc. (Section 153A), Punishment for false evidence (Section 193) , Attempt to commit culpable homicide (Section 308). Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means (Section 324), Voyeurism (Section 354C), Theft (Section 379), Extortion (Section 384) etc.

Pendency of civil and criminal cases in the country at the level of District and Subordinate Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court are reflected in real time basis on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) developed by NIC under the aegis of eCommittee of the Supreme Court and funded by Government of India's eCourts Project.

As per NJDG, the backlog of total number of civil and criminal cases across different tiers of judiciary is as under:

Backlog of Civil and Criminal Cases in Judiciary (as on 1.12.2023)				
Sl. No	Court	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Total
1	Supreme Court	17,430	62,610	80,040
2	High Court	17,46,313	44,29,266	61,75,579
3	District & Subordinate Courts	3,36,23,288	1,10,06,949	4,46,30,237

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

(c) to (e): In the State of Bihar, the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 1993, provides for setting-up of Gram Kachahari for resolution of village disputes. A Gram Kachahari is at the Gram Panchayat level and adjudicates on local issues and provide legal redressal. These village courts have jurisdiction for the trial of certain criminal and civil offences committed within its jurisdiction. The bench tries to come to amicable settlement for any suit that is filed. Only in cases there is no possibility of amicable settlement, the bench examines the dispute and gives its decision. Upon conviction, the bench can declare legitimate punishment under Section 107 of the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act.

As per the information provided by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), it had constituted an Expert Committee on the subject of “*Community Mediation/Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16.3*” to provide policy and operational guidance for expanding access to justice and reduce inequalities in access to justice at the grass-roots level. The Committee has recommended that the States may formulate State-led Composite Model, which may comprise one or more of the Development of Panchayat Model (as in Bihar), Panchayat Facilitated Community Mediation, Panchayat Justice Delivery through SHG-PRI Partnership, Jagratha Samiti Model and Semi-formal systems towards alternate dispute resolution to allow scalable sustainability while allowing for participatory empowerment. ‘Panchayats’ being a ‘State’ subject, the recommendations of the Committee have been forwarded to the States for taking up suitable actions towards their implementation.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 603
ANSWRED ON THURSDAY, THE 07th DECEMBER 2023**

FAST TRACK COURTS

J-II

JS(PPP)
✓ **603. Shri Narayana Koragappa:**

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

- (a) the details of Fast Track Courts in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of vacancies in Fast Track Courts, court-wise and State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by State and Central Governments to fill in the vacancies in Fast Track Courts, with a particular reference to Karnataka?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

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further urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. As per information made available by High Courts, 848 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.10.2023. State-wise details are given in **Annexure**.

Pursuant to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (e-POCSO) Courts for speedy disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act since October 2019. As per information made available by High Courts, as on 31.10.2023, 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs which have disposed of more than 2,00,000 cases.

(b) & (c) As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of High Court and State Government concerned. Further, establishment of Fast Track Courts/Fast Track Special Courts lies entirely within the domain of the State Govts. who set up such courts and deploys Presiding Officers (Judges) and supporting staff as per their requirements and resources in consultation with their respective High Courts. The details of vacancies of judges and other categories of officials in the FTCs are not centrally maintained.

Annexure given in Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 603 to be replied on 07.12.2023

(As on October,2023)

S.NO.	NAME OF STATE/UTs	No. of Functional Fast Track Court as on 31.10.2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	23
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh *	8
4	Assam	16
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Delhi	18
10	Diu & Daman	0
11	Goa	2
12	Gujarat	54
13	Haryana	6
14	Himachal Pradesh	3
15	Jammu & Kashmir	8
16	Jharkhand ***	34
17	Karnataka	0
18	Kerala	0
19	Ladakh	0
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	0
22	Maharashtra	97
23	Manipur ***	6
24	Meghalaya	0
25	Mizoram	2
26	Nagaland	0
27	Odisha	0
28	Puducherry	0
29	Punjab	7
30	Rajasthan	0
31	Sikkim**	2
32	Tamil Nadu ***	72
33	Telangana	0
34	Tripura	3
35	Uttar Pradesh	372
36	Uttarakhand	4
37	West Bengal ***	88
	TOTAL	848

* data upto 31.05.2023
 ** data upto 31.07.2023
 *** data upto 30.09.2023

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 604
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

DS (APPNT.)

All India Judicial Service

✓604. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to establish the All India Judicial Service in the times to come;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of other measures being taken to standardise the judicial structure in the country; and
- (e) the proposed measures to be taken in this respect?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. Besides attracting some of the best talent in the country, it may also facilitate inclusion

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of competent persons from marginalized sections and women in the judiciary. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration.

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

The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges/ judicial officers at all level was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference, which was held on 03rd and 04th April, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously. The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was also included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 05th April, 2015. However, no progress was made in the matter.

The proposal of setting up of an All India Judicial Service was again discussed on points of eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, reservations etc. in a meeting chaired by then Minister of Law and Justice on 16th January 2017 in the presence of Minister of State for Law and Justice, Attorney General for India, Solicitor General of India, Secretaries of Department of Justice, Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department. Setting up AIJS was also deliberated in a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee in March, 2017 and the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs on 22.02.2021.

It was proposed to include the issue of All India Judicial Service in the agenda for Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 30th April, 2022. However, the same could not be included in the agenda of the conference.

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

(d) and (e) : The structure of the judiciary is more or less standardized as laid down in the Constitution of India, with the Supreme Court of India at the center and High Courts that stand at the head of a State's judicial administration. Benches of High Courts have also been established at various places in States as per the guidelines of Jaswant Singh Commission Report. District and subordinate judiciary consists of Higher Judicial Service comprising of District Judges / Additional District Judges / Session Judge etc. and the State Judicial Service broadly comprising of Civil Judge (Senior Division) and Civil Judge (Junior Division) and equivalent.

The Government has taken several co-ordinated initiatives in respect of judicial structure to provide an ecosystem 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.

Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2023, 61 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 965 new Judges were appointed in High Courts and 695 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Since 2014, the strength of the Supreme Court has been increase from 31 to 34 (including Chief Justice of India). Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1114 currently. Sanctioned strength of the Judicial Officers in district and subordinate courts has increased from 19,518 on 31.12.2013 to 25,423 as on 05.12.2023. The working strength of the Judicial Officers has also increased from 15,115 to 20,026 during the same period.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 605

ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

JSL(NKGS)

J-I

✓ **ACTION PLAN TO PROVIDE JUSTICE IN PEOPLE'S LANGUAGE**

605 #SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether, to establish a transparent judicial system, Government has deliberated upon any action plan to provide justice to the people in their language;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the entrance examination for students to some of the most prestigious law institutes in the country is conducted only in English language; and
- (d) if so, whether Government would consider conducting student entrance tests of all such legal educational institutions in official language Hindi along with all regional mother tongues of the country mandatory and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As regards language of proceedings in the High Courts, 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

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Constitution provides 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.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. As regards, use of Hindi or regional language in lower courts, it is decided by the High Court and State Government concerned in consultation with each other.

In order to promote regional languages in judicial procedure, Supreme Court has developed Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS) which is a machine assisted translation tool trained by Artificial Intelligence. SUVAS has been developed with technical support from Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. This tool is specially designed for judicial domain and currently has the capacity of translating English Judicial Documents, orders or Judgments into eleven vernacular languages namely: Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Malyalam, Bengali, Odia, Assamese and vice-versa.

(c) & (d) The subject matter is presently sub-judice before the High Court of Delhi in Writ Petition (C) No. 3132/2023 titled Sudhanshu Pathak versus Consortium of National Law Universities.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *124

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

JS(NMTR)

HUGE PENDENCY OF CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS

✓ *124 DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

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

- (a) the approximate number of cases pending in District courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court of the country as on date, State and court-wise;
- (b) whether there has been a huge increase in the pendency of cases in the above courts during the last four years and if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up special courts for speedy disposal of pending cases in view of such huge pendency; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *124 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING 'HUGE PENDENCY OF CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS.

(a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 07.12.2023, there were 80,320 cases pending in the Supreme Court of India.

The State-wise statement of cases pending in High Courts and District Courts of the country, as on date, are at *ANNEXURE I and II* respectively.

(b): The increase in the pendency of cases in the Supreme Court, High Court and District court in the last four years is as follows:

Rise of Pendency of Cases in last 4 years						
Year	Supreme Court	Increase/Decrease	High Courts	Increase/Decrease	District Courts	Increase/Decrease
31.12.2018	57346	21.68%	4448926	34.39%	30074590	43.67%
31.12.2022	69781		5978714		43209164	

Further, the disposal of pending cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and the Central Government has no direct role in the said matter.

(c) & (d): Presently, there are no proposals pending with Government to set up special courts. However, the Government has undertaken several initiatives to provide for special courts in order to aid speedy disposal of pending cases. The highlights of the same are as follows:

- i. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Government has established Fast Track Courts for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, senior citizens, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than five years. As on 30.09.2023, there were 848 Fast Track Courts functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children.
- ii. Championing the cause of safety and security of women and girl child, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was launched on 2nd October, 2019 for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious trial and disposal of cases pertaining to rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 in a time-bound manner under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. As on 31.10.2023, 758 Fast Track Special Courts including 412 exclusive

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *124 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING 'HUGE PENDENCY OF CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS.

State-wise Pendency of cases in District Courts (as on 07.12.2023)		
Sl. No.	State	Total
1	Uttar Pradesh	11864461
2	Maharashtra	5209173
3	Bihar	3561486
4	West Bengal	2970223
5	Rajasthan	2313350
6	Karnataka	2063579
7	Madhya Pradesh	2013539
8	Kerala	1848274
9	Gujarat	1635757
10	Odisha	1585076
11	Tamil Nadu	1454302
12	Haryana	1442235
13	Delhi	1218060
14	Telangana	917644
15	Punjab	901402
16	Andhra Pradesh	883957
17	Himachal Pradesh	569561
18	Jharkhand	531754
19	Assam	456209
20	Chhattisgarh	422699
21	Uttarakhand	353118
22	Jammu and Kashmir	284581
23	Chandigarh	172592
24	Goa	56825
25	Tripura	49047
26	Puducherry	34235
27	Meghalaya	16192
28	Manipur	12942
29	Andaman and Nicobar	8772
30	Mizoram	5596
31	DNH at Silvasa	4264
32	Arunachal Pradesh	3557
33	Diu and Daman	3141
34	Nagaland	2815
35	Sikkim	1760
36	Ladakh	1240
	TOTAL	4,48,73,418

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *132
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023**

J-II

JS(PPP)

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS SCHEME

✓

***132. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to implement the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme;
- (b) the key achievements and outcomes of the Scheme; and
- (c) the rate of disposal in rape and POCSO Act related cases?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *132 FOR THE 14th DECEMBER, 2023 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS SCHEME'

(a): Pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts since October, 2019 for expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases pertaining to Rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in a time-bound manner.

The scheme was initially for one year, which was further extended up to March 2023. The Union Cabinet has now extended the Scheme for another three years i.e. from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026 at a total outlay of Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund.

(b): As per the data submitted by High Courts, 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs. Notably, the number of functional Fast Track Special Courts, including exclusive POCSO Courts, has undergone a substantial increase, rising from 366 FTSCs in the financial year 2019-2020 to 758 FTSCs as of October, 2023. Monthly Disposal in the Fast Track Special Courts has risen from 1000-1500 cases per month during FY 2021-2022 to more than 6000 cases per month in October, 2023.

Setting up Fast Track Special Courts demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Government towards women security, combating sexual and gender-based violence, reducing the backlog of pending cases related to Rape & POCSO Act, and providing expedited access to justice for survivors of sexual crimes. Staffed with professional and experienced judges and support staff specialized in handling sensitive sexual offense cases, these courts ensure consistent and expert-guided legal proceedings. By expediting these proceedings,

the FTSC Scheme has played a pivotal role in offering victims of sexual offences swift resolutions, mitigating the trauma and distress experienced by survivors, and enabling them to move forward. Fast Track Special Courts have notably adopted the approach of setting up Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres within the courts to facilitate the victims and to make the courts into Child-Friendly Courts for providing crucial support for a compassionate legal system. These courts have disposed more than 2,00,000 cases as on October 31, 2023.

(c): As per the information provided by the High Courts on the FTSCs dashboard, a total of 69,098 cases were newly instituted from January, 2023 to October, 2023 in the current year, while 64,004 cases have been disposed of, resulting in a disposal rate of 92%.

The State/UT-wise rate of Disposal of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) since the inception of the Scheme is given at Annexure.

**Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.*132
for 14th December, 2023**

State/UT-wise rate of Disposal of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) as on October 2023

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total Number of Functional Courts	Cases Instituted since the inception of the Scheme	Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme	Rate of Disposal
1	Chhattisgarh	15	6475	4144	64.00
2	Gujarat	35	16157	9913	61.35
3	Mizoram	3	252	157	62.30
4	Nagaland	1	108	53	49.07
5	Jharkhand	22	9744	5383	55.24
6	Madhya Pradesh	67	32674	22251	68.10
7	Manipur	2	212	112	52.83
8	Haryana	16	9195	4981	54.17
9	Chandigarh	1	435	223	51.26
10	Rajasthan	45	18700	12347	66.03
11	Tamilnadu	14	10444	5929	56.77
12	Tripura	3	581	334	57.49
13	Uttar Pradesh	218	135930	51920	38.20
14	Uttarakhand	4	2220	1307	58.87
15	Delhi	16	5195	1361	26.20
16	Meghalaya	5	1399	355	25.38
17	J&K	4	623	141	22.63
18	Punjab	12	4865	3320	68.24
19	Himachal Pradesh	6	2027	1165	57.47
20	Karnataka	31	13735	8270	60.21
21	Telangana	36	15892	7490	47.13
22	Puducherry*	1	249	34	13.65
23	Andhra Pradesh	16	11082	3709	33.47
24	Assam	17	9516	4587	48.20
25	Bihar	46	26714	9393	35.16
26	Goa	1	91	34	37.36
27	Kerala	54	23443	15706	67.00
28	Maharashtra	20	20853	16418	78.73
29	Odisha	44	22132	10861	49.07
30	West Bengal**	3	2885	19	0.66
	TOTAL	758	403828	201917	50.00

*Puducherry specially requested to join the Scheme and has since operationalized one exclusive POCSO Court in May 2023.

**Data as on 31st August, 2023.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1377

Appointment

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

DS (Appnt.)

Recommendations sent by the Collegium for appointments of judges

✓ 1377. SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a) the details of recommendations sent by the Collegium with respect to appointment of judges since 2020 and the details of time-frame taken by Government to issue notification with regard to each recommendations; and
- (b) the details of recommendations pending with Government?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): As on 01.01.2020, 198 proposals received from the High Court Collegiums were at different stages of processing between Government and the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC). From 01.01.2020 till 11.12.2023, 635 proposals were received from various High Courts. During the above period, appointment of 461 High Court Judges was notified and 249 recommendations were remitted to High Courts on advice of the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC). As on 11.12.2023, 123 proposals received from various High Court Collegiums are at various stages of processing with the Government and Supreme Court Collegium. While 81 proposals are under processing with the Government, 42 proposals have been sent to the Supreme Court Collegium for advice.

Since, the year 2020 the Government has received 26 proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court, which were notified after approval of the Constitutional authorities within shortest timeframe.

Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed under Article 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case).

The existing Memorandum of Procedure on appointment of High Court Judges provides that the proposal is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court in consultation with two senior most puisne Judges of the High Court. The views of State Constitutional Authorities on the proposals are also obtained. The Union Minister of Law & Justice considers the recommendations in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The complete material is then forwarded to the Chief Justice of India for his advice. Accordingly, the Government sends all proposals received from the High Court Collegiums to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts whose names have been recommended by the SCC.

Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level. While it is of utmost importance that the appointments are made expeditiously, at the same time it is also important to ensure that only the most suitable candidates are appointed as Judges in the High Courts that under the collaborative process.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1380
ANSWERED ON - 14/12/2023

e-Court

JS(PPP)

STATUS OF e-COURTS PROJECT

✓ 1380. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH;
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR;

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government under the various phases of the e-Courts project;
- (b) the number of courts with requisite digital infrastructure; and
- (c) the status of implementation of the e-Courts project, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation since 2007 for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented in association with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice.

Phase I of the eCourts Mission Mode Project focused on the basics of computerisation like setting up computer hardware, ensuring internet connectivity, and operationalizing the e-Courts platform. Against the financial outlay of Rs.935 crore, total expenditure incurred was Rs.639.41 crore for implementation of this phase.

Following initiatives were undertaken in this phase:

- i. 14,249 District and Subordinate courts were computerized
- ii. LAN was installed at 13,683 courts, hardware provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts.

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- iii. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise completed in all High Courts.
 - iv. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System.
 - v. More than 3900 court staff were trained in Case Information System (CIS) as System Administrators.
 - vi. Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 493 court complexes & 347 corresponding jails.

Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project extended from 2015-2023, focused on ICT enablement of District & Subordinate Courts and various citizen centric initiatives. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores, total expenditure incurred was Rs. 1668.43 crore for implementation of this phase. Till Phase II, digital infrastructure has been provided to 18,735 courts, State-wise details are placed at Annexure-I

The following e-initiatives have been undertaken by the Government to make justice accessible and available for all: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2977 out of earmarked 2992) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 24.47 crore cases and more than 24.13 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.12.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools

(ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 2.07 crore downloads till 31.10.2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,433 downloads till 30.11.2023).

- v. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,11,52,949 cases while the High Courts heard 80,91,400 cases (totalling 2.92 crore) till 31.10.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023.
- vi. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- vii. 25 Virtual Courts in 20 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 4.11 crore cases have been handled by 25 virtual courts and in more than 45 lakhs (45,92,871) cases online fine of more than Rs. 478.69 crore has been realized till 30.11.2023.
- viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 20 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.10.2023.
- ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 21 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 23 High Courts till 31.10.2023.
- x. To bridge the digital divide, 875 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online eCourts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- 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,

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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, LED Display Message Sign Board System called "Justice Clock" have been installed. The purpose of Justice Clock is to bring awareness to the public about the Justice Sector. A total of 39 Justice Clocks in 25 High Courts have been installed. A Virtual Justice Clock is also hosted online.

As eCourts Phase-II is over, the Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. The main objective of the Phase-III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary, which will provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. The proposed timeframe for the eCourts Project Phase-III is four years starting from 2023 onwards. The Phase-III of the project envisions facilitation of various new features, which will prove to be a game changer for last mile justice delivery

The Ministry of Finance, Government of India has released Rs.225 crore from the contingency fund for eCourts Phase III in October 2023. With the approval of eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the Department of Justice has allocated Rs. 102.50 crore for BSNL and NIC and Rs. 110.24 crore has been sub-allocated to various High Courts for Scanning and Digitization, establishment of eSewa Kendras, procurement of Hardware, Solar Power backup etc.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1380 for 14/12/2023 regarding Status of e-Courts project. The State-wise details of operational eCourts in the country is as under:

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1381
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

LAP

J.S(NRG)

FREE LEGAL AID TO TRANSGENDERS

✓ 1381 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

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

- (a) whether Government extends free legal aid to Transgenders in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of number of Transgenders benefited from this, State-wise; and
- (c) the current number of cases pending in courts concerning 'The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019'?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, free legal services are provided to Transgenders through State Legal Services Authorities. The State/UT-wise details of Transgenders benefited with free legal aid during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 (upto October, 2023) are at Annexure-A.

(c) As per Statistics released by National Crime Records Bureau on 01.12.2023, number of cases registered under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 during 2020, 2021 and 2022 are 1, 7 and 1 respectively.

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Annexure-A

Statement. as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1381 for reply on 14.12.2023 regarding 'Free legal aid to Transgenders' raised by Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha.

A statement containing the details of Transgenders benefited through legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the financial year 2022-23 and 2023-24 (upto October, 2023).

S. No.	State Legal Services Authorities	2022-23	2023-24 (upto October, 23)
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	1
2	Assam	2	1
3	Bihar	0	5
4	Chandigarh	1	1
5	Chhattisgarh	2	1
6	Delhi	5	2
7	Gujarat	6	0
8	Haryana	0	1
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	8
10	Jammu & Kashmir	8	2
11	Jharkhand	46	472
12	Karnataka	17	20
13	Kerala	9	30
14	Madhya Pradesh	183	0
15	Maharashtra	2	3
16	Manipur	17	10
17	Meghalaya	3	0
18	Odisha	31	7
19	Punjab	31	5
20	Rajasthan	2	0
21	Tamil Nadu	31	2
22	Uttar Pradesh	1	66
23	Uttarakhand	0	1
24	West Bengal	41	3
	Total	443	641

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1382
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

LAP

FAST TRACK COURTS TO DELIVER SPEEDY JUSTICE

✓ JS(LWKG)
1382 SHRI C. Ve. SHANMUGAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of undertrials languishing in different jails in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to have Fast Track Courts to deliver speedy justice;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has received any suggestions/proposals from different States/ stakeholders in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) As per Prison Statistics India-2022 released by National Crime Records Bureau on 01.12.2023, there are 4,34,302 undertrial prisoners in the Country as on 31.12.2022.
- (c) to (g) The 14th Finance Commission (FC) had recommended the setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-20 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The

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FC had further urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onwards. As per information made available by High Courts, 848 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.10.2023. In addition to FTCs, in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Government of India finalized a scheme in August, 2019 for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases pertaining to rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 in a time-bound manner under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. As per data submitted by various High Courts, upto October, 2023, 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 30 State/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 2,00,000 cases. Presently, there is no proposal to set up Fast Track Courts for undertrials.

No separate suggestions/proposals have been received in Department of Justice in respect of setting up Fast Track Courts, for undertrial prisoners. However, the Central Government in the light of the Budget announcement during presentation of Budget 2023-24 has formulated the 'Scheme for providing financial assistance to indigent prisoners to pay fine and obtain remission' through the State Governments with a budget provision of Rs 20 crore every year.

The Government of India has added Section 436-A to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which provides for the release of an undertrial prisoner on bail after serving half of the maximum period of imprisonment prescribed for an offense under any law. The concept of "Plea Bargaining" was also introduced by inserting "Chapter XXIA" in CrPC, which facilitates pre-trial negotiations between the defendant and the prosecution.

A "Prison Management Application" (e-Prison Software) integrated with "Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System" has been introduced which facilitates State Prison Authorities to capture data of prisoners and identify those prisoners in a quick and

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efficient manner. It also helps to identify pending cases for consideration by the "Undertrial Prisoner Review Committee (UTRCs)". UTRCs have been established in all the districts which conduct quarterly meetings. During the period from 1st April 2020 to 30th June, 2023, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) through State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) organized 32,612 UTRC meetings after which 74,630 inmates were released.

SLSAs have also set up Legal Services Clinics in prisons, which provide free legal aid to needy persons. These Legal Services Clinics are managed by empanelled Legal Services Advocates and trained para-legal volunteers. Such clinics have been set up in jails to ensure that all prisoners have access to advocates to represent them and to provide them with legal aid and advice. NALSA also organizes awareness camps in prisons to create awareness about the legal rights of prisoners including the availability of free legal aid, plea bargaining, Lok Adalats and their right to bail.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1384
ANSWERED ON 14/12/2023

NM

JS (NMJR)

INORDINATELY LONG-TERM CASES PENDING BEFORE THE COURTS

✓ 1384 # SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending for more than 25 years in the lower courts of the country;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted regarding the impact of cases inordinately pending for justice so as to assess the financial hardship that the common man has to undergo for getting justice; and
- (c) the reasons behind inordinately long-term pending cases?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 06.12.2023, there are 2,32,047 cases pending in the lower courts of the country for more than 25 years. However, the disposal of pending cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and the Central Government has no direct role in the said matter.

(b) & (c): No Sir, no such study has been conducted by the Ministry of Law & Justice regarding impact of pending cases on the common man. There could be multifarious reasons involving several stakeholders for pendency of cases in courts which, inter-alia, include complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants, proper application of rules and procedures and non-availability of sufficient physical infrastructure and adequate supporting court staff. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. Moreover, in case of pendency of criminal cases, the Criminal Justice System functions on assistance by various agencies viz.

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police, prosecution, forensic labs, handwriting experts and medico-legal experts. Delay in providing assistance by allied agencies also entails delay in disposal of cases.

While expeditious disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and the government has no direct role in the matter, several steps have been taken over the past few years to facilitate faster disposal of cases, the details of which are as under:-

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery.
- iii. Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block chain etc., to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.
- iv. Regular filling up of vacancies in higher judiciary has been of utmost importance for this Government. As a result of which, Supreme Court of India today is functioning with full strength of 34 judges. Further, sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1114 currently.
- v. 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.
- vi. The central government has approved a scheme for setting up 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 of 31.10.2023, a total of 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive

POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country. FTSCs Scheme has been further extended for 3 more years i.e. from FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26.

- vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.
- viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. To this end, recently the Government has enacted the Mediation Act, 2023 which lays down that mediation can be conducted in civil and commercial matters in terms of the provisions of the Mediation Act, 2023 barring such matters explicitly listed in the First Schedule of the Act in which only major offences have been excluded, leaving majority of the petty offences under the ambit of Mediation Act, 2023.
- ix. Lok Adalats are being given impetus as an 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. There are three types of Lok Adalats: National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats. Mobile Lok Adalats are also organized in various parts of the country, which travel from one location to another to resolve disputes in order to facilitate the resolution of disputes through a mediated mechanism. Since June, 2020, online Lok Adalat/e-Lok Adalats have been organised virtually that facilitates party interaction and exchange of information, allowing people to effectively participate from their homes with the help of internet technology.
- x. Under the Tele-Law programme launched in 2017, an effective and reliable e-interface platform is provided 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.
- xi. Apart from this, efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1385**

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

LINKING OF VOTER ID WITH AADHAAR

Leg. II Sec. (LD)
**1385. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:
Smt. Vandana Chavan:**

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

- (a) the number of Voter IDs linked with Aadhaar since 'The Election Laws (Amendment) Act' came into force;
- (b) whether linking is being done voluntarily, if so, how is consent from voters being taken;
- (c) whether Aadhaar details will be deleted if a voter takes back consent, the details thereof;
- (d) whether names of voters, whose Voter IDs have not been linked with Aadhaar, have been struck off from voter list, if so, reasons therefor and number thereof; and
- (e) whether Government has taken measures to protect voter database from being misused, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, *inter alia*, amends the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which allows Electoral Registration Officers to require the existing or prospective elector to provide the Aadhaar number for the purpose of establishing identity on a voluntary basis. The Election Commission of India (the Commission) *vide* its instruction dated 4th July, 2022, has launched the programme to collect the

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Aadhaar number of existing and prospective electors on a voluntary basis from 1st August, 2022 in all States and Union territories. It is voluntary to link Aadhaar with Voter ID and consent is obtained from the elector for Aadhaar authentication in Form 6B. There is no provision for withdrawing the consent.

(d): No sir.

(e): The Commission is responsible under article 324 of the Constitution for superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral roll, and the Commission has informed that it maintains data with multi layered security architecture and the electoral data is encrypted in both static and transit.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1386

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

Reservation in judiciary

DS (A.P.H.)
✓ 1386. SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI:
SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the representation of OBCs, SCs, STs and Minorities among High Court Judges are to the extent of 23 per cent only and 77 per cent are from the upper castes; and
- (b) whether Government has proposal to bring in reservation to ensure adequate representation to reserved categories in appointment of judges to High Courts and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): 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. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of OBCs, SCs, STs and Minorities among the Judges of High Courts are not maintained centrally.

The procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High

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Court. Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal for filling up of vacancy of a High Court Judge six (06) months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. The Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1387**

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

Leg II Sec (LD)

IMPROVING VOTING PROCESS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PwDs

1387. Shri Neeraj Shekhar:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to improve the voting process for senior citizens and Persons with Disability (PwDs); and
- (b) the challenges, if any, in implementation thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b): The Election Commission of India (the Commission) has informed that the following steps have been taken by the Commission to make the voting process smooth and inclusive for Senior Citizen and *Persons with Disability* (PwDs):
- (i) **Polling Station at Ground Floor:** The polling stations are set up on the ground floor of a building to facilitate voting for aged and disabled electors. Polling stations are set up in such a manner that ordinarily, no voter is required to travel more than two kilo meters to cast his vote.
- (ii) **Provision for Ramp:** A permanent ramp of maximum gradient 1:12 is provided at all Polling Stations to facilitate the PwDs and senior citizen electors, as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in

the Polling Stations. Wide publicity is given about the provision of ramps in Polling Stations.

- (iii) **Adequate Furniture:** Adequate chairs/ benches are provided at each Polling Station for disabled, pregnant or senior citizen electors.
 - (iv) **Shade in Polling Station:** Tented arrangement for shade with adequate size (minimum 15ft X 15ft) canopy is made available, as waiting area, at each Polling Station with sufficient chairs/benches preferably for ladies/senior citizens/nursing mothers/differently abled voters and children accompanying them.
 - (v) **Volunteers:** Volunteers from NCC/NSS/Scout & Guides are deployed to manage the voters' queue. Identified PwDs and senior citizen voters are assisted by volunteers to reach the polling station and if required, wheelchair is provided. The PwDs electors can request for wheelchair facility by registering on Saksham-ECI App. The volunteers shall guide the PwDs electors up to the entrance of polling station. Inside the polling station, such PwDs electors are assisted by polling staff.
-
- (vi) **Provision for Transport Facility:** Senior Citizens, Persons with visual and Locomotive Disabilities and infirmed voters with impaired movement are provided free pass for using public transport on poll day. If public transport is not available, private vehicles are hired for the purpose.
 - (vii) **Queue Management:**
 - (a) There are three queues at the polling station: one for male voters, one for female voters and third one for senior citizens and PwDs electors. One male elector is allowed to vote per two female electors.
 - (b) Persons with disability/infirm electors are given priority for entering the polling station without having to wait in the queue for other electors and all necessary assistance as may be required is provided to them at the polling stations.

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(c) The CEO/DEO gives adequate publicity about facilities to be extended to senior citizens, PwD/infirm.

Detailed instructions dated 10.06.2023 in this regard has been issued by the Election Commission.

- (viii) **Home Voting Facility for PwDs & Senior Citizens:** PwDs with benchmark disability and Senior Citizens above 80 years are provided with the option of Home Voting Facility through Form-12D under AVPD (Absentee Voters of PwDs) category and AVSC (Absentee Voters of Senior Citizens) category. An absentee voter wishing to avail this facility of casting votes by postal ballot from his/her home, makes an application to the Returning Officer (RO) of the Constituency concerned.
- (ix) **Mapping of Persons with Disabilities:** Polling station wise and thereafter providing necessary assistance while exercising their franchise during poll process.
- (x) **Appointing PwDs Icons:** From amongst persons with disabilities and being used optimally for engagement purposes to promote awareness on accessible elections among electors with disabilities.
- (xi) **Saksham ECI App (Earlier PWD App):** As a one stop access point solution to avail various services by PwDs in respect of election process.
- (xii) **Issuing accessibility checklist:** For polling stations in addition to assured minimum facilities.
- (xiii) **Availability of Wheelchairs:** At all Polling Stations for PwDs/Senior Citizens.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1388
ANSWERED ON 14/12/2023

NM

JS (WMSR)

VACANCIES IN SUBORDINATE COURTS

✓

1388. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) the number of vacancies in the subordinate courts, State-wise;
- (b) the number of judges recruited in subordinate courts in the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government to fill these vacancies expeditiously?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): At present, there are 5,443 vacancies of judicial officers in the subordinate courts. The detailed, State-wise statement of vacancies in subordinate courts is at *Annexure-I*.

(b) & (c): As far as the recruitment in Subordinate courts is concerned, the Central Government does not have any direct role under the Constitution in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District/ subordinate judiciary. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Governments in consultation with their High Courts frame the rules and regulations regarding the issues of recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. Thus, the recruitment of judicial officers in the Subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

In its orders of 04th January, 2007 in Malik Mazhar case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary

(2023)

which stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments / High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions.

Further, in compliance of the above directions of the Supreme Court, Department of Justice forwarded a copy of the Malik Mazhar judgement to Registrars General of all High Courts for necessary action. Registrar Generals of all High Courts have been requested at regular intervals to expedite the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary as mandated under the Malik Mazhar case.

Sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased during the last five years, details of which are as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
30.09.2018	22,644	17,509
11.12.2023	25,439	19,996

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ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1388 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN SUBORDINATE COURTS.

Vacant position of Judicial Officer in District and Subordinate Courts as on 11.12.2023

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	83
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
3.	Assam	46
4.	Bihar	473
5.	Chandigarh	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	139
7.	D & N Haveli	1
8.	Daman & Diu	0
9.	Delhi	89
10.	Goa	10
11.	Gujarat	545
12.	Haryana	208
13.	Himachal Pradesh	21
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	94
15.	Jharkhand	193
16.	Karnataka	225
17.	Kerala	91
18.	Ladakh	7
19.	Lakshadweep	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	294
21.	Maharashtra	250
22.	Manipur	10
23.	Meghalaya	42
24.	Mizoram	33
25.	Nagaland	10
26.	Odisha	205
27.	Puducherry	19
28.	Punjab	212
29.	Rajasthan	296
30.	Sikkim	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	331
32.	Telangana	115
33.	Tripura	20
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1247
35.	Uttarakhand	27
36.	West Bengal	83*
37.	Andaman and Nicobar	
TOTAL		5443

Source: MIS portal, Department of Justice.

*No separate sanctioned strength exists in respect of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the same is included in the total Sanctioned Strength, appearing in the designated column coming under the heading West Bengal.

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1389
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

Admn. III (LA)

SCO meeting of Ministers

1389. DR. SUDHANSHU TRIVEDI:

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

- (a) the outcome of the 10th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Meeting of Ministers of Law and Justice; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Ministry in connection with SCO Charter commitments, and its impact on India?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The 10th Meeting of the Ministers of Justice of the SCO Member States, held on 5th September, 2023, was represented by the Indian delegation, led by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) Law and Justice. A Joint Statement was adopted by the Member States at the conclusion of the meeting.

(b) India is participating in the negotiations on the Reforms of the SCO, including its Charter. However, as the negotiations are in nascent stage and are subject to consensus of all the Member States, no firm commitments have been made by India at this stage. Therefore, its impact does not arise at this juncture.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1390

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

OS (AppH.)

Appointment of judges belonging to OBCs, SCs and STs

✓ 1390. #SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether the provisions of reservation made in the Constitution are being followed in the appointment of judges from Backward, Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories in the Supreme Court and High Courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the number of judges appointed under the said categories as compared to the total number of judges currently working in the Supreme Court and High Courts of the country; and
- (c) whether Government has decided to formulate any action plan to implement the same after discussing it with the judiciary to ensure proper participation of all weaker sections to establish social harmony?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Category-wise data pertaining to representation of OBCs, SCs, STs and Minorities among the Judges of High Courts is not maintained centrally. However, information on social background is being provided by the recommendees for elevation to High Court Judges as per the revised Annexure put into effect since 2018 wherein besides other information, details regarding their social background are made available in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per information provided by the recommendees, out of 650 High Court Judges appointed since

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2018 till 06.12.2023, 492 Judges belong to the General Category, 20 Judges belong to the SC category, 12 belong to the ST category, 77 Judges belong to the OBC category, 36 Judges belong to Minorities and for the remaining 13 Judges, there is no information available in the Annexures filled by them at the time of their consideration for appointment to the post of Judges. As on 08.12.2023, there are 34 Judges working in the Supreme Court and 790 Judges in the High Courts.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts under the provisions of Article 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India is being done in accordance to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal to fill up of vacancy of a High Court Judge six months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. The

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1391
ANSWERED ON 14/12/2023

NM

JS(NMTR)

MEASURES TO REDUCE PENDENCY OF CASES

✓ 1391. SHRI MASTHAN RAO BEEDA:

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

- (a) whether Government is taking measures to reduce pendency of cases across different levels of judiciary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the progress made in this regard; and
- (d) the details of other proposed measures to be taken in order to ensure faster disposal of cases and for timely justice?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. The Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation

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of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. Some of the initiatives taken by Department of Justice to aid the cause of justice delivery are as under:-

i. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls; residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10035 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,507 as on 30.11.2023 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,882 as on 30.11.2023, under this scheme.

ii. Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes.

Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 869 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. 25 virtual courts have been set up in 20 States/UTs. As on 31.10.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.95 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 466.32 crores in fines. The Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block chain etc to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders. In the eCommittee meeting dt.02.11.2023, proposal, of Rs. 1046.89 crore has been approved for the FY 2023-24.

The Contingency fund of Rs 225 crore has been already released by the Ministry of Finance for eCourts Phase III.

- iii. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 08.12.2023, 61 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 965 new Judges were appointed and 695 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1114 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
08.11.2023	25,439	19,996

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

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

- v. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As of 31.10.2023, 848 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the central government has approved a scheme for setting up 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 of 31.10.2023, a total of 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 2,00,000 cases. Puducherry made a special request to be included in the Scheme and has since operationalized one exclusive POCSO Court in

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May 2023. FTSCs Scheme has been further extended for 3 more years i.e. from FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26.

- vi. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.
- vii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

The recently enacted Mediation Act, 2023 lays down that mediation can be conducted in civil and commercial matters in terms of the provisions of the Mediation Act, 2023 barring such matters explicitly listed in the First Schedule of the Act which are not fit for mediation and in which mediation can not be conducted. It can be seen from the exempted list in the first schedule that only major offences have been excluded, thus leaving majority of the petty offences under the ambit of Mediation Act, 2023.

- viii. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. Further in view of Covid, E-Lok Adalat was conceptualized which significantly improved access to justice for people who were otherwise unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. The first E-Lok Adalat was held on 27.06.2020 and since then E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 28 States / UTs, wherein 441.17

lakh cases were taken up and 76.16 lakh cases disposed of. The details of the cases disposed off in National Lok Adalats during the last three years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto September)	4,94,88,552	1,06,83,225	6,01,71,777

State Lok Adalats

	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2021-22	1,14,278	4,18,251	5,32,529
2022-23	94,939	7,56,370	8,51,309
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	42,352	6,10,724	6,53,076

Permanent Lok Adalats

Years	Cases settled
2021-22	1,18,136
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,10,412

- 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.~~

Under the aegis of Tele-Law, till 30th November, 2023, out of 60,99,069 cases registered 60,23,222 advice were enabled. Out of this, 35.69% advice was enabled to female and 64.31% advice enabled to male beneficiaries. In terms of advice enabled to marginalised groups, out of the total number of advice cited, 30.51% advice were rendered to Other Backward Classes (OBC), 31.93 % to Scheduled Castes (SC) and 15.50% to Scheduled Tribes (ST) respectively.

- (25)
- 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 22 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 89 select Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *206

ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

COURT PROCEEDINGS IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

✓ *206. SHRI VAIKO :

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

- (a) the progress made in conducting court proceedings right from district courts to High Courts in regional languages;
- (b) whether online filing of petitions, affidavits and counters and rejoinders have been fully facilitated in all the courts, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the appearance of lawyers and arguments have been fully implemented in High Courts and option is given to the lawyers to appear either in-person or through virtual mode, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of assistance provided by the Ministry in getting judgments in regional languages for the benefit of common people?

ANSWER

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

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

***STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF THE
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *206 DUE FOR ANSWER ON
21.12.2023 REGARDING COURT PROCEEDINGS IN REGIONAL
LANGUAGES

(a): As far as Supreme Court and all High Courts are concerned, Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in these Courts shall be in English language. However, Article 348 (2) of the Constitution of India provides that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. Further, Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 states that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English Language, for the purposes of any judgment, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State and where any judgment, decree or order is passed or made in any such language (other than the English Language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English Language issued under the authority of the High Court.

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

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

2

Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals as per the Cabinet Committees decision taken in 1965 and the Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 16.10.2012 intimated that the Full Court in its meeting held on 11.10.2012, 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 in July, 2014. The Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 18.01.2016 conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations, unanimously resolved that the proposals could not be accepted.

As far as District and Subordinate Courts are concerned, the provision of Article 235 of the Constitution of India vests the administrative control over these courts with the concerned High Courts in the respective states. Thus, the use of Hindi or regional language in lower courts is generally decided by the High Court and State Government concerned in consultation with each other and accordingly implement it in their respective district and subordinate courts.

(b) and (c): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project, eFiling has been made functional and it is available for all High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts across India. 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 framed by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India (SCI) which were circulated to all High Courts

for better implementation of online filing and are available on the website of eCommittee, SCI. A total of 20 High Courts has adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.10.2023. To promote eFiling all Central & State Government departments including the PSUs have been requested to use e filing in all commercial disputes coming up in the commercial courts. Further, instructions have been issued by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India to all HCs to ensure that all Government litigations are e-filed. Similar communication has also been shared by the Department of Justice to all Ministries requesting to use e filing in all Government litigation.

Till October 2023, 7,49,538 cases were filed in High Courts and 16,25,978 were filed in District & Taluka Courts using eFiling facility. Under eCourts Mission Mode Project, 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 2,11,52,949 cases while the High Courts heard 80,91,400 cases (totaling 2.92cr) till 31.10.2022 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court held 4,82,941 hearings till 15.05.2023 since the beginning of lockdown period. One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and additionally funds have been released for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

In the case of Sarvesh Mathur vs The Registrar General, High Court of Punjab & Haryana (WP (Cri.) No. 351/2023), Hon'ble Supreme Court has on 06.10.2023 passed an order that no High Court shall deny access to video conferencing facilities or hearing through the hybrid mode to any member of the Bar or litigant desirous of

availing of such a facility. Moreover, all State Governments have been asked to provide necessary funds to the High Courts to put into place the facilities requisite for that purpose within the specified time frame.

(d) As informed by the Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has constituted the AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhay S. Oka, Judge, Supreme Court of India, for translation of e-SCR Judgments into vernacular languages by using AI Tool. As on 02.12.2023, by using AI translation tools, 31,184 judgements of Supreme Court, have been translated into 16 languages viz. Hindi (21,908), Punjabi (3,574), Kannada (1,898), Tamil (1,172), Gujarati (1,110), Marathi (765), Telugu (334), Malayalam (239), Odia (104), Bengali (39), Nepali (27), Urdu (06), Assamese (05), Garo (01), Khasi (01), Konkani (01). The details of the judgments of Supreme Court translated into 16 languages, as on 02.12.2023, is available on the e-SCR Portal of the Supreme Court website.

A similar Committee has been constituted in all the High Courts, headed by the Judges of the respective High Courts As of now, the Supreme Court is collaborating with the High Courts in translation of e-SCR Judgments into 16 vernacular languages. As per the information received from the High Courts, 4,983 judgments have been translated into vernacular language and uploaded by the High Courts on their respective websites.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2181

ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

Leg. II Sec (LD)
DISPLAY OF NAMES OF REVENUE VILLAGES
IN THE URBAN ELECTORAL ROLLS

2181#. Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agrawal:

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

(a) the reasons behind showing only the names of revenue villages in voter list of urban areas despite the names of modern colonies being prevalent there due to which many voters are not even able to find their names; and

(b) whether Government will consider writing the names of mohallas or modern colonies instead of, or in addition to, writing the names of revenue villages by making necessary amendments in 'The Representation of the People Act', if so, by when it will be done, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) : The Election Commission of India has informed that the names of areas in electoral roll are mentioned on the basis of addresses given by the citizens in their Form-6. Addresses of applicant along with other demographic details furnished in Form-6 are stored in Electors table and while preparing electoral roll and EPIC, names of areas/sections are derived from that table.

(b) : In view of (a) above, there is no need of any amendment in the existing election laws.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 2184
ANSWERED ON 21/12/2023

A2J

JS(NKGS)
✓

Improving access to justice

2184# Shri Surendra Singh Nagar:

Shri Iranna Kadadi:

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

- (a) key legal reforms and initiatives implemented by Government in the last five years to improve access to justice;
- (b) measures taken to streamline the judicial system and foster legal awareness among citizens;
- (c) manner in which Government envisages fulfilling its constitutional duty under Article 39A by providing free legal services to vulnerable and marginalized sections of society;
- (d) details of impact of agencies like NALSA, DISHA, and Nyaya Bandhu in achieving this goal; and
- (e) details on the effectiveness of Tele-Law in delivering legal aid to disadvantaged groups, especially focusing on women, SCs and STs and variations that exist across different States?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice has undertaken various initiatives/projects/ and developed scheme to increase free legal aid and ensure access to justice to all citizens with the aim to fulfill the obligation as enunciated under Article 39 A of the Indian Constitution.

In 2017, DoJ launched two key legal aid and empowerment programmes under Access to Justice which included Tele-Law (mainstreaming legal aid at grassroots through technology), and Nyaya Bandhu promoting pro bono legal service, to be implemented in pilot manner. In 2021, all these programmes were formulated into a comprehensive, pan -India scheme titled "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" (DISHA), launched for a period of five- years (2021-2026). The DISHA scheme aims to provide easy, accessible, affordable and citizen -centric delivery of legal services. Till 30th November 2023, Tele-Law services has been made available across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in 782 districts across 36 States and UTs and has rendered legal advice to 60,23,222 beneficiaries. The Nyaya Bandhu service enables seamless connect on the Nyaya Bandhu Application (available on Android/ iOS) between the interested Pro Bono Advocates and registered beneficiaries entitled for free legal aid under section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. As on 30th November, 2023, there are 10629 Pro Bono advocates and 89 Law schools have constituted Pro Bono Clubs to facilitate the culture of Pro Bono among law students. Moreover approximately 6 lakh beneficiaries at the state and district and local level have been made aware and sensitized on various rights, duties and entitlements.

The eCourts Mission Mode Project is a national eGovernance project for ICT enablement of district/subordinate courts of the country with a view to facilitate faster disposal of cases by speeding up court processes and providing transparent on-line flow of information on case status, orders/judgments etc. to the judiciary as well as litigants, lawyers, and other stakeholders. In initial phase, 14,249 Court sites were computerized. In Phase II of the project which started in 2015, 18735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized and 99.4% of total Court Complexes across India inter-linked through WAN connectivity and in addition, various citizen centric services have been initiated. Accessibility to case status information of 24.47 crore cases and more than 24.13 crore orders/judgments is available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). In addition, through Video conferencing, 2.92 crore cases have been heard by the District and Subordinate Courts and High courts and 4.82 lakh cases by the Supreme Court. Live streaming started in 7 High Courts and Constitutional bench of Supreme Court of India. 25 Virtual Courts have been established in 20 States / UTs to try traffic offences. To bridge the digital divide, 875 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts. The additional features include CIS, NJDG, JustIS app for judges, eFiling, epayments, Judgement & Order Search portal, NSTEP, Justice Clock etc.

Presently, eCourts Phase-III has been approved with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. This phase aims to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary and provide a seamless and

paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. The important features of the eCourts Phase-III includes Digitisation of the court records, both legacy records and pending cases; state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval; saturating all court complexes across India with e-Sewa Kendras to provide easy access to citizens not having the necessary know-how or computer equipment; Paperless Courts aiming to bring court proceedings under a digital format leading to transparency and accountability in the Indian Judiciary and speedy disposal of cases; Online Courts aimed at eliminating the presence of litigants or lawyers in the court, thus saving time and money; Online Dispute Resolution to work towards providing an alternative dispute resolution machinery; expansion of scope of Virtual Courts beyond adjudication of traffic challans etc.

Moreover, the Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society as covered under Section 12 of the Act, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include Legal Aid and advice; Legal Awareness Programmes; Legal Services/Empowerment camps; Legal Services Clinics; Legal Literacy Clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme.

In order to make people aware of their entitlements as well as their duties under law, legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities on various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST persons suffering from disability etc. Legal Services Authorities have also prepared booklets and pamphlets in understandable language on various laws which are distributed amongst the people. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) organises various campaign from time to time to make people aware about various welfare schemes and entitlements of weaker sections of the society and also the undertrials and convicts. It also organizes legal camps with the three-fold objective of spreading awareness about various welfare legislations and schemes, identify target beneficiaries and also to reach out to people individually and address their legal problems. Details of activities/ programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities is at Annexure-A.

(e) Yes Sir.State and UT-Wise details on women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) received legal advice under Tele-Law is attached at Annexure-B

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2184 for answering on 21.12.2023 Shri Surendra Singh Nagar and Shri Iranna Kadadi raised by (MPs) on details of Improving access to justice

Years	Persons provided Panel Advocates	Persons benefited through Advice/ Counselling	Persons benefited through other services	Total
2022-23	2,91,410	6,39,230	2,84,129	12,14,769
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,65,362	3,92,999	1,87,354	7,45,715

Legal Awareness Programmes:

Years	No of Legal Awareness programmes organised	No. of Persons attended
2022-23	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,93,605	1,76,93,492

Legal Services / Empowerment Camps:

Year	2022
No. of camps organised	38,541
No. of beneficiaries in all camps	1,15,10,207

Legal Services Clinics:

Year	2022-23		2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	
Categories	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance
Law Colleges/ Universities	1,093	37,351	1,025	9,520
Villages	4,134	2,82,140	3,953	1,15,321
Community Centres	776	88,638	744	39,174

Courts	904	1,16,563	936	66,921
Jails	1,177	2,64,593	1,200	1,55,588
JJB/CWC/ Observation Homes	439	29,280	454	21,151
For the people of North-East	64	1,170	52	348
Others	3,124	1,94,729	2,771	88,674
Total	11,711	10,14,464	11,135	4,96,697

Lok Adalats:
National Lok Adalats

	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (upto Sept, 23)	4,94,88,552	1,06,83,225	6,01,71,777

State Lok Adalats

	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2022-23	94,939	7,56,370	8,51,309
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	42,352	6,10,724	6,53,076

Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services)

Years	Cases settled
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,10,412

Implementation of Victim Compensation Schemes:

Years	Compensation Awarded in (Rs.)
2022-23	3,47,80,37,352/-
2023-24 (upto Sept, 23)	1,97,09,14,235/-

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2184 for answering on 21.12.2023 Shri Surendra Singh Nagar and Shri Iranna Kadadi raised by (MPs) on details of Improving access to justice

State/UT wise on details of Advice enabled to Women, Scheduled Caste; Scheduled Tribes from 2017 onwards (upto 30th November, 23) under Tele-Law programme.

Sl No	States and Union Territories	Female	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1	Andhra Pradesh	63,494	36,352	13,902
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4,949	2,868	1,441
3	Assam	68,946	22,183	11,365
4	Bihar	1,48,179	1,27,953	23,769
5	Chhattisgarh	93,888	63,795	94,364
6	Goa	1,772	1,359	186
7	Gujarat	73,886	46,135	1,17,301
8	Haryana	33,763	42,433	7,709
9	Himachal Pradesh	25,803	29,759	9,586
10	Jharkhand	1,31,705	64,189	67,182
11	Karnataka	78,613	42,869	12,859
12	Kerala	9,632	2,347	754
13	Madhya Pradesh	1,94,960	2,36,341	1,20,113
14	Maharashtra	1,41,760	1,91,739	1,21,002
15	Manipur	455	125	473
16	Meghalaya	12,913	966	24,503
17	Mizoram	6,965	1,131	7,816
18	Nagaland	11,885	792	23,654
19	Odisha	78,791	84,501	60,495
20	Punjab	64,885	1,10,942	13,354
21	Rajasthan	1,17,966	1,14,072	48,683
22	Sikkim	1,075	897	464
23	Tamil Nadu	86,745	40,683	8,526
24	Telangana	39,390	29,975	16,471
25	Tripura	24,918	19,460	15,730
26	Uttar Pradesh	4,20,650	4,22,143	57,247
27	Uttarakhand	31,166	50,128	5,101
28	West Bengal	65,791	47,012	6,259
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	776	1,608	28
30	Chandigarh	3,506	3,518	504
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1,119	668	362
32	Delhi	4,366	3,167	221
33	Jammu and Kashmir	1,01,374	78,148	41,179
34	Ladakh	1,078	396	1,083
35	Lakshadweep	1,223	1,634	5
36	Puducherry	1,098	1,036	48
Total		21,49,485	19,23,324	9,33,739

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2185
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

ADR Cell (LA) Initiatives in alternate dispute resolution mechanisms

2185. **Shri Brij Lal:**
Dr. K. Laxman:
Dr. Sikander Kumar:

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

- (a) the Government's initiatives in the realm of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms over the past decade;
- (b) the key provisions of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019; and
- (c) an evaluation of the potential impact of these measures and legislations on improving the ease of conducting business and reducing case backlogs in traditional courts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) During the past decade, the Government of India has taken various initiatives in the realm of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. The Government is promoting ADR mechanisms including arbitration and mediation as these mechanisms are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes. Various initiatives have been taken to strengthen these mechanisms and make them user friendly, cost effective and expeditious. The major initiatives taken by the Central Government over the years in this regard includes;

(i) the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been progressively amended in the years 2015, 2019 and 2020. These amendments aim at ensuring timely conclusion of arbitration proceedings, neutrality of arbitrators, minimizing judicial intervention in the arbitral process and quick enforcement of arbitral awards. The amendments are further aimed at promoting institutional arbitration, updating the law to reflect best global practices and resolve ambiguities thereby establishing an arbitration ecosystem where arbitral institutions can flourish.

(ii) The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, was enacted to provide for the establishment and incorporation of the India International Arbitration Centre (Centre) for the purpose of creating an independent, autonomous and world class body for facilitating institutional arbitration and to declare the Centre to be an institution of national importance. The Centre shall be providing world class arbitration related services at its facilities in a cost-effective manner for both domestic and international commercial disputes, including reputed empanelled arbitrators and requisite administrative support for the smooth conduct of arbitral proceedings.

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

(iv) The Mediation Act, 2023, enacted recently, lays down the legal framework for mediation to be adopted by parties to a dispute, especially institutional mediation where various stakeholders have been identified to establish a robust and efficacious mediation ecosystem in the country.

(b) The key provisions of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 *inter-alia* include provisions relating to establishment of the Centre as an institute of national importance for domestic and international arbitration; composition of the Centre; objects and functions of the Centre; finance, accounts and audit of the Centre; setting up a Chamber of Arbitration, which would empanel professional arbitrators at national and international level; setting up an Academy to train arbitrators, to compete on par with reputed global arbitral institutions and power to make rules and regulations for the functioning of Centre.

(c) The basic premise of using ADR mechanisms for resolution of disputes is to reduce the burden on the judiciary and thereby enable timely justice dispensation to the parties. A time line to the conclusion of disputes has been prescribed in the respective Acts. The legislative reforms with respect to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have facilitated the minimization of court-intervention in arbitration, emergence of pro arbitration judiciary and timely and efficacious settlement of commercial disputes thereby enabling ease of doing business. The Mediation Act, 2023 is expected to be a pivotal legislative intervention towards

providing standalone law on mediation and enabling the growth of a culture of amicable settlement of disputes out of court and the outcome being party driven.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2186
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

J-II

JS(PPP)

✓ CONTINUATION OF FTSCs AS CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME

2186. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

- (a) whether Government has approved continuation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme recently, if so, details thereof;
- (b) the duration of the Scheme, features and the financial implication, including Central and State share;
- (c) the achievements of FTSCs so far;
- (d) the challenges related to FTSCs;
- (e) whether Government is providing adequate infrastructure, support staff and modern technology to FTSCs to ensure smooth and efficient operations, if so, details thereof;
- (f) efforts made to fill vacancies promptly and ensure that judges with relevant expertise are assigned to FTSCs; and
- (g) names of the participating States/ UTs in the Scheme?

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

(a) & (b): The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme for another three years i.e. from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026

at a total outlay of Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund and remaining Rs. 744.99 cr. as State Share.

The fund-sharing pattern of the Scheme is 60:40 (Centre: State) and 90:10 for the North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States/UTs. However, 100% Central fund is provided for Union Territories without legislature.

Flexibility in reallocation of Courts within States/UTs has been permitted within the overall number of Fast Track Special Courts, as per the requirement.

(c): As per the data submitted by various High Courts, 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs. Notably, the number of functional Fast Track Special Courts, including exclusive POCSO Courts, has undergone a substantial increase, rising from 366 FTSCs in the financial year 2019-2020 to 758 FTSCs as of October, 2023.

Setting up FTSCs demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Government towards women security, combating sexual and gender-based violence, reducing the backlog of pending cases related to Rape & POCSO Act, and providing expedited access to justice for survivors of sexual crimes. Staffed with professional and experienced judges and support staff specialized in handling sensitive sexual offences cases, these courts ensure consistent and expert-guided legal proceedings. FTSCs have notably adopted the approach of setting up Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres within the courts to facilitate the victims and to make the courts into Child-Friendly Courts thereby providing crucial support for a compassionate legal system.

Monthly Disposal in the FTSCs has risen from 1000-1500 cases per month during FY 2021-2022 to more than 6000 cases per month in October, 2023. So far these courts have disposed more than 2,00,000 cases as on October 31, 2023. As per the information provided by the High Courts on the FTSCs dashboard, in the current year, a total of 69,098 cases were instituted till October, 2023 while 64,004 cases have been disposed of, resulting in a disposal rate of 92%.

(d): Fast Track Special Courts encounter certain challenges impacting their efficiency:

- Delayed FSL Reports: The courts face delays in the submission of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Reports, hindering the progress of cases and often leading to prolonged trials.
- Inadequate Number of Public Prosecutors: Insufficient staffing of Public Prosecutors limits the court's ability to handle cases efficiently, causing bottlenecks in the judicial process.
- Witnesses' Unavailability: Difficulties in ensuring witnesses' appearances in court add to the delays, creating hindrances in presenting crucial testimonies and evidence for timely resolution of cases.

(e) & (f) : As the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme is a temporary Scheme, it does not intend to create any permanent infrastructure. The courts are made functional in suitable premises as decided by the States/UTs and respective High Courts.

Under the Scheme, provisions of funds is made for meeting the salary component of one Judicial Officer and seven staff members besides Flexi Grant for meeting operational expenditure like computers, office equipment etc. As per the FTSCs guidelines, the States/UTs may engage judicial officers and court staff on contractual basis where sufficient manpower is not available.

Judicial Officers from District and Subordinate Judiciary are also posted as Presiding Officers of FTSCs and as regards the filling up of vacancies in the District Courts/Subordinate judiciary is concerned, the Constitutional provisions, under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, confers the power to the State Government to be exercised in consultation with the respective High Court to frame the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter. For the selection and appointment of judicial officers in the Subordinate/District Courts, in some

States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

FTSC guidelines allow the States/UTs to engage judicial officers and court staff on contractual basis where sufficient manpower is not available. Services of retired judicial officers with relevant experience can also be engaged to dispose of cases in the FTSCs.

(g): Names of the participating States/UTs is given at **Annexure**.

Annexure

**Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2186
for answer on 21st December 2023**

States/UTs participating in the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme as on October, 2023

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT
1	Chhattisgarh
2	Gujarat
3	Mizoram
4	Nagaland
5	Jharkhand
6	Madhya Pradesh
7	Manipur
8	Haryana
9	Chandigarh
10	Rajasthan
11	Tamil Nadu
12	Tripura
13	Uttar Pradesh
14	Uttarakhand
15	Delhi
16	Meghalaya
17	J&K
18	Punjab
19	Himachal Pradesh
20	Karnataka
21	Telangana
22	Puducherry
23	Andhra Pradesh
24	Assam
25	Bihar
26	Goa
27	Kerala
28	Maharashtra
29	Odisha
30	West Bengal

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2187
ANSWERED ON - 21/12/2023

e-court

JS (PPP)

USE OF AI IN LEGAL PROFESSION AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM

✓ 2187. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether Government is exploring use of AI in Indian legal profession and judicial system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". It is being implemented by Department of Justice in association with eCommittee Supreme Court of India. Its vision is to transform the judicial system of the country by ICT enablement of courts and to enhance the judicial productivity, both qualitatively & quantitatively, making the justice delivery system accessible, cost effective, reliable, and transparent. eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase I concluded in 2015 that dealt with basic computerisation of courts and Phase II concluded in March, 2023 that mainly focused on providing citizen centric services like eFiling, ePayment, eCourts Mobile app, virtual courts, video conferencing, etc. The Union Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the eCourts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum

ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. Under eCourts Phase-III, there is a component regarding use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc. at a budgetary outlay of Rs.53.57 crore.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2189
ANSWERED ON – 21/12/2023

e-Court

JS(PPP)

✓ **EFFORTS TO PROMOTE DIGITISATION OF LEGAL SYSTEM AND E-COURTS**

2189.DR. SIKANDER KUMAR :

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

- (a) the details of the Ministry's efforts in promoting the digitisation of legal procedures and the creation of e-courts; and
- (b) the details of the notable achievements regarding efficiency and transparency in the legal system?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation since 2007 for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented in association with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice.

Phase I of the eCourts Mission Mode Project focused on the basics of computerisation like setting up computer hardware, ensuring internet connectivity, and operationalizing the e-Courts platform. Against the financial outlay of Rs.935 crore, total expenditure incurred was Rs.639.41 crore for implementation of this phase.

Following initiatives were undertaken in this phase:

- i. 14,249 District and Subordinate courts were computerized

- ii. LAN was installed at 13,683 courts, hardware provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts.
- iii. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise completed in all High Courts.
- iv. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System.
- v. More than 3900 court staff were trained in Case Information System (CIS) as System Administrators.
- vi. Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 493 court complexes & 347 corresponding jails.

Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project extended from 2015-2023, focused on ICT enablement of District & Subordinate Courts and various citizen centric initiatives. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores, total expenditure incurred was Rs. 1668.43 crore for implementation of this phase. Till 2023, digital infrastructure has been provided to 18,735 courts, State-wise details are placed at Annexure-I

The following e-initiatives have been undertaken by the Government to make justice accessible and available for all stakeholders through digitization of legal procedures, thereby enhancing efficiency and transparency in the legal system: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2977 out of earmarked 2992) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 24.47 crore cases and more than 24.13 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.12.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and

Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 2.07 crore downloads till 31.10.2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,433 downloads till 30.11.2023).

- v. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,11,52,949 cases while the High Courts heard 80,91,400 cases (totalling 2.92 crore) till 31.10.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023.
- vi. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- vii. 25 Virtual Courts in 20 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 4.11 crore cases have been handled by 25 virtual courts and in more than 45 lakhs (45,92,871) cases online fine of more than Rs. 478.69 crore has been realized till 30.11.2023.
- viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 20 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.10.2023.
- ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 21 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 23 High Courts till 31.10.2023.
- x. To bridge the digital divide, 875 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online eCourts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.

- 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, LED Display Message Sign Board System called “Justice Clock” have been installed. The purpose of Justice Clock is to bring awareness to the public about the Justice Sector. A total of 39 Justice Clocks in 25 High Courts have been installed. A Virtual Justice Clock is also hosted online.

A sub-committee had been constituted by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India for preparing a Digital Preservation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for scanning, storage, retrieval, digitization of court records and preservation of legacy data of the judiciary. The SOP as well as the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for eCourts Phase-III was approved by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India on 21.10.2022. Till the end of Phase-II, as per the Digital Preservation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), 73.45 crore pages of court records in various High Courts were digitized. High Court wise details of digitization are enclosed at Annexure II.

As eCourts Phase II is over, the Union Cabinet on 13.09.2023 approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. The main objective of the Phase-III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary, which will provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. The proposed timeframe for the eCourts Project Phase-III is four years starting from 2023 onwards. Under Phase III, there are 24 components that includes digitisation of 3108 crore pages, both legacy records and pending cases at a budgetary outlay of Rs. 2038.40 crore and provision of ICT infrastructure in 2500 newly set up Courts and 400 new Court Complexes at a budgetary outlay of Rs. 426.25 crore.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2189 for 21/12/2023 regarding efforts to promote digitisation of legal system and e-courts. The State-wise details of operational eCourts in the country is as under:

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

ANNEXURE II

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2189 for 21/12/2023 regarding efforts to promote digitisation of legal system and e-courts. The progress of digitization of court records is as under:

High Court wise Status of Current Digitization		
Sr. No.	High Court Location	Total Number of Digitized pages
1	Calcutta High Court West Bengal	1,22,00,000
2	Allahabad High Court	19,68,00,000
3	Delhi High Court, New Delhi	17,90,00,000
4	Andhra Pradesh High Court	Not Available
5	Guwahati High Court, Assam	2,92,17,338
6	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	75,34,000
7	Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench	2,80,000
8	Gauhati High Court Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	-
9	Chhattisgarh High Court	Not Available
10	Gujarat High Court	Not Available
11	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur	15,40,00,000
12	High Court Meghalaya Shillong	-
13	Gauhati High Court, Aizwal Bench, Mizoram	29,867
14	Orissa High Court, Cuttack, Odisha	1,22,00,000
15	High Court of Sikkim, Gangtok	6,83,861
16	Madras High Court, Chennai	50,98,000
17	High Court of Telangana, Hyderabad	4,01,50,753
18	High Court of Uttarakhand, Nainital	1,32,00,000
19	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court	Not Available
20	Bombay High Court	-
21	Daman Diu High Court	-
22	High Court Jharkhand, Ranchi	-
23	High Court of Karnataka	5,50,00,000
24	Manipur High Court	1,13,22,389
25	Rajasthan High Court	16,40,855
	Total	1,61,00,000
		73,44,57,063

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2192
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

ADR Cell (LA)

Implementation of Mediation Act, 2023

2192. Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

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

(a) the steps Government has taken to implement the Mediation Act, 2023;

(b) whether Government has prepared a roadmap to establish the requisite infrastructure and institutions in place to implement the Act at all levels of courts across the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time-frame within which the institutions and infrastructure will be prepared to implement the Act, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): The Mediation Act, 2023 is a standalone law on mediation which has been enacted to establish a robust and efficacious mediation ecosystem in the country. As provided under section 1 (3) of the Mediation Act, 2023, some provisions of the Act have been notified vide gazette notification dated 09.10.2023. For framing of subordinate

legislation under the Act a Working Group/Committee chaired by Shri P.K. Malhotra, former Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, was constituted. The said working Group/Committee has submitted its report to the Department on 31.08.2023 and has recommended a draft of provision under rules, regulations for operation of the Mediation Act 2023. The Rules recommended by the Committee are under inter-ministerial and stakeholder consultations.

Also, requisite steps are underway for establishment of the Mediation Council of India under section 31 of the Mediation Act, 2023 which *inter alia* is to deal with the framework of institutionalisation of the conduct of mediation in the country and to bring uniformity in the process.

(c) As the Mediation Act, 2023 is at the nascent stage of its implementation, and the related institutions and infrastructure for facilitating its operation at pan-India level is under creation/establishment in terms of the provisions of the Act, it is not feasible to indicate a given time frame, for the present.

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2193
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

Admn. III (LA)

Vacancies in tribunals

2193. SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

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

- (a) the number of vacancies across all tribunals in the country, along with the time from which these are lying vacant;
- (b) the reasons for not filling up the vacancies;
- (c) whether these vacancies are adding to the pendency of cases in the judiciary;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not giving this issue the required urgency; and
- (e) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure timely filling up of vacancies and speedy resolution of pendency of cases?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e) Arising and filling up of the vacancies in the various Tribunals, set up by the Government, is a continuous process. The process of filling up of the vacancies in the various Tribunals is undertaken by all the administrative Ministries/Department, administering the respective Tribunals, as per codal provisions on the subject. All the administrative Ministries/Departments always strives hard to fill up the vacancies in respective Tribunals, administered by them. As is noticed in case of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), the pendency of cases in Tribunals is reducing gradually.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2194

JK

ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

Operational Gram Nyayalayas in the country

JS(NMTR)

✓ 2194. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) the number of operational Gram Nyayalayas in the country and the number of cases which have been disposed of in the last three years, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the number of Gram Nyayalayas which are computerized and tech-enabled, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the pendency of cases in the Gram Nyayalayas in the country, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): To provide access to justice to the people at village level, the Central Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred on a Gram Nyayalaya by this Act, the State Government, after consultation with the High Court, may, by notification, establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats. However, the Act does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. The State wise status of operational Gram Nyayalayas, and the cases disposed of during the last three years, is at *Annexure-I*, 141

(b) and (c): The State-wise detail of number of Gram Nyayalayas computerized / tech enabled and the pendency of cases in Gram Nyayalayas, is at *Annexure-II*.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (A) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 2194 FOR REPLY ON 21.12.2023.**

STATE WISE STATUS OF OPERATIONAL GRAM NYAYALAYAS, AND THE CASES DISPOSED
OF DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Gram Nyayalayas Operationalized	No. of cases disposed of during the last 3 years
1.	Punjab	2	783
2.	Kerala	30	29948
3.	Maharashtra	26	4851
4.	Rajasthan	45	59051
5.	Odisha	20	22679
6.	Jharkhand	1	18
7.	Karnataka	2	57
8.	Madhya Pradesh	89	16675
9.	Haryana	2	1319
10.	Uttar Pradesh	72	79084

Source : Data made available by the High Courts/State Governments.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (B) AND (C) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2194 FOR REPLY ON 21.12.2023.

STATE WISE STATUS OF OPERATIONAL GRAM NYAYALAYAS, AND THE CASES DISPOSED OF DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	No. of GNs computerised / tech enabled	Pendency
1.	Punjab	2	276
2.	Kerala	30	21927
3.	Maharashtra	0	4019
4.	Rajasthan	45	39054
5.	Odisha	16	47350
6.	Jharkhand	0	31
7.	Karnataka	2	101
8.	Madhya Pradesh	85	13241
9.	Haryana	2	1077
10.	Uttar Pradesh	30	97234

Source : Data made available by the High Courts/State Governments.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2197
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023
Appointment of Notaries**

Notary Cell (LA)

2197. SHRI VAIKO:

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

- (a) the number of applications registered for appointment of Notaries in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the number of persons appointed as Notaries in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the number of applications pending with Government during the last three years and as on date, year-wise and
- (d) the reasons for keeping them pending and by when the pending applications will be disposed of, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Statement showing the number of applications received for appointment as Notaries in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is enclosed at Annexure-I.
- (b) Statement showing the number of persons appointed as Notaries in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is enclosed at Annexure-II.
- (c) Statement showing the number of applications received during the last three years and are pending with the Government as on date, year-wise, is enclosed at Annexure-III.
- (d) Appointment of central notaries is an ongoing and continuous process and it is done as per provisions of the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956, as amended from time to time. Since this is an ongoing and continuous process, no specific timeframe can be given.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.2197 on the subject of Appointment of Notaries, for answer on 21.12.2023

Table: Statement showing the number of applications received for appointment as Notaries during the last three years

S. No.	State Name	Number of Applications Received Year Wise		
		2021	2022	2023
1	Andaman And Nicobar	4	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3578	18	1132
3	Arunachal Pradesh	15	16	2
4	Assam	406	2	7
5	Bihar	238	630	12
6	Chandigarh	76	4	3
7	Chhattisgarh	2682	1	1
8	Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And DIU	6	0	4
9	Delhi	989	40	144
10	Goa	306	2	3
11	Gujarat	3016	20	1193
12	Haryana	1218	128	79
13	Himachal Pradesh	656	4	13
14	Jammu&Kashmir	23	4	5
15	Jharkhand	552	9	6
16	Karnataka	4788	61	358
17	Kerala	2048	18	51
18	Ladakh	9	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	3219	34	30
21	Maharashtra	15686	76	419
22	Manipur	0	3	0
23	Meghalaya	4	7	2
24	Mizoram	1	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	5	9
26	Odisha	456	14	20
27	Puducherry	221	1	12
28	Punjab	1466	39	38
29	Rajasthan	4756	64	61
30	Tamil nadu	10035	37	61

31	Telangana	1969	13	335
32	Tripura	30	0	0
33	Uttar Pradesh	3599	40	122
34	Uttarakhand	138	5	21
35	West Bengal	1105	8	14
TOTAL		63295	1304	4158

Statement referred to in reply to Part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.2197 on the subject of Appointment of Notaries, for answer on 21.12.2023

Table: Statement showing the number of Notaries appointed by the Central Government during the last three years

S. No.	State Name	Number of Appointment of Notaries		
		2021	2022	2023
1	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	24
2	Delhi	1	0	0
3	Gujarat	1	0	0
4	Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh	0	88	0
5	Karnataka	1	0	0
6	Maharashtra	4	2	0
7	Manipur	0	0	4
8	Meghalaya	0	0	9
9	Nagaland	0	0	5
10	Puducherry	0	0	123
11	Tamilnadu	0	5	0
12	Telangana	0	1	0
13	Tripura	0	0	16
TOTAL		7	96	181

Annexure-III

Statement referred to in reply to Part (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.2197 on the subject of Appointment of Notaries, for answer on 21.12.2023

Table: Statement showing the online applications received in the year 2022-23 and are pending as on date

S. No.	State Name	Number of Applications Received Year Wise		
		2021	2022	2023
1	Andaman And Nicobar	4	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3578	18	1132
3	Arunachal Pradesh	15	16	2
4	Assam	406	2	7
5	Bihar	238	628	12
6	Chandigarh	76	4	3
7	Chhattisgarh	2682	1	1
8	Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And DIU	6	0	4
9	Delhi	989	40	144
10	Goa	306	2	3
11	Gujarat	3016	0	0
12	Haryana	1218	128	79
13	Himachal Pradesh	656	0	0
14	Jammu& Kashmir	0	4	5
15	Jharkhand	552	9	6
16	Karnataka	4788	60	358
17	Kerala	2048	18	51
18	Ladakh	9	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	3219	34	30
21	Maharashtra	15686	76	419
22	Manipur	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	4	0	0
24	Mizoram	1	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	0	0
26	Odisha	456	14	20
27	Puducherry	221	0	0
28	Punjab	1466	39	38
29	Rajasthan	4756	64	61

30	Tamilnadu	10035	37	61
31	Telangana	1969	13	335
32	Tripura	30	0	0
33	Uttar Pradesh	3599	40	122
34	Uttarakhand	138	5	21
35	West Bengal	1105	8	14
TOTAL		63272	1261	2929