

2023

LOK  
SABHA  
REPLIES

WINTER SESSION, 2023[14<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF  
17<sup>th</sup> LOK SABHA]  
[04<sup>TH</sup> December, 2023 to 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2023]

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

NM

STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*84  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

JS(NMJSR)  
AFFORDABLE JUSTICE TO COMMON MAN

†\*84. SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide affordable and accessible justice to the common man in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any plan in this regard; 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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*84 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2023 REGARDING 'AFFORDABLE JUSTICE TO COMMON MAN.**

**(a) to (d):** The Government has taken several initiatives and initiated many schemes and programmes for providing affordable and accessible justice to the common man in the country which are as follows:

- i. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been step up 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. 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.
- ii. Under the aegis of the Legal Services Act, Lok Adalats are organised to promote justice on a basis of equal opportunities. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per local conditions and needs and Permanent Lok Adalats are conducted on daily basis or as per the number of sittings decided per week.

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 Stats / UTs, wherein 441.17 lakh cases were taken up and 76.16 lakh cases disposed of.

The details of the case disposed off in these Lok Adalats during the last three years are at *Annexure-I*.

- iii. Besides, 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 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.

iv. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms set up in August, 2011 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, 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.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary going on since 1993-94, court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of the district and subordinate judiciary is being constructed. Three new components viz., digital computer room, lawyers' halls and toilet complexes have also been added under the ambit of the above CSS. 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. It has been ensured under the scheme guidelines that the States/UTs send project proposals which are disabled friendly and meet the requisite norms/accessibility standards as laid down by CPWD/Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

v. 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. 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.

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- vi. A path breaking initiative of the Government 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. Some of the digital initiatives taken by Government under the eCourts Project to make justice accessible and available to common man is at *Annexure-II*.

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. These e-Sewa Kendras would help in bridging the digital divide amongst citizens particularly in the rural areas to function as one-stop solution kiosk to provide free of cost services like e-filing, virtual hearing, etc., which would reduce the cost and time of the litigants and lawyers, thereby enhancing affordability and accessibility of justice delivery system.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*\*84 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2023 REGARDING 'AFFORDABLE JUSTICE TO COMMON MAN.**

National Lok Adalats

|                      | Pre-litigation Cases disposed of | Pending Cases disposed of | Total Cases disposed of |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2021                 | 72,06,294                        | 55,81,743                 | 1,27,88,037             |
| 2022                 | 3,10,15,215                      | 1,09,10,795               | 4,19,26,010             |
| 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 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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      |

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*84 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2023 REGARDING 'AFFORDABLE JUSTICE TO COMMON MAN.**

- a) 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.
- b) 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).
- c) Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed.
- d) 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 (19,495 downloads till 31.10.2023).
- e) 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.
- f) Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Constitutional

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- g) Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- h) 25 Virtual Courts in 20 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases.
- i) New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features.
- j) 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.
- k) A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started free of cost to all.
- l) LED Display Message Sign Board System in the form of Justice Clocks have been installed. A total of 39 Justice Clocks in 25 High Courts has been installed so far.

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

**LOK SABHA**

JR

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*94**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

JS(WMJR)

**Setting up of Courts in North Eastern States**

✓ **\*94. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:**

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

- (a) the details of new session/district courts as well as High Courts established in the country specially in the North Eastern States during the last five years;
- (b) whether any proposal is under consideration for establishment of more courts and appointment of more judges to dispose the large number of pending cases in the courts of the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) 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.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*94 FOR ANSWER ON 08<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023.**

(a): The State of Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated in the year 2014 into the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The High Court at Hyderabad was designated as the Common High Court for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh w.e.f., 02.06.2014 and continued to function from Hyderabad until constitution of a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, provided for constitution of a separate High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh, which was established vide Presidential Order dated 26.12.2018. It started functioning with its principal seat at Amaravati, from 01.01.2019.

A Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court in Jalpaiguri was established vide Presidential Order dated 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

The details of establishment of new Sessions and District Courts in respect of North Eastern States is as under:-

| <b>Name of the State</b> | <b>No. of new Sessions / District Courts established during 2018-2023</b> |
|--------------------------|---|
| Arunachal Pradesh        | 5   |
| Assam                    | 53  |
| Manipur                  | 3   |
| Meghalaya                | 4   |
| Mizoram                  | 1   |
| Nagaland                 | 1   |
| Sikkim                   | 5   |
| Tripura                  | 5   |

(b) to (d): The establishment of District / Session Courts in the country lies within the domain of the State Governments, who set up such courts as per their requirement and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts having territorial jurisdiction.

High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No. 379 of 2000. Accordingly, setting up of Benches of a High Court is considered by the Government of India only after receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Governor of the State. The State Government has to provide requisite infrastructure and facilities for establishment of a Bench of a High Court as well as expenditure of the High Court and its Benches. At present there is no complete proposal for establishment of High Court Benches.

Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. To increase the judicial manpower, the sanctioned strength of judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 to 1114 since 2014.

In the last five years, 01 new post of judge in Tripura High Court and 18 new posts of Judges in the Telangana High Court were created in 2021. In the year 2022, 06 new posts of Judges in the Orissa High Court and 04 new post in Himachal Pradesh High Court were created. 06 new posts of Judges in the Gauhati High Court have been created w.e.f. 06.02.2023.

The appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned and the Central Government has no direct role in the matter. The strength of subordinate judiciary has seen a marked increase with district judiciary's working strength of 15,115 judicial officers as against sanctioned strength of 19,518 in year 2014 increasing to a working strength of 20,026 as against sanctioned strength of 25,423 in year 2023. For timely appointment of judges in the district and subordinate judiciary, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, through a judicial order in January 2007 in Malik Mazhar Sultan case, stipulated certain timelines according to which the process for recruitment of judges in subordinate courts should commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year.

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 928**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**Basic Facilities in Court Complexes**

✓ 928. **SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:**

**DR. K. JAYAKUMAR:**

**SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:**

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

- JS(NMJR)
- (a) the projects proposed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary;
  - (b) the details of funds/grants sanctioned, allocated and utilised for basic facilities created for judiciary and the number of sub-ordinate courts benefited therefrom since the inception of CSS, State-wise including Bihar;
  - (c) whether significant part of funds for the purpose goes unutilized and if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard;
  - (d) whether a number of districts/sub-ordinate courts are still facing infrastructural problems and lack basic facilities like court rooms, computer room, library and record rooms causing hindrance to objective of providing justice for all and if so, the reaction thereto and the corrective measures being taken in this regard;
  - (e) whether any direction has been issued to States to fill up all vacant posts in district level judiciary to provide speedy justice to all; and
  - (f) if so, the response of the States thereon?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a): The Ministry of Law & Justice has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary since 1993-94 to augment the resources of the State Governments for the construction of



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court buildings and residential accommodations of judicial officers in the District and Sub-ordinate Judiciary. The scheme takes up projects for construction of court buildings and residential accommodation for the judicial officers / judges of the district and subordinate courts and since 2021-22, 3 new components viz. construction of lawyers halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants have been included in the scheme. The scheme allows for new constructions and up-gradations / renovation of such court buildings and residential complexes. However, routine maintenance or up-keep is not allowed under the scheme. Development of infrastructure of District and Subordinate judiciary is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and the Central Government supplements the resources of the State Government through the above scheme.

(b): Under the scheme, central share of Rs. 10443.75 crores has been released since its inception in 1993-94, out of which Rs. 6999.44 crores (67.02%) has been released since 2014-15 including Rs. 577.16 crore during the current financial year as on date. Further, as per information made available by the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 25,420 and working strength of 20,017 Judicial Officers, 21,507 Court Halls and 18,882 Residential Units are available in the District and Subordinate Courts and 3,109 Court Halls and 1,807 Residential Units are under construction as on 30.11.2023. The State-wise details of funds released since inception and present status of Judicial Manpower (sanctioned and working strength) and Judicial Infrastructure (available and under construction court halls and residential units), including for the State of Bihar is at Annexure.

(c): No, Sir. The allocation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Judicial Infrastructure and the releases made to different States/UTs in the last five financial years including current year is as follows:

| Year    | Budget Allocation (in Rs. crore) | Released (in Rs. crore) | Percentage |
|---------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 2019-20 | 982.00                           | 982.00                  | 100%       |
| 2020-21 | 593.00                           | 593.00                  | 100%       |
| 2021-22 | 770.44                           | 684.19                  | 88%        |
| 2022-23 | 848.00                           | 848.00                  | 100%       |
| 2023-24 | 1051.00                          | 577.16*                 | 54%        |

\*as on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

As per extant PFMS guidelines unless funds released during the previous years are utilized, funds for the current financial year are not released.

(d): As against the sanctioned strength of 25,420 and working strength of 20,017 Judicial Officers, 21,507 Court Halls and 18,882 Residential Units are available in the District and Subordinate Courts and 3,109 Court Halls and 1,807 Residential Units are under construction as on 30.11.2023. To take care of the basic facilities, 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. Further, 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 scheme.

(e) & (f): The appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, through a judicial order in January 2007 in *Malik Mazhar Sultan case*, stipulated that the process for recruitment of judges in subordinate courts would commence on 31<sup>st</sup> March of a calendar year and

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end by 31<sup>st</sup> October of the same year. The Supreme Court directed State Governments/UTs and Registrars General of jurisdictional High Courts to inform the position regarding filling up of judicial vacancies and the same is being monitored.

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**ANNEXURE**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 928 FOR ANSWER ON 8.12.2023 REGARDING 'BASIC FACILITIES IN COURT COMPLEXES'**

Statewise statement Statewise funds released under the CSS for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary viz-a-viz Judicial Manpower and Judicial Infrastructure in the District and Subordinate Judiciary

| Sl. No. | States & Uts        | Funds released since inception (in Rs. crore) | Total Sanctioned Strength | Total Working Strength | Court Halls Available | Court Halls Under Construction | Residential Units Available | Residential Units Under Construction |
|---------|---------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1       | Andaman and Nicobar | 13.38   | 17                        | 13                     | 17                    | 0                              | 10                          | 0                                    |
| 2       | Andhra Pradesh      | 227.24  | 618                       | 536                    | 647                   | 90                             | 574                         | 15                                   |
| 3       | Arunachal Pradesh   | 91.72   | 44                        | 34                     | 34                    | 4                              | 32                          | 3                                    |
| 4       | Assam               | 303.74  | 485                       | 439                    | 431                   | 101                            | 371                         | 19                                   |
| 5       | Bihar               | 447.07  | 2016                      | 1543                   | 1539                  | 86                             | 1202                        | 82                                   |
| 6       | Chandigarh          | 39.01   | 30                        | 29                     | 31                    | 1                              | 30                          | 0                                    |
| 7       | Chhattisgarh        | 179.16  | 556                       | 424                    | 488                   | 38                             | 457                         | 434                                  |
| 8       | D & N Haveli        | 7.06  | 3                         | 2                      | 3                     | 0                              | 3                           | 0                                    |
| 9       | Daman & Diu         | 2.32  | 4                         | 4                      | 5                     | 3                              | 5                           | 0                                    |
| 10      | Delhi               | 337.90  | 887                       | 799                    | 699                   | 50                             | 348                         | 70                                   |
| 11      | Goa                 | 48.36   | 50                        | 40                     | 53                    | 36                             | 26                          | 0                                    |
| 12      | Gujarat             | 649.50  | 1720                      | 1176                   | 1531                  | 140                            | 1337                        | 29                                   |
| 13      | Haryana             | 225.93  | 772                       | 565                    | 566                   | 75                             | 514                         | 65                                   |
| 14      | Himachal Pradesh    | 51.29   | 179                       | 158                    | 170                   | 14                             | 154                         | 1                                    |
| 15      | Jammu and Kashmir   | 251.07  | 317                       | 224                    | 201                   | 46                             | 136                         | 8                                    |
| 16      | Jharkhand           | 247.37  | 693                       | 501                    | 652                   | 12                             | 580                         | 0                                    |
| 17      | Karnataka           | 839.62  | 1367                      | 1152                   | 1199                  | 206                            | 1158                        | 124                                  |
| 18      | Kerala              | 195.51  | 605                       | 514                    | 568                   | 46                             | 543                         | 26                                   |
| 19      | Ladakh              | 0.00  | 17                        | 10                     | 11                    | 0                              | 4                           | 0                                    |
| 20      | Lakshadweep         | 0.51  | 4                         | 3                      | 3                     | 0                              | 3                           | 0                                    |
| 21      | Madhya Pradesh      | 752.05  | 2028                      | 1734                   | 1560                  | 414                            | 1690                        | 105                                  |
| 22      | Maharashtra         | 936.28  | 2190                      | 1940                   | 2350                  | 599                            | 2055                        | 157                                  |
| 23      | Manipur             | 97.80   | 59                        | 49                     | 43                    | 5                              | 16                          | 0                                    |
| 24      | Meghalaya           | 215.74  | 99                        | 57                     | 53                    | 28                             | 26                          | 65                                   |
| 25      | Mizoram             | 87.54   | 74                        | 46                     | 47                    | 32                             | 37                          | 8                                    |
| 26      | Nagaland            | 137.25  | 34                        | 24                     | 30                    | 9                              | 39                          | 0                                    |
| 27      | Nagaland            | 179.12  | 1006                      | 804                    | 826                   | 177                            | 727                         | 90                                   |
| 28      | Odisha              | 71.95   | 29                        | 10                     | 36                    | 0                              | 36                          | 0                                    |
| 29      | Puducherry          | 602.00  | 797                       | 585                    | 610                   | 72                             | 617                         | 36                                   |
| 30      | Punjab              | 427.66  | 1637                      | 1342                   | 1382                  | 248                            | 1128                        | 120                                  |
| 31      | Rajasthan           | 59.57   | 35                        | 23                     | 20                    | 2                              | 17                          | 1                                    |
| 32      | Sikkim              | 433.79  | 1369                      | 1040                   | 1239                  | 16                             | 1369                        | 0                                    |
| 33      | Tamil Nadu          | 58.26   | 560                       | 445                    | 537                   | 69                             | 475                         | 8                                    |
| 34      | Telangana           | 137.58  | 128                       | 108                    | 82                    | 22                             | 91                          | 26                                   |
| 35      | Tripura             | 1582.29                                       | 3696                      | 2455                   | 2756                  | 302                            | 2436                        | 286                                  |
| 36      | Uttar Pradesh       | 242.05  | 298                       | 271                    | 252                   | 70                             | 215                         | 3                                    |
| 37      | Uttarakhand         | 265.06  | 997                       | 918                    | 836                   | 96                             | 421                         | 26                                   |
| 37      | West Bengal         | 10443.75                                      | 25420                     | 20017                  | 21507                 | 3109                           | 18882                       | 1807                                 |
|         | <b>TOTAL</b>        |   |                           |                        |                       |                                |                             |                                      |

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

**LOK SABHA**

JR

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.943**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

JS(NMJR)

**Court Halls and Residential Complexes**

✓ **943. SHRI JUAL ORAM:**

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

- (a) the total number of court halls constructed during the last three years;
- (b) the total number of new court halls commissioned/functional during the period; and
- (c) the total number of residential complexes constructed for judicial officers and made available for allotment to them during the said period?

**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 (c): As per information made available by the High Courts against the sanctioned strength of 25,420 and working strength of 20,017 Judicial Officers, 21,507 Court Halls and 18,882 Residential Units are available in the District and Subordinate Courts as on 05.12.2023. Moreover, 3,113 Court Halls and 1,812 Residential Units are under construction.

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The total number of court halls and residential units constructed during the last three years and current financial year is as under:

| <b>Financial Year</b>             | <b>Court Halls<br/>Constructed</b> | <b>Residential Units<br/>Constructed</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 2020-21                           | 343                                | 188                                      |
| 2021-22                           | 420                                | 225                                      |
| 2022-23                           | 414                                | 374                                      |
| 2023-24 (Up to<br>November, 2023) | 138                                | 60                                       |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>1315</b>                        | <b>847</b>                               |

*Source: MIS Portal, Department of Justice.*

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary allows only for new constructions and upgradations or renovation of existing court buildings and residential complexes. The Scheme now also covers the construction of Lawyers' Halls, Digital Computer Rooms and Toilet Complexes in the District and Subordinate Courts. Commissioning of the newly constructed court halls and making them functional is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments and the respective High Courts.

As on 30.11.2023, a sum of Rs. 10403.47 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6959.16 crore (66.89 %) has been released since 2014-15. The Scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crore including Central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore.

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

NM

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 946  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

JS(NMJR)

**RATIO OF JUDGES PER MILLION POPULATION**

✓ **946. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is lagging behind Law Commission's 1987 target of reaching 50 judges per million population in a decade;**
- (b) if so, the details of the current ratio of judges per million population and the timeline if any to bridge this gap;**
- (c) the current number of pending cases in the higher courts;**
- (d) whether cost incurred due to delay in disposal of pending cases has any impact on the GDP; and**
- (e) if so, the details of cost incurred due to delay in disposal of pending cost and its annual impact on GDP?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

**(a) & (b):** As per the target recommended by Law Commission's 1987 Report recommending 50 judges per million population, presently the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population. In order to calculate the judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Ministry of Law and Justice uses the criterion based on the population data as per Census 2011 (1210.19 million) and the sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2023.

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In so far as timeline for bridging the gap in judges' strength is concerned, the increase of judges' strength in the higher judiciary is a continuous and collaborative exercise between the Executive and Judiciary. Further, in case of District and Subordinate courts, the need for appropriate number of judges and the consequent requirement for filling up of the vacancies lies in the domain of respective High Courts and the State Governments. It can be seen that over a period of time, the strength of Judiciary has seen a marked increase with District Judiciary's working strength of 15,115 judicial officers as against sanctioned strength of 19,518 in the year 2014 increasing to a working strength of 20,026 as against sanctioned strength of 25,423 in the year 2023. Similarly, from 2014 till present, 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 Supreme Court increased from 31 in 2014 to 34 now while sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has been increased from 906 in 2014 to 1114 at present.

(c): The current number of pending cases in the higher courts is given below:-

| S. No. | Name of Court          | Details of Pendency as on 04.12.2023* |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1      | Supreme Court of India | 80,102                                |
| 2      | High Courts            | 61,79,185                             |

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

(d) & (e): There is as such no data available on the cost incurred due to delay in disposal of pending cases and its impact on GDP. However, the Government is aware that early disposal of pending cases helps in improving the overall economic growth. Accordingly, the Economic Survey 2018-2019 had concluded that a well-functioning legal system has a profound impact on the economy. The Government's efforts of introducing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the adoption of the Goods and Services Tax, have had a profound impact on improving Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in India, with the country being one of the biggest 'improvers' in the World Bank's last Doing Business Report (DBR) 2020, with its latest rank jumping to 63 from the earlier 142 in the year 2014. Further, 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.

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

e-court

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 949**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8th DECEMBER, 2023**

JS(PPP)

**Use of Artificial Intelligence in Proceedings of Supreme Court**

✓ 949. SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:

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

- (a) whether there are some Reports that suggest that the Supreme Court has been employing artificial intelligence to transcribe its proceedings live on a trial basis and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has adopted the artificial intelligence technology on a full-time basis across all its court rooms;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government have any plans or policy to introduce artificial intelligence technology in Indian courts and tribunals and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Indian courts and tribunals across the country have adopted the artificial intelligence technology to make the justice system more efficient and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) : The Supreme Court of India has adopted the use of Artificial Intelligence(AI) language technology in translation of judicial documents and use of AI in Legal Research Assistance on judicial side. The AI Committee of Supreme Court has identified the use of AI on the administrative side viz. in process automation, to keep track of pending cases and to have a special focus

on old cases & cases pertaining to senior citizens, women and marginalised sections.

The Supreme Court of India has deployed use of artificial intelligence technology for transcribing oral arguments, particularly in the Constitution Bench matters since February 2023. In almost 10 (main) Constitution Bench matters, transcripts of arguments by use of artificial intelligence have been generated and the same are published through the official website of the Supreme Court of India. The use of artificial intelligence tool technology is presently done on trial basis for Constitution Bench matters only.

(d) and (e) : eCourts Mission Mode 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 Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 13.09.2023 approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7210 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.

In eCourts Project Phase-III, one of the component is "Future Technological Advancements" that includes the latest technologies like AI and its subsets like Machine Learning (ML), Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) etc.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 959**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

Publication Sec. (LD) **Latest Edition of the Constitution of India**

**959. Shri Arun Kumar Sagar:**

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

- (a) the date on which the last edition of the Constitution of India was published and made available in the market ;
- (b) whether several amendments have been made in the constitution and if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the latest edition of the Constitution of India is available to the general public ; and
- (d) if not, the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to make the latest edition of the Constitution of India covering all the amendments available to 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 Constitution of India was published by the Legislative Department on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021, and the same was made available in the market on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.
- (b) : Yes, till date, One Hundred and Six Constitution Amendments have been made to the Constitution of India.
- (c)&(d) : The Legislative Department is in the process of publishing the latest edition of the Constitution of India incorporating therein the latest Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023.

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.962**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

JS(NMJR)

**Achievements of Infrastructure Development Scheme for Judiciary**

✓ **962. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:**

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

(a) the overview of the progress and achievements of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary since its inception and the latest available information thereon, including the number of court halls and residential units established under the scheme;

(b) whether financial outlay of Rs. 9000 crore for the CSS for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been utilized since the commencement of the scheme and if so, the details thereof along with the allocation for the current financial year; and

(c) the number of court halls and residential units currently under construction in various States specifically Uttar Pradesh?

**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 Department of Justice has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary since 1993-94 to augment the resources of the State

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Governments for the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations of judicial officers in the District and Sub-ordinate Judiciary. Since 2021, three new components viz., lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms were also included as part of the scheme.

The scheme allows for new constructions and up-gradations / renovation of such court buildings and residential complexes. However, routine maintenance or up-keep is not allowed under the scheme. The Central assistance to States / UTs is restricted to the budgetary provision available under the scheme during the financial year. The primary responsibility for the development of infrastructure facilities rests with the State Governments. However, the Government of India through the abovementioned CSS supplements the resources of the State Governments in the area of infrastructure development of District and Subordinate Courts.

The Scheme has also been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crore including Central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore. As on 06.12.2023, a sum of Rs. 10443.75 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6959.16 crore (66.89 %) has been released since 2014-15. As per information made available by the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 25,420 and working strength of 20,017 Judicial Officers, 21,507 Court Halls and 18,882 Residential Units are available in the District and Subordinate Courts as on 06.12.2023. Details of Budget allocated and expended since 2021-22 (when the scheme was extended for five

years i.e. 2021-22 to 2025-26 with financial outlay of Rs. 9000 crores) is as under:--

| <b>FINANCIAL YEAR</b> | <b>BUDGET ALLOCATED</b>      | <b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURE</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                       | <b>(Amount in Rs. crore)</b> |                           |
| 2021-22               | 784.00                       | 684.15                    |
| 2022-23               | 858.00                       | 857.20                    |
| 2023-24               | 1051.00                      | 577.16 (as on 06.12.2023) |

(c): As per information made available by the High Courts 3,113 Court Halls and 1,812 Residential Units are under construction. In Uttar Pradesh, 302 Court Halls and 286 Residential Units are under construction.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 970**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

Leg. II Sec. (LD)

**LINKING OF VOTER ID WITH AADHAAR**

**970. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:**

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

- (a) the details of Voter IDs that have been linked with the Aadhaar Card since the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 came into force;
- (b) whether linking is being done voluntarily by taking consent from voters and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Aadhaar details can be deleted if a voter takes back the consent and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether officers of Election Commission have been given targets to link Aadhaar and voter ID and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the names of the voters whose Voter IDs have not been linked with Aadhaar have been struck off from the voter list, if so, the grounds on which the names have been deleted indicating the number of voters whose names have been deleted; and
- (f) whether the Government has taken measures to protect the voter database from being misused, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): The 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



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basis. The Election Commission of India *vide* its instruction dated 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, has launched the programme to collect the Aadhaar number of existing and prospective electors on a voluntary basis from 1<sup>st</sup> 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): Linking of Aadhaar is process driven and no targets have been given for linking Aadhaar with the Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC). Further, the Election Commission of India has informed that linking of Aadhaar with EPIC has not yet started. Further, the time period to submit Form 6B has been extended for a period of one year *i.e.* 31.03.2024.
- (e): No sir.
- (f): The Election Commission of India 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 & Justice  
Department of Legal Affairs  
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**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 973**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

Impl. Cell (LA)

**Guidelines for Legal Practice in India and Abroad**

973. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:  
SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA:  
DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI:  
SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:

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

- (a) whether it is true that the Bar Council of India (BCI) has released guidelines allowing foreign law firms and foreign lawyers to practice in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that the BCI guidelines state that foreign lawyers from only those countries are to be permitted to practice in India, where Indian Lawyers are also permitted to practice and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of countries that have allowed Indian law firms and lawyers to practice in their jurisdiction under the reciprocity clause;
- (d) the details of Indian law firms and lawyers practicing in foreign countries; and
- (e) the details of foreign law firms and lawyers registered with the Bar Council of 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) Yes Sir, the Bar Council of India (BCI) vide its notification dated 10.03.2023 has published the "Bar Council of India Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022."
- (b) The Bar Council of India has informed that the entry of foreign lawyers/law firms would be on reciprocal basis. The BCI rules have provided for cancellation of the registration of any foreign lawyer or law firm, if it comes to the notice of the BCI

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through any source that the Indian lawyers or Indian law firms are being discriminated by the concerned counterpart foreign country in any manner. The BCI shall cancel such registration after giving the concerned foreign lawyers/foreign law firm or the concerned Government an opportunity to place their views. The Foreign lawyers and foreign law firms shall not be allowed to appear in any Court, Tribunal, Board, before any statutory or regulatory authority or any forum legally entitled to take evidence on Oath and/or having trappings of a Court. The Foreign Lawyers would be allowed to appear for their clients in International Arbitration cases.

(c) and (d) No information is available in this regard.

(e) No registration of foreign lawyers/ foreign law firms has taken place under the aforesaid Rules.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS  
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LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 981  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8th DECEMBER, 2023

ADR Cell (LA)

Alternative Dispute Resolution System

- 981. SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:
- SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:
- SHRI DURGA DAS (D.D.) UIKEY:
- SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:
- SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:
- SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
- SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:

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

- (a) the details of initiatives undertaken by the Government in the realm of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms/system over the past decade;
- (b) the key/main provisions of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 and the Mediation Act, 2023; and
- (c) the evaluation/assessment 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)

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(a) During the past decade, the Government of India has taken various initiatives in the realm of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms/system. 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

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make them user friendly, cost effective and expeditious. Some of the major initiatives over the years in this regard include:-

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been progressively amended in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021. 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.

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 empaneled arbitrators and requisite administrative support for the smooth conduct of arbitral proceedings.

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 Mediation Act, 2023, enacted recently, 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.

(b) The key/main 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 Arbitration Academy to train arbitrators in India, to compete on par with reputed global arbitral institutions and power to make rules and regulations for the Centre.

The key/main provisions of the Mediation Act, 2023 *inter-alia* include provisions relating to voluntary pre-litigation mediation in matters of civil or commercial dispute before parties approach a court or Tribunal; matters or disputes not fit for mediation, process of mediation to be completed within a maximum period of 180 days; procedure for appointment of mediator and conduct of mediation; functions of Mediation Service Providers and Mediation Institutes; Mediated Settlement Agreement resulting from mediation being final, binding and enforceable in accordance with the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in the same manner as if it were a judgment or decree of a Court; challenge to Mediated Settlement Agreement to lie on limited grounds of fraud, corruption, impersonation etc.; community mediation for reference of disputes with consent of parties which are likely to affect peace,

harmony and tranquillity amongst the residents or families of any area or locality; online mediation; establishment of the Mediation Council of India and power to make rules and regulations *inter-alia* for conduct of mediation.

(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 cost effective settlement of commercial disputes thereby enabling ease of conducting 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)

LOK SABHA e-courts  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1002  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

JS(PPP)

Investment for e-Courts

✓ 1002. SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:

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

- (a) the details of funds invested and spent for e-Courts from 2014 onwards, phase and year wise;
- (b) the number of cases resolved through e-Courts during the last five years;
- (c) whether the Government has started investing the funds allocated for phase- III of the e-Court Project; 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): The eCourts Mission Mode Project is a National eGovernance project for ICT enablement of district/subordinate courts of the country with a view to facilitate faster disposal of cases by speeding up court processes and providing transparent on-line flow of information on case status, orders/judgments etc. to the judiciary as well as litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders. The eCourts Phase I was aimed at basic computerization of courts and providing local network connectivity under which a total expenditure of Rs.639.41 crore was done. Phase

II of the project focused on citizen-centric e-services besides computerising 18735 courts and interconnecting these with wide area network (WAN). Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crore in the phase II of the project, the Department of Justice has released Rs.1668.43 crore for implementation of the project till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The details of funds invested and spent under eCourts from 2014 onwards, phase and year wise is attached at Annexure-I.

(b) : As per data available on National Judicial Data Grid, the Case Clearance Rate (CCR) of the District & Subordinate Courts has risen from 60.57% in 2011 to 89.33% in 2022. Case Clearance Rate depends on various factors like complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders but the intervention of technology through eCourts Project is considered as one of the important factors that has attributed to the increase in case clearance rate/disposal particularly during the COVID times. Components of eCourts Mission Mode Project such as Video Conferencing, Virtual Courts for traffic challans, eFiling, ePayment, eSewa kendras, eCourts services app and portal, JustIS app, National Service and tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP), etc have helped in reducing the procedural delay, thus, enabling faster adjudication of cases. As on 30.11.2023, as per the data available on National Judicial Data Grid, 7,72,22,815 cases have been disposed off during the last five years, in District & Subordinate Courts.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Finance has released Rs.225 crore from the contingency fund for eCourts Phase III. 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 sub-allocated to various High Courts for Scanning and Digitization, establishment of eSewa Kendras, procurement of Hardware, Solar Power backup etc.

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**Annexure-I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1002 for 08/12/2023 regarding Investment for e-Courts. The details of funds invested and spent under eCourts Mission Mode Project from 2014 onwards, phase and year wise is;

| <b>Year</b>     | <b>Revised Estimate<br/>(Rs. Crore)</b> | <b>Total Expenditure<br/>(Rs. Crore)</b> |
|-----------------|---|--|
| <b>Phase I</b>  |   |  |
| 2014-15         | 35.00                                   | 9.95                                     |
| 2015-16         | 2.00                                    | 2.00                                     |
| <b>Phase II</b> |   |  |
| 2015-16         | 227.13                                  | 209.87                                   |
| 2016-17         | 286.00                                  | 344.82                                   |
| 2017-18         | 416.00                                  | 374.11                                   |
| 2018-19         | 480.00                                  | 282.76                                   |
| 2019-20         | 256.53                                  | 179.26                                   |
| 2020-21         | 250.00                                  | 179.31                                   |
| 2021-22         | 98.92                                   | 98.30                                    |

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1006**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08.12.2023**

**Transfer of High Court Judges**

DS (A.P.H.)  
✓ **1006. SHRI A.K.P. CHINRAJ:**

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

- (a) whether the Government seeks opinion individually of High Court Judges who are recommended by Supreme Court Collegium for transfer from one High Court to another and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether certain High Court Judges who were recommended by Supreme Court Collegium for transfer from one High Court to another in the recent past have written to Government to hold the transfer, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the list of transfer of High Court Judges recommended by Supreme Court Collegium and the list of Judges recommended for elevation as High Court Judges pending with the Government for more than three months?

**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 per the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment and transfer of High Court Judges, 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

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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 views on the proposed transfer of a Judge or a Chief Justice of a High Court should be expressed in writing and should be considered by the Chief Justice of India and the four senior most Judges of the Supreme Court. The personal factors relating to the concerned Judge, including the Chief Justice, and his response to the proposal, including his preference of places, should invariably be taken into account by the Chief Justice of India and the first four puisne Judges of the Supreme Court before arriving at conclusion on the proposal. Therefore, the SCC considers and decides on the proposed transfers before sending them to the Government.

The Government does not seek opinion of individual Judges of High Court on the proposal of transfer of Judges from one High Court to another. 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.

As on 01.01.2023, 171 proposals for elevation as High Court Judges received from High Court Collegiums (HCC) 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.

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)

e-lawst

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1013  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8th DECEMBER, 2023

JS(PPP)

Virtual Bench of Rajasthan High Court

✓ 1013. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open the virtual Bench of the High Court of Rajasthan in Udaipur Parliamentary Constituency; and
- (b) 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) : No, Sir. The establishment of Virtual Bench is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the respective State Governments and the concerned High Court. The Central Government as such has no direct role to play in the matter.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1014  
ANSWERED ON 08/12/2023

J-I

JS(WRG)

**JUDGEMENTS IN SCHEDULED LANGUAGES**

✓ 1014. SHRI M. SELVARAJ AND:

DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to ensure availability of Supreme Court, High Court Judgements in all scheduled languages including Tamil and make them easily understandable to all citizens across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which the proposal is to be implemented?

**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 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

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language. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the 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.

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.

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. 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.

The AI Committee of the Supreme Court is holding meetings on regular basis with the AI Committees of High Courts and issues directions/suggestions for translation of Supreme Court and High Court Judgments into vernacular languages by using AI tools. In this regard, an SOP prepared by the Supreme Court and a draft Scheme prepared by the High Court of Karnataka has also been circulated to all the High Courts.

A meeting was called by the AI Committee, Supreme Court with the AI Committees of High Courts, Law Secretaries, Advocate Generals, the

ANNEXURE-I

DETAILS OF THE JUDGMENTS OF SUPREME COURT TRANSLATED IN  
16 LANGUAGES (AS ON 02.12.2023)

| S.No. | Language  | No. of Judgments |
|-------|-----------|------------------|
| 1.    | Hindi     | 21908            |
| 2.    | Punjabi   | 3574             |
| 3.    | Kannada   | 1898             |
| 4.    | Tamil     | 1172             |
| 5.    | Gujarati  | 1110             |
| 6.    | Marathi   | 765              |
| 7.    | Telugu    | 334              |
| 8.    | Malayalam | 239              |
| 9.    | Odia      | 104              |
| 10.   | Bengali   | 39               |
| 11.   | Nepali    | 27               |
| 12.   | Urdu      | 6                |
| 13.   | Assamese  | 5                |
| 14.   | Garo      | 1                |
| 15.   | Khasi     | 1                |
| 16.   | Konkani   | 1                |
|       | TOTAL     | 31184            |



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Secretaries In-charge of Translation Department in the States and requested them to take up steps for appointment of Translators in every High Court for translation of e-SCR as well the High Court Judgments into vernacular/local language of that State. In the process, many State Governments have sanctioned funds as well as issued notification for appointing the Translators.

The details of the judgments of Supreme Court translated into 16 languages, as on 02.12.2023, is available on e-SCR Portal, i.e. [https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in/pdfsearch/?p=pdf search/index&escr flag=Y](https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in/pdfsearch/?p=pdf%20search/index&escr%20flag=Y). The list of 16 languages and the number of judgements translated into vernacular languages by Supreme Court of India is annexed as Annexure-I.

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.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1025  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 08.12.2023  
APPOINTMENT OF NOTARIES**

Notary Cell (LA)

**1025. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:**

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

- (a) the details of applications received for the appointment of Notaries across Maharashtra including Satara district;
- (b) whether the interviews have been conducted for the appointment of Notaries in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof indicating the number of notaries appointed in Satara district;
- (c) If not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any malpractices or controversy has been reported in the process of the said appointment of Notaries till date; and
- (e) if so, the details of the action taken in the matter?

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

(a) to (c): 17143 online applications, including 543 applications from Satara District, have been received for appointment as Central Notaries for Maharashtra. Interviews for the purpose were held from 17th April, 2023 to 17th May, 2023. Results of the interviews have not been published, as, same is under compilation.

(d) and (e): A complaint has been received through email and same is under consideration.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - †1065  
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023

LAP

JS(NKG)

LOK ADALAT CAMPS

✓ †1065. SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:

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

- (a) whether Lok Adalat camps are organized regularly in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of such camps organized in Rajasthan during the last three years;
- (c) the total number of complaints received in the said camps; and
- (d) the total number of complaints resolved through the said camps?

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) Every year, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) issues calendar for organizing National Lok Adalats. During the year 2023, National Lok Adalats were held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 09<sup>th</sup> September and is further scheduled to be held on 09<sup>th</sup> December. State Lok Adalats are organized by State Legal Services Authorities as per local conditions and needs.
- (b) to (d) The details of the case disposed of in Lok Adalats in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years are as under:

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(i) **National Lok Adalat**

| Year                    | No. of Lok Adalats organised | Pre-litigation Cases |             | Pending Cases |          |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|----------|
|                         |                              | Taken up             | Disposal    | Taken up      | Disposal |
| 2021                    | 3                            | 3,81,450             | 74,089      | 7,18,676      | 2,12,745 |
| 2022                    | 4                            | 47,95,295            | 38,37,691   | 18,89,956     | 7,34,624 |
| 2023<br>(upto Sept, 23) | 3                            | 1,25,86,577          | 1,08,19,083 | 17,00,249     | 7,94,618 |

(ii) **State Lok Adalat**

| Year                       | No. of benches constituted | Pre-litigation Cases |          | Pending Cases |          |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
|                            |                            | Taken up             | Disposal | Taken up      | Disposal |
| 2021-22                    | 786                        | 985                  | 84       | 16197         | 761      |
| 2022-23                    | 1202                       | 2200                 | 306      | 33055         | 1322     |
| 2023-24<br>(upto Sept, 23) | 580                        | 921                  | 161      | 20055         | 416      |

(iii) **Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services)**

| Year                    | Number of sittings | Cases settled |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 2021-22                 | 2960               | 3228          |
| 2022-23                 | 4435               | 5072          |
| 2023-24 (upto Sept, 23) | 2131               | 3809          |

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1093  
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023

LAP

JS(NKG)

**AWARENESS OF LEGAL PROCESS IN LADAKH**

✓ 1093. SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government strives to create awareness about the process of law and justice in rural villages of UT of Ladakh through campaign/Television programme/digital platform or any other methods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has identified the areas where people needs maximum awareness about legal process;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government proposes to increase the number of Legal posts to provide legal services in UT of Ladakh; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b) In the Union Territory of Ladakh, Ladakh Legal Services Authority is conducting the Legal Awareness Programme across the entire Union territory of Ladakh as per Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. During the years 2022 and 2023 (till November), such legal awareness programmes conducted within the UT of Ladakh are 122 and 222 respectively.

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(c) and (d) Since the constitution of Ladakh Legal Services Authority, Legal Awareness programmes is being regularly organized in both the district of Leh and Kargil. These programmes covers legal awareness in areas like rights, duties, entitlements, grievance redressals etc which are relevant to the common masses.

(e) and (f) After constitution of Ladakh Legal Services Authority, vide S.O. No. 05 of 2021 dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has apportioned 34 posts (including 6 legal posts) to the Ladakh Legal Services Authority which are presently sufficient as per requirement.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1102

Appointment

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08.12.2023

Regional Bench of Supreme Court

DS (Appnt.)

✓ 1102. SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

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

- (a) whether litigants are facing difficulties due to non-availability of Regional Benches of the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any plan to set up a Regional Bench of Supreme Court in Uttar 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 (b): Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

(52)  
: 2 :

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

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

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

(c): No sir.

(d): Does not arise.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - †1107  
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023

LAP

JS(NKG)

**STRENGTHENING OF LEGAL AID SYSTEM**

✓ †1107. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to further strengthen the Legal Aid system to provide justice to the people belonging to weaker sections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (b) 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. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. 7.45 lakhs persons have been provided with free legal services during April, 2023 to September, 2023 and more than 4.02 crore cases (pending in courts and disputes at pre-litigation stage) have been settled through Lok Adalats April, 2023 to September, 2023. The Government extends all support to strengthen the legal services authorities/institutions in the form of Grants-in-Aid. Funds under Grant-in-Aid are allocated and released to NALSA by the Government on yearly basis.

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(c) 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 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1118**

*Appointment*

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08.12.2023**

*DS (Appht.)*

**Vacancies in Supreme Court and High Courts**

✓ **1118. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:  
ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:  
SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:  
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:  
SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:  
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:  
SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:**

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

- (a) the number of vacancies in High Courts and the Supreme Court reported and the number of proposals recommended for appointment of judges in the said courts against the said vacancies;
- (b) the amount of time that have passed since when the collegium of the Supreme Court has recommended the said proposals;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the delay in judicial appointments, as well as transfers of Judges of High Courts, if so, the reasons for the delay;
- (d) the detailed reasons for non-clearance of names of judges of various High Courts recommended by the collegium of the Supreme Court; and
- (e) the names of High Courts whose Judges have been transferred during the last one 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)**

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(a) to (e): 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.

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.

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.

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.

34 judges have been transferred from Madras, Calcutta, Patna, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Punjab & Haryana, Allahabad, Patna, Kerala, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka High Court during the year 2023.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1126

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

Leg. II Sec. (LD)

**ONE NATION ONE ELECTION**

**1126. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:**  
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:  
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has appointed a high-level committee to examine/explore the implementation of 'One Nation One Election' enabling simultaneous election to Parliament, State Assemblies and local bodies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the composition of the Committee and its proposed functions;
- (c) whether any deadline has been set to submit the report by the high-level committee and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the major advantages and disadvantages of conducting one nation one election;
- (e) whether the Committee propose to approach all stakeholders including political parties and State Governments in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has fixed any time limit for the submission of report by the Committee and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (f): The Government has constituted a High Level Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, former President of India vide Resolution No. H-11019/03/2023-Leg.-II, dated 02<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023. The composition of the Committee, its terms and reference, and all related information are at **Annexure-A**. One member of the Committee Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has tendered resignation.

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**MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE**  
**LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**  
**RESOLUTION**

New Delhi, the 2nd September, 2023

**F. No. H-11019/03/2023-Leg.II.**—WHEREAS elections to the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of States were mostly held simultaneously from 1951-52 to 1967 after which this cycle got broken and now, elections are held almost every year and within a year too at different times, which result in massive expenditure by the Government and other stakeholders, diversion of security forces and other electoral officers engaged in such elections from their primary duties for significantly prolonged periods, disruption in developmental work on account of prolonged application of Model Code of Conduct, etc.;

AND WHEREAS the Law Commission of India in its 170<sup>th</sup> Report on Reforms of the Electoral Laws observed that: “*This cycle of elections every year, and in the out of season, should be put an end to. We must go back to the situation where the elections to Lok Sabha and all the Legislative Assemblies are held at once. It is true that we cannot conceive or provide for all the situations and eventualities that may arise whether on account of the use of Article 356 (which of course has come down substantially after the decision of Supreme Court in S.R. Bommai vs Union of India) or for other reasons, yet the holding of a separate election to a Legislative Assembly should be an exception and not the rule. The rule ought to be ‘one election once in five years for Lok Sabha and all the Legislative Assemblies’.*”;

AND WHEREAS the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 79<sup>th</sup> Report on ‘Feasibility of Holding Simultaneous Election to the House of People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assemblies’ submitted in December, 2015 has also examined the matter and recommended an alternative and practical method of holding simultaneous elections in two phases;

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the above and that in the national interest it is desirable to have simultaneous elections in the country, the Government of India hereby constitutes a High Level Committee [hereinafter referred to as ‘HLC’] to examine the issue of simultaneous elections and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections in the country.

1. The HLC shall comprise of the following persons, namely: —

|    |  |          |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Shri Ram Nath Kovind,<br>Former President of India   | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri Amit Shah,<br>Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Government of India | Member   |
| 3. | Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury,<br>Leader of Single Largest Party in Opposition, Lok Sabha      | Member   |
| 4. | Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad,<br>Former Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha                           | Member   |
| 5. | Shri N.K. Singh,<br>Former Chairman, 15 <sup>th</sup> Finance Commission                     | Member   |
| 6. | Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap,<br>Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha                               | Member   |
| 7. | Shri Harish Salve,<br>Senior Advocate  | Member   |
| 8. | Shri Sanjay Kothari,<br>Former Chief Vigilance Commissioner                                  | Member.  |

2. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India shall attend the meetings of the HLC as Special Invitee.

3. Shri Niten Chandra, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Legal Affairs shall be Secretary to the HLC.

4. The terms and reference of the HLC shall be to—

- (a) examine and make recommendation for holding simultaneous elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha), State Legislative Assemblies, Municipalities and Panchayats, keeping in view the existing framework under the Constitution of India and other statutory provisions, and for that purpose, examine and recommend specific amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the rules made thereunder and any other law or rules which would require amendments for the purpose of holding simultaneous elections;

- (b) examine and recommend, if the amendments to the Constitution would require ratification by the States;
  - (c) analyse and recommend possible solution in a scenario of simultaneous elections emerging out of hung House, adoption of no-confidence motion, or defection or any such other event;
  - (d) suggest a framework for synchronisation of elections and specifically, suggest the phases and time frame within which simultaneous elections may be held if they cannot be held in one go and also suggest any amendments to the Constitution and other laws in this regard and propose such rules that may be required in such circumstances;
  - (e) recommend necessary safeguards for ensuring the continuity of the cycle of simultaneous elections and recommend necessary amendments to the Constitution, so that the cycle of simultaneous elections is not disturbed;
  - (f) examine the logistics and manpower required, including EVMs, VVPATs, etc., for holding such simultaneous elections;
  - (g) examine and recommend the modalities of use of a single electoral roll and electoral identity cards for identification of voters in elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha), State Legislative Assemblies, Municipalities and Panchayats.
5. The HLC shall commence functioning immediately and make recommendations at the earliest.
  6. The headquarters of the HLC shall be at New Delhi.
  7. The HLC may decide its own procedure for conducting its meetings and other relevant functions.
  8. The HLC may hear and entertain all persons, representations and communications which in the opinion of the HLC shall facilitate its work and enable it to finalise its recommendations.
  9. The Chairman and members of the HLC shall be paid allowances as follows —
    - (a) Chairman of the HLC shall be entitled for such allowances as provided in the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951;
    - (b) Members of the HLC who are Member of Parliament, shall be entitled to such allowances as defined in clause (a) of section 2 of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959;
    - (c) All other Members of the HLC shall be entitled to Travelling Allowance at the rates and as per rules applicable to the government servants of the highest grade.
  10. The Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice shall provide Office space, secretarial assistance and other logistics support to the HLC.
  11. The expenditure of the HLC shall be met through a separate budgetary allocation by the Government under the relevant budget heads of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department).

Dr. REETA VASISHTA, Secy.



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

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**LOK SABHA**

A2J

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1132**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**Free Legal Services**

JS(NKG)

✓ **1132. SHRI DEVJI M.PATEL:**

**DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:**

**SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:**

**SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:**

**SHRI BASANATA KUMAR PANDA:**

**SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:**

**SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:**

**SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:**

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

- (a) the manner in which the Government envisages to fulfil its constitutional duty under Article 39A by providing free legal services to vulnerable and marginalised sections of society;
- (b) the details of the impact and contribution of agencies like NALSA, DISHA, and Nyaya Bandhu in achieving this goal; and
- (c) the details on the effectiveness of Tele-Law in delivering legal aid to disadvantaged groups, especially focussing on women, SCs, and STs, indication of the variations 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; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
CULTURE**

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

**(a) to (c):** Yes, Sir. The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 constituted under Article 39A of the Indian Constitution, provides free and competent

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legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a 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.

In addition, Department of Justice initiated a scheme titled Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) to provide for easy, accessible and affordable delivery of legal services. Its key initiatives include Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached that aims to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation to all citizens at the Gram Panchayat level and Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) that aims to enable a pan India Pro Bono dispensation framework for delivery of legal services. Tele-Law seeks to connect the beneficiary with the Lawyer via tele/ video conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres and through Tele-Law Citizens Mobile Application. As on 30<sup>th</sup> 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. This includes (21.49 lakh) women, (19.23 lakh) Scheduled Caste, (9.33 lakh) Scheduled Tribe (18.64lakh) OBCs 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 10629 Pro Bono advocates and 89 Law schools have constituted Pro Bono Clubs to facilitate the culture of Pro bono among law students.

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## Annexure-A

**Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1132 for answering on 08.12.2023 raised by Shri Devji M Patel & Seven Others,(MP)on details of free legal services**

**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 |

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**Legal Services Clinics:**

| Year                         | 2022-23                |   | 2023-24 (upto Sept, 23) |   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
|                              | 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/-              |

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

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LOK SABHA

JII

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1139  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

**SPECIAL FAST TRACK COURTS**

JS(PPP)

✓

**1139. DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:  
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:  
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to extend the special fast track courts which seek to deliver swift justice in sexual offence cases;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof along with the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;
- (c) the number of fast track special courts (FTSCs) working in all 31 States and Union Territories at present, State and UT-wise;
- (d) whether many States have failed or face difficulties to operationalise all the FTSCs; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor, State/UT-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) : Yes, Sir.
- (b) : The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 28.11.2023 has approved the proposal of the Department for extending the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) Scheme for further 3 years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26 with an outlay of ₹1952.23 cr.
- (c) to (e): As per the data submitted by various High Courts, upto October, 2023, 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POC SO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 30

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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 May, 2023. Andaman & Nicobar Islands has only recently consented to make operational one FTSC. Arunachal Pradesh has not opted to join the Scheme citing low number of rape and POCSO cases. The State/UT-wise list of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) is given at **Annexure**.

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**Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Qn. No. 1139  
for 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**STATE/UT-WISE DETAILS OF FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURT AS ON 31.10.2023**

| Sl. No. | State/UT             | Functional FTSCs |
|---------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1       | Chhattisgarh         | 15               |
| 2       | Gujarat              | 35               |
| 3       | Mizoram              | 3                |
| 4       | Nagaland             | 1                |
| 5       | Jharkhand            | 22               |
| 6       | Madhya Pradesh       | 67               |
| 7       | Manipur              | 2                |
| 8       | Haryana              | 16               |
| 9       | Chandigarh           | 1                |
| 10      | Rajasthan            | 45               |
| 11      | Tamil Nadu           | 14               |
| 12      | Tripura              | 3                |
| 13      | Uttar Pradesh        | 218              |
| 14      | Uttarakhand          | 4                |
| 15      | Delhi                | 16               |
| 16      | Meghalaya            | 5                |
| 17      | J&K                  | 4                |
| 18      | Punjab               | 12               |
| 19      | Himachal Pradesh     | 6                |
| 20      | Karnataka            | 31               |
| 21      | Telangana            | 36               |
| 22      | Puducherry*          | 1                |
| 23      | Andhra Pradesh       | 16               |
| 24      | Assam                | 17               |
| 25      | Bihar                | 46               |
| 26      | Goa                  | 1                |
| 27      | Kerala               | 54               |
| 28      | Maharashtra          | 20               |
| 29      | Odisha               | 44               |
| 30      | West Bengal          | 3                |
| 31      | A&N**                | 0                |
| 32      | Arunachal Pradesh*** | 0                |
|         | <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>758</b>       |

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

\*\* A&N Islands has only recently consented to make operational one FTSC.

\*\*\* Arunachal Pradesh has not opted to join the Scheme citing low number of rape and POCSO cases.



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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1146**

JR

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

JS(NMJR)

**Rural Courts**

✓ **1146. SHRI JUAL ORAM:**

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

- (a) the total number of rural courts set up across the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the number of them set up in Odisha;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up more such courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, location-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) & (b): To provide access to justice to the citizen at their door steps, the Central Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. However, the Act does not make setting up of Gram

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Nyayalayas mandatory. During last three years the number of Gram Nyayalayas set up across the country including Odisha is as under:

| Year                    | In entire country |             | Odisha    |             |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
|                         | Notified          | Operational | Notified  | Operational |
| Up to 2019              | 353               | 221         | 22        | 16          |
| 2020                    | 42                | 04          | 0         | 0           |
| 2021                    | 07                | 0           | 0         | 0           |
| 2022                    | 74                | 32          | 1         | 3           |
| 2023 (As on 05.12.2023) | 03                | 27          | 1         | 1           |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>479</b>        | <b>284</b>  | <b>24</b> | <b>20</b>   |

(c) & (d): The State Governments, after consultation with the respective High Courts 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. Thus, it is up to the State Governments to set-up more such courts as per their requirements in consultation with their respective High Courts.

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.\*199**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15.12.2023**

**Delay in Approval of Recommendations of High Courts Collegium**

**\*199. SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the pending recommendations of High Courts collegiums for the appointment of Judges during the last 10 months;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken to expedite the process for speedy implementation along with reason(s) for the delay in the procedure;
- (c) whether the Government has taken measures to prevent the loss of talent in judiciary due to delay in approval of collegium recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details of the remedial measures taken/proposed in this regard; and
- (e) if not, whether the Government has taken measures to compensate the appointees for this delay and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

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

**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 199 due for answer on 15.12.2023 regarding "Delay in approval of Recommendations of High Courts Collegium".**

(a) to (e): As on 01.01.2023, 171 proposals received from High Court Collegiums were at different stages of processing. During the calendar year 2023, 122 fresh proposals were received. Out of the total 293 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 12.12.2023, 123 proposals are at various stages of processing. Out of these 123 proposals, 81 proposals are at various stages of processing in the Government. 42 proposals are under consideration with the SCC. Recommendations are yet to be received from High Court Collegiums in respect of the remaining 201 vacancies.

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. All the names recommended by High Court Collegium are sent with the views of the Government to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. The Government appoints only those persons which are recommended by the SCC.

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

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

Subsequently, the Supreme Court vide order dated 16.12.2015 directed the Government to finalize the existing MoP by supplementing it in consultation with the SCC taking into consideration eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of secretariat and mechanism to deal with complaints. The Government of India after due deliberations, proposed changes in the existing MoP and the draft MoPs were sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 22.03.2016. Responses of SCC were received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016 and comments thereon were conveyed to the Chief Justice of India on 03.08.2016. The SCC provided their comments on the views of the Government on draft MoP on 13.03.2017. The stand of Government with suggestions to resolve issues involved in appointment of Judges was conveyed to the Supreme Court vide letter dated 11.07.2017. In its recent communication dated 06.01.2023 to the Chief Justice of India, the Government has emphasized the need to finalize the MoP in view of various judicial pronouncements and to consider various suggestions sent by the Government from time to time for making the system of appointment of judges to the Constitutional Courts more transparent, fair, representative and accountable.

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 under the collaborative process.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LOK SABHA

J-II

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2072  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

FAST TRACK COURT

JS(PPA)

✓ 2072. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether any notice has been issued by the Supreme Court to the Union Government and the State Governments for constituting fast track courts for speedy trial of all the cases of rape and security of women on January 2, 2013; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. A notice was issued to the Central Government by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Writ Petition (Civil) No.568 of 2012 on 4.01.2013. The writ petition pertained to the protection of women and children against heinous crimes.

The Government of India took immediate steps for the establishment of FTCs by urging the High Court Chief Justices to prioritize the prompt handling of pending rape cases through setting up of FTCs. A similar request was also made to the Chief Ministers of the States.

The 14th Finance Commission (FC) set up by the Government of India had recommended the setting up of 1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases

pending for more than 5 years. Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and allocation of funds is required to be done by the State Governments as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. The FC had urged upon the 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/UTs to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs from the Financial Year 2015-16 onward. In this regard, the State Governments/ UTs have set up 848 FTCs as on 31.10.2023.

To implement the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and comply with the directives of the Supreme Court to establish Special Courts exclusively dealing with POCSO Act cases, the Government devised a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in August 2019. This Scheme aimed to establish Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO Courts nationwide for expeditious disposal of rape and POCSO Act cases. The FTSC Scheme was launched initially for one-year w.e.f. 02.10.2019 spread over two Financial Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 at a total outlay of ₹ 767.25 Cr. with ₹ 474 Cr. as Central Share. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 04.08.2021 further approved the continuation of the Scheme for two more financial years (FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23) up to 31.03.2023 at a total outlay of ₹ 1572.86 Cr. with ₹ 971.70 Cr. as central share.

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. The Central share is to be met from the Nirbhaya Fund. 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.

As per the data submitted by High Courts, as on 31.10.2023, 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs. These courts have disposed more than 2,00,000 cases as on 31.10.2023.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LOK SABHA

A2J

UNSTARRED QUESTION No- 2080

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

Legal Reform for Access to Justice

JSS(NKGS)

✓ 2080. Dr. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:

SHRI MUKESH RAJPUT:

SHRI SANJAY SETH:

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:

SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA:

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:

PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:

SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:

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

(a) the key legal reforms and initiatives implemented by the Government during the past nine years to improve access to justice; and

(b) the measures taken to streamline the judicial system, foster legal awareness among citizens and repeal old laws?

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. Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice has undertaken various initiatives/projects to increase accessibility to legal services and



to enhance the legal literacy and empowerment of the needy people across the country.

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. 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".

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; Video conferencing facilities to be expanded to cover district hospitals, more courts and jails, police station, etc.; Live Streaming of court proceedings thereby allowing the stakeholder as well as students to see the live Court proceedings thereby encouraging transparency in the court system; 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.

The project will help provide a smoother user experience by building a "smart" ecosystem. Registries will have less data entry and minimal file scrutiny facilitating better decision-making and policy planning. The eCourts Phase-III will thus streamline the judicial system and prove to be a game changer for last mile justice

delivery in ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country.

The Government of India has taken steps to repeal obsolete and redundant laws to reduce compliance burden on Citizens and to ensure ease of business and ease of living for citizens. In this regard, from 2014 till date, 1486 redundant laws have been repealed. Legislative action has been taken to repeal 76 more redundant Acts through the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2023.

Moreover, 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) also 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. Year-wise details since 2017 onwards of the legal awareness programme organized by NALSA is attached at Annexure-A.

Annexure -A

| <b>Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2080 for answering on 15.12.2023 raised by Dr. Krishna Pal Singh Yadav &amp; Ten Others, (MPs) on details of</b> |                                   |                                |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Legal Awareness Programmes organized and Persons participated during the period from 2017-18 to 2023-24 (upto Sept.23)</b>  |                                   |                                |
| <b>Years</b>   | <b>No of programmes Organised</b> | <b>No. of Persons Attended</b> |
| 2017-18  | 1,65,124                          | 2,16,09,724                    |
| 2018-19  | 1,76,916                          | 1,98,56,363                    |
| 2019-20  | 2,27,394                          | 3,16,31,228                    |
| 2020-21  | 1,26,541                          | 1,30,69,637                    |
| 2021-22  | 11,34,086                         | 58,41,26,827                   |
| 2022-23  | 4,90,055                          | 6,75,17,665                    |
| 2023-24 (upto Sept. 23)  | 1,93,605                          | 1,76,93,492                    |

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2085  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 15.12.2023**

Notary cell (LA)

**Electronic Notarization of Agreements**

**2085. SHRI DIPSINH SHANKARSINH RATHOD:**

**SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is exploring technologies or platforms specifically designed for secure and efficient electronic notarization of agreements;
- (b) whether any mechanism exists to integrate electronically notarized documents into the existing legal frameworks;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, whether a mechanism is being put in place for verifying the authenticity of electronically notarized documents and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the expected timeframe for such an initiative?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) & (b): No, sir.
- (c) to (e): Doesn't arise.

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

e-Court

LOK SABHA  
 UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2096

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

Performance of eCourt Project

✓ JS(PPP)  
 2096. DR. G. RANJITH REDDY :  
 SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI;

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

- (a) the number of ongoing eCourts Projects in the country, State-wise including Telangana and Rajasthan;
- (b) the performance and implementation status of Phase-I and II of e-Court Project, State-wise;
- (c) the details of physical targets set and achieved in Phase-I and II of e-Courts project along with the number of courts having at least the minimal targetted level of digital infrastructure, State-wise including Telangana and Rajasthan;
- (d) whether Phase-III of e-Courts project has been approved to be implemented in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government with regards to implementation of various stages of the eCourts projects?

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 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 Mission Mode Project is being implemented in association with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice. Phase I & Phase II of

eCourts Mission Mode Project have been completed and the Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Telangana & Rajasthan are part of this project.

(b) & (c): eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase I 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 crore, total expenditure incurred was Rs. 1668.43 crore for implementation of this phase. Till 2023, digital infrastructure has been provided to 18,735 courts, including 1240 and 476 in Rajasthan & Telangana respectively, State-wise details are placed at Annexure-I.

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

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (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.
- (d) & (e): Yes, Sir. As the eCourts Phase II formally came to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, for further expanding the reach of justice through digital revolution, the Government of India, in the Union Budget 2023-2024, announced Rs. 7000 crore for Phase-III of eCourts project. Based on Detailed Project Report approved by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 23.02.2023 recommended eCourts Phase III with a total outlay of Rs.7210 Crore. Further, 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 may 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 may 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.

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**Annexure-I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2096 for 15/12/2023 regarding Performance of eCourt 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          |
|      | <b>Total</b>               |  | <b>3452</b>     | <b>18735</b> |

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

NM

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2108  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

DISPOSAL OF CASES PENDING IN COURTS

JS(NMJA)  
✓ †2108. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:  
SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR:  
DR. K. JAYAKUMAR:  
MS. CHANDRANI MURMU:  
SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:  
SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

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

- (a) whether a huge number of cases are pending in Supreme Court, High Courts and District courts in the country and if so, the number of cases pending and disposed of during each of the last three years and the current year along with the rate of increase in pendency over last eight years and the reasons therefor, court and State-wise including Rajasthan;
- (b) the details of cases pending for more than five, ten and fifteen years in various courts, court and State-wise including Rajasthan and the time by which they are likely to be disposed of;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to place a timeline within which the judgement/disposal of cases is to be delivered and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to dispose the cases except of serious nature by launching some special campaign or setting up of special Lok Adalat and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there has been a long standing demand from Rajasthan for funds in order to set up new courts in the State 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): The detailed statement of State-wise (including Rajasthan) court cases pending and disposed of during the last three years, including the current year, as per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), is at *Annexure-I* for Supreme Court, *Annexure-II* for High Courts and *Annexure-III* for District and Subordinate Courts.

The detailed statement of State-wise (including Rajasthan) rate of increase in pendency of court cases, over the last eight years in the Supreme Court of India, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts, as per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), is at *Annexure-IV, Annexure-V and Annexure-VI* respectively.

There are several reasons that lead to pendency of cases in courts which, *inter-alia*, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. Moreover, in case of pendency of criminal cases, the Criminal Justice System functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Delay in providing assistance by allied agencies also entails delay in disposal of cases.

(b): The information is not available in the manner sought. As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the detailed statement of cases pending for more than five to ten years and ten to twenty years, as on 12.12.2023, is as under:

| No. of Years   | Supreme Court | High Court | District Courts |
|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| 5-10 years     | 14840         | 68,94,578  | 68,94,578       |
| 10 to 20 years | 4735          | 32,25,690  | 32,25,690       |

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

In case of Rajasthan, the cases pending for more than five to ten years and ten to twenty years, is as under:

| No. of Years   | Rajasthan High Court | Rajasthan District Courts |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 5-10 years     | 1,15,712             | 3,93,739                  |
| 10 to 20 years | 87,324               | 77,909                    |

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

(c): The disposal of pending cases and prescribing timelines for judgements/disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and the Central Government has no direct role in the said matter.

(d): At present, there is no proposal before the government to launch a special campaign or separately setting up special Lok Adalats other than the Lok Adalats already being organized by NALSA for disposal of such cases, except cases of serious nature.

However, the Government has undertaken several initiatives to provide for setting up of special courts/Benches in order to aid speedy disposal of pending cases. The highlights of the same are as follows:

- i. For the safety and security of women and children, 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 Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, 2012. 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.
- ii. Special Courts for lawmakers in order to fast track criminal cases involving elected Members of Parliament (MPs) / Member of Legislative Assembly (MLAs). Ten (10) special courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs.
- iii. A notable legislative reform undertaken in this direction is the enactment of The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 which provides for the establishment of Dedicated and Designated Commercial Courts for adjudication of commercial disputes. Through this specialized dispute resolution machinery, it aims to transform the commercial litigation landscape in the country by adopting robust and proactive procedures.
- iv. As a part of the National eGovernance Plan, the Government has launched eCourts Mission Mode Project wherein 25 Virtual Courts in 20 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 3.95 crore cases 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 has been realized till 31.10.2023. These courts have enabled litigants to pay their fines or contest the claims 24X7 from their preferred location, thus saving time and resources for both the court system and the litigants.
- v. The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for the establishment of Family Courts by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs. As per the Act, it is mandatory for the State Government to set up a Family Court for every city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States, the Family Courts may be set up if the State Governments deems it necessary. As on 30.09.2023, there were 774 Family Courts

functional in the country which had disposed 6,28,997 cases.

vi. 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 organized virtually that facilitates party interaction and exchange of information, allowing people to effectively participate from their homes with the help of internet technology.

(e): At present, there is no specific long standing demand from Rajasthan for funds in order to set up new courts. The primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. To supplement the resources of the State Governments/UTs, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary since 1993-94 by providing financial assistance to the States/UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States/UTs. 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.

As far as the funding to the State Government of Rajasthan is concerned, a sum of Rs. 427.65 crore has been released to the State Government of Rajasthan under the scheme since its inception. The year-wise release of funds during the last 3 years to the State Government of Rajasthan is as follows:

| 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Total (Rs. in Lakh) |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| 2990.00 | 4150.00 | 7166.00 | 2787.00 | 17093.00            |

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2108 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES PENDING IN COURTS'.**

Year wise pendency and disposal of cases in Supreme Court of India

| <b>Year</b>             | <b>Pending Cases</b> | <b>Cases Disposed</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>2020</b>             | 65,086               | 19758                 |
| <b>2021</b>             | 70,239               | 25477                 |
| <b>2022</b>             | 69,781               | 38183                 |
| <b>As on 12.12.2023</b> | 79,774               | 50,889                |

Source : National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)



**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2108 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES PENDING IN COURTS'.**

Year wise pendency and disposal of cases in High Courts.

| Sl. No. | Name of Court                     | 2020    |          | 2021    |          | 2022    |          | As on 12.12.2023 |          |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|------------------|----------|
|         |                                   | Pending | Disposed | Pending | Disposed | Pending | Disposed | Pending          | Disposed |
| 1       | Allahabad High Court              | 773408  | 169158   | 803567  | 243392   | 1028978 | 349919   | 1067245          | 251524   |
| 2       | Bombay High Court                 | 559119  | 34615    | 569018  | 57835    | 687269  | 85891    | 719999           | 104552   |
| 3       | Calcutta High Court               | 267431  | 24785    | 225449  | 52466    | 207939  | 86255    | 196300           | 84755    |
| 4       | Gauhati High Court                | 51901   | 43394    | 55649   | 9359     | 59285   | 13205    | 62180            | 27372    |
| 5       | High Court for State of Telangana | 236852  | 22701    | 256518  | 40334    | 251704  | 77524    | 249799           | 63653    |
| 6       | High Court of Andhra Pradesh      | 207762  | 26572    | 222842  | 31860    | 243036  | 50079    | 250118           | 48954    |
| 7       | High Court Of Chhattisgarh        | 75836   | 23678    | 81001   | 30809    | 92073   | 33008    | 90883            | 40698    |
| 8       | High Court of Delhi               | 91195   | 19578    | 100068  | 27490    | 106446  | 46423    | 128252           | 46621    |
| 9       | High Court of Gujarat             | 142803  | 6755     | 152130  | 58412    | 162271  | 77359    | 168253           | 71229    |
| 10      | High Court of Himachal Pradesh    | 73862   | 22203    | 82238   | 30054    | 92636   | 36574    | 97426            | 32313    |
| 11      | High Court of Jammu and Kashmir   | 63468   | 19431    | 47761   | 23617    | 44630   | 15697    | 44370            | 13164    |
| 12      | High Court of Jharkhand           | 88445   | 28337    | 88371   | 40637    | 85992   | 46369    | 84605            | 45813    |
| 13      | High Court of Karnataka           | 293259  | 161110   | 265946  | 89988    | 305331  | 85399    | 285193           | 83601    |
| 14      | High Court of Kerala              | 214384  | 50590    | 212525  | 57003    | 193653  | 78353    | 254358           | 77833    |
| 15      | High Court of Madhya Pradesh      | 362932  | 77032    | 413467  | 103415   | 433884  | 121041   | 449893           | 130763   |
| 16      | High Court of Manipur             | 4374    | 717      | 4817    | 1151     | 4920    | 1837     | 4590             | 2248     |
| 17      | High Court of Meghalaya           | 1443    | 458      | 1578    | 649      | 1150    | 1211     | 1077             | 1494     |
| 18      | High Court of Punjab and Haryana  | 637148  | 71835    | 447690  | 87310    | 440184  | 142217   | 440544           | 151219   |
| 19      | High Court Of Rajasthan           | 523600  | 84300    | 574064  | 124930   | 646074  | 152310   | 671491           | 142189   |
| 20      | High Court of Sikkim              | 241     | 136      | 180     | 217      | 168     | 157      | 176              | 151      |
| 21      | High Court of Tripura             | 2347    | 2434     | 1736    | 2800     | 1305    | 2605     | 1287             | 2208     |
| 22      | High Court of Uttarakhand         | 38676   | 13496    | 41922   | 14703    | 46154   | 16490    | 50405            | 14272    |
| 23      | Madras High Court                 | 580770  | 105586   | 579742  | 146244   | 550020  | 185203   | 544300           | 316931   |
| 24      | Orissa High Court                 | 172476  | 61335    | 195161  | 105525   | 154757  | 136826   | 145630           | 113141   |
| 25      | Patna High Court                  | 178835  | 51637    | 225628  | 60822    | 213019  | 122122   | 195062           | 133869   |

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2108 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES PENDING IN COURTS'.**

Year wise pendency and disposal of cases in District and Subordinate Courts.

| Sl. No | State             | 2020    |          | 2021    |          | 2022     |          | As on 12.12.2023 |          |
|--------|-------------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|
|        |                   | Pending | Disposed | Pending | Disposed | Pending  | Disposed | Pending          | Disposed |
| 1      | Uttar Pradesh     | 8620201 | 1630837  | 9768174 | 2632434  | 11156808 | 3762886  | 11667077         | 4470051  |
| 2      | Bihar             | 3240358 | 256577   | 4846609 | 1196773  | 3488529  | 640768   | 5150733          | 1592837  |
| 3      | Maharashtra       | 4538033 | 611393   | 3436235 | 387599   | 5019462  | 1559493  | 3576499          | 645268   |
| 4      | West Bengal       | 2415056 | 233938   | 2622405 | 372608   | 2763283  | 624879   | 2973607          | 498443   |
| 5      | Rajasthan         | 1883557 | 453502   | 2078902 | 722365   | 2158792  | 1048390  | 2296039          | 967645   |
| 6      | Odisha            | 1440451 | 94800    | 1537116 | 203204   | 1562728  | 308483   | 1985549          | 927554   |
| 7      | Kerala            | 2050303 | 311482   | 2053233 | 746229   | 1950092  | 956285   | 1602992          | 274055   |
| 8      | Madhya Pradesh    | 1734436 | 423715   | 1918275 | 747923   | 1997030  | 915250   | 1922725          | 1570011  |
| 9      | Karnataka         | 1756351 | 870008   | 1810617 | 1802628  | 1889807  | 1662667  | 1815118          | 1059288  |
| 10     | Gujarat           | 1896449 | 390402   | 1926631 | 1420654  | 1693182  | 1416930  | 1567296          | 1451362  |
| 11     | Tamil Nadu        | 1337121 | 682786   | 1415375 | 1276338  | 1473576  | 2083120  | 1449714          | 2519227  |
| 12     | Delhi             | 940539  | 216657   | 1069112 | 307333   | 1263916  | 496542   | 1425050          | 683223   |
| 13     | Haryana           | 1073049 | 224034   | 1248494 | 406435   | 1386686  | 685289   | 1218072          | 445718   |
| 14     | Telangana         | 735300  | 125756   | 866426  | 320165   | 880710   | 625478   | 923182           | 384585   |
| 15     | Jharkhand         | 457561  | 182873   | 769987  | 259864   | 529552   | 355026   | 861465           | 479306   |
| 16     | Andhra Pradesh    | 638093  | 169041   | 520873  | 217046   | 827069   | 523011   | 847968           | 840669   |
| 17     | Punjab            | 835477  | 278984   | 916885  | 482213   | 913192   | 713604   | 540520           | 371227   |
| 18     | Himachal Pradesh  | 418809  | 167315   | 455183  | 313265   | 479414   | 459909   | 555120           | 402578   |
| 19     | Assam             | 342012  | 56736    | 390395  | 120207   | 453146   | 193213   | 451600           | 218142   |
| 20     | Jammu and Kashmir | 223031  | 68946    | 380230  | 206107   | 291190   | 155255   | 428758           | 278744   |
| 21     | Chhattisgarh      | 332942  | 88436    | 248380  | 138764   | 411239   | 273713   | 350700           | 171360   |
| 22     | Uttarakhand       | 263958  | 87458    | 296553  | 135879   | 316906   | 187719   | 293199           | 173650   |
| 23     | Chandigarh        | 86878   | 10234    | 111302  | 17755    | 165500   | 36196    | 159135           | 109100   |
| 24     | Goa               | 59627   | 14167    | 62241   | 29689    | 59417    | 28327    | 56596            | 27808    |
| 25     | Puducherry        | 35489   | 14372    | 35167   | 25741    | 33892    | 38398    | 34097            | 34100    |
| 26     | Meghalaya         | 15918   | 3154     | 40933   | 35734    | 16194    | 15924    | 43740            | 51802    |
| 27     | Tripura           | 43454   | 10983    | 16767   | 8834     | 38790    | 37753    | 16204            | 13559    |
| 28     | Andaman & Nicobar | 10257   | 2003     | 8582    | 2340     | 8156     | 1467     | 12944            | 9920     |
| 29     | Manipur           | 10704   | 7839     | 12576   | 8525     | 11855    | 16994    | 8750             | 791      |
| 30     | Mizoram           | 5067    | 2950     | 5733    | 4386     | 5391     | 5935     | 5596             | 1392     |
| 31     | DNH at Silvasa    | 3588    | 904      | 3682    | 1686     | 3815     | 2107     | 4230             | 1485     |
| 32     | Arunachal Pradesh | 1434    | 1        | 2112    | 2        | 3095     | 129      | 3927             | 2751     |
| 33     | Diu and Daman     | 2795    | 1126     | 2847    | 2035     | 2916     | 2069     | 3113             | 1579     |
| 34     | Nagaland          | 1810    | 266      | 2225    | 483      | 2665     | 908      | 2850             | 1120     |
| 35     | Ladakh            | 783     | 464      | 910     | 1037     | 1249     | 1335     | 1709             | 3061     |
| 36     | Sikkim            | 1462    | 2039     | 1753    | 3093     | 1826     | 3755     | 1255             | 1684     |

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2108 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES PENDING IN COURTS'.**

| <b>Rise of Pendency of Cases in Supreme Courts of India during last 8 years</b> |                      |                           |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Year</b>   | <b>Supreme Court</b> | <b>Increase/ Decrease</b> |
| 31.12.2014  | 62,791               | 11.13%                    |
| 31.12.2022  | 69,781               |                           |

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

**Annexure-V**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2108 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES PENDING IN COURTS'.**

| <b>Rise in Pendency in High Courts during last 8 years</b> |                            |                                       |                                       |                          |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Sl. No</b>  | <b>Name of High Court</b>  | <b>Cases pending as on 31.12.2014</b> | <b>Cases pending as on 31.12.2022</b> | <b>Increase/Decrease</b> |
| 1  | Allahabad                  | 1014146                               | 1028978                               | 1.46%                    |
| 2  | Andhra Pradesh             | 249701                                | 243036                                | -2.67%                   |
| 3  | Telangana                  |                                       | 251704                                |                          |
| 4  | Bombay                     | 364576                                | 687269                                | 88.51%                   |
| 5  | Calcutta                   | 286306                                | 207939                                | -27.37%                  |
| 6  | Chhattisgarh               | 45077                                 | 92073                                 | 104.26%                  |
| 7  | Delhi                      | 66989                                 | 106446                                | 58.90%                   |
| 8  | Gauhati                    | 43048                                 | 59285                                 | 37.72%                   |
| 9  | Gujarat                    | 87356                                 | 162271                                | 85.76%                   |
| 10   | Himachal Pradesh           | 39616                                 | 92636                                 | 133.83%                  |
| 11   | Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh | 102156                                | 44630                                 | -56.31%                  |
| 12   | Jharkhand                  | 80815                                 | 85992                                 | 6.41%                    |
| 13   | Karnataka                  | 214120                                | 305331                                | 42.60%                   |
| 14   | Kerala                     | 145906                                | 193653                                | 32.72%                   |
| 15   | Madhya Pradesh             | 258713                                | 433884                                | 67.71%                   |
| 16   | Madras                     | 263569                                | 550020                                | 108.68%                  |
| 17   | Manipur                    | 4374                                  | 4920                                  | 12.48%                   |
| 18   | Meghalaya                  | 738                                   | 1150                                  | 55.83%                   |
| 19   | Orissa                     | 202082                                | 154757                                | -23.42%                  |
| 20   | Patna                      | 138251                                | 213019                                | 54.08%                   |
| 21   | Punjab & Haryana           | 279699                                | 440184                                | 57.38%                   |
| 22   | Rajasthan                  | 228887                                | 646074                                | 182.27%                  |
| 23   | Sikkim                     | 108                                   | 168                                   | 55.56%                   |
| 24   | Tripura                    | 4465                                  | 1305                                  | -70.77%                  |
| 25   | Uttarakhand                | 23105                                 | 46154                                 | 99.76%                   |
|  | <b>Total</b>               | 4143803                               | 6052878                               | 46.07%                   |

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2108 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES PENDING IN COURTS'.**

| Rise of Pendency of Cases in District and Subordinate Courts during last 8 years |                     |                                |                                |                    |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sl. No   | States/UTs          | Cases pending as on 31.12.2014 | Cases pending as on 31.12 2022 | Increase/ Decrease |
| 1  | Andaman and Nicobar | 8477                           | 8156                           | -3.79%             |
| 2  | Andhra Pradesh      | 471514                         | 827069                         | 75.41%             |
| 3  | Arunachal Pradesh   | 275                            | 3095                           | 1025.45%           |
| 4  | Assam               | 232507                         | 453146                         | 94.90%             |
| 5  | Bihar               | 1795740                        | 3488529                        | 94.27%             |
| 6  | Chandigarh          | 36148                          | 165500                         | 357.84%            |
| 7  | Chhattisgarh        | 230620                         | 411239                         | 78.32%             |
| 8  | Delhi               | 301954                         | 1263916                        | 318.58%            |
| 9  | Diu and Daman       | 1594                           | 2916                           | 82.94%             |
| 10   | DNH at Silvassa     | 3134                           | 3815                           | 21.73%             |
| 11   | Goa                 | 35439                          | 59417                          | 67.66%             |
| 12   | Gujarat             | 2194970                        | 1693182                        | -22.86%            |
| 13   | Haryana             | 499595                         | 1386686                        | 177.56%            |
| 14   | Himachal Pradesh    | 162363                         | 479414                         | 195.27%            |
| 15   | Jammu and Kashmir   | 85702                          | 291190                         | 239.77%            |
| 16   | Jharkhand           | 341818                         | 529552                         | 54.92%             |
| 17   | Karnataka           | 1262424                        | 1889807                        | 49.70%             |
| 18   | Kerala              | 876534                         | 1950092                        | 122.48%            |
| 19   | Ladakh              | 87                             | 1249                           | 1335.63%           |
| 20   | Madhya Pradesh      | 1015431                        | 1997030                        | 96.67%             |
| 21   | Maharashtra         | 2951349                        | 5019462                        | 70.07%             |
| 22   | Manipur             | 9557                           | 11855                          | 24.05%             |
| 23   | Meghalaya           | 8767                           | 16194                          | 84.72%             |
| 24   | Mizoram             | 958                            | 5391                           | 462.73%            |
| 25   | Nagaland            | 390                            | 2665                           | 583.33%            |
| 26   | Odisha              | 976500                         | 1562728                        | 60.03%             |
| 27   | Puducherry          | 22873                          | 33892                          | 48.17%             |
| 28   | Punjab              | 507460                         | 913192                         | 79.95%             |
| 29   | Rajasthan           | 1272408                        | 2158792                        | 69.66%             |
| 30   | Sikkim              | 1108                           | 1826                           | 64.80%             |
| 31   | Tamil Nadu          | 950073                         | 1473576                        | 55.10%             |
| 32   | Telangana           | 403864                         | 880710                         | 118.07%            |
| 33   | Tripura             | 30493                          | 38790                          | 27.21%             |
| 34   | Uttar Pradesh       | 5513363                        | 11156808                       | 102.36%            |
| 35   | Uttarakhand         | 147905                         | 316906                         | 114.26%            |
| 36   | West Bengal         | 1389869                        | 2763283                        | 98.82%             |
|  | <b>Total:</b>       | <b>23743263</b>                | <b>43261070</b>                | <b>82.20%</b>      |

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

NM

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2111  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

VACANT SANCTIONED POSTS IN COURTS

✓ JS(WMJR)  
2111. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:  
SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

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

- (a) whether a large number of sanctioned posts of judges are laying vacant in the courts of the country including Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate courts;
- (b) if so, the details of sanctioned and vacant posts of judges at present indicating the time since when they are lying vacant and the reasons therefor, court-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to fill the vacant posts of judges timely given the delay in delivering justice to the victims for lack of judges;
- (d) whether the Government contemplates to increase the number of judges in the High courts to avoid tendency of cases pending there; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): As on 11.12.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges in the Supreme Court of India (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. A detailed statement showing High Court wise vacancy position as on 11.12.2023 is at *Annexure-I*.

Further, there are 5,443 vacancies of judicial officers in the District and Subordinate Judiciary as on 11.12.2023. A detailed statement showing State-wise vacancy position in District and Subordinate Judiciary as on 11.12.2023 is at *Annexure-II*.

Appointment of the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at State and Central level. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

In case of recruitment and appointment of judicial officers in District Courts/Subordinate judiciary, the Central Government has no role under the Constitution. The filling up vacant posts of judicial officers in the District and 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. Vide judicial order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has stipulated certain timelines which are to be followed by the states and the respective High Courts for initiating the recruitment process of judges in subordinate courts.

(d) & (e): The Government is committed towards speedy delivery of Justice. As a result of the collaborative process between the Executive and Judiciary, during the year 2022, 165 Judges were appointed in various High Courts which is a significant number

of appointments in one year. 110 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts in the year 2023 as on 11.12.2023. Also, from 2014 till 11.12.2023, the sanctioned strength of High Court judges has increased from 906 to 1114. For the District and Subordinate Courts, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers has also increased from 19,518 in year 2014 to the present 25,439 as on 11.12.2023. Similarly the working strength at the district and subordinate judiciary level has been increased from 15115 in the year 2014 to the present 20017 as on 11.12.2023

The pendency of cases in courts is not only due to shortage of judges in various Courts but also a result of several other factors like increase in number of state and central legislations, accumulation of first appeals, continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, appeals against the orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, number of revisions/appeals, frequent adjournments, indiscriminate use of the writ jurisdiction, lack of adequate arrangements to monitor, tracking and bunching of cases for hearing, vacation period of Courts, assigning of work of administrative nature to the Judges, etc.

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3



**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2111 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'VACANT SANCTIONED POSTS IN COURTS'.**

Sanction and Working Strength of Judicial Officers in High Courts as on 11.12.2023.

| Sl. No.      | High Court       | Sanctioned strength | Working strength | Vacancies  |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1.           | Allahabad        | 160                 | 91               | 69         |
| 2.           | Andhra Pradesh   | 37                  | 30               | 07         |
| 3.           | Bombay           | 94                  | 69               | 25         |
| 4.           | Calcutta         | 72                  | 52               | 20         |
| 5.           | Chhattisgarh     | 22                  | 15               | 07         |
| 6.           | Delhi            | 60                  | 43               | 17         |
| 7.           | Gauhati          | 30                  | 24               | 06         |
| 8.           | Gujarat          | 52                  | 31               | 21         |
| 9.           | Himachal Pradesh | 17                  | 12               | 05         |
| 10.          | J&K & Ladakh     | 17                  | 15               | 02         |
| 11.          | Jharkhand        | 25                  | 19               | 06         |
| 12.          | Karnataka        | 62                  | 52               | 10         |
| 13.          | Kerala           | 47                  | 36               | 11         |
| 14.          | Madhya Pradesh   | 53                  | 40               | 13         |
| 15.          | Madras           | 75                  | 67               | 08         |
| 16.          | Manipur          | 5                   | 04               | 01         |
| 17.          | Meghalaya        | 4                   | 03               | 01         |
| 18.          | Orissa           | 33                  | 20               | 13         |
| 19.          | Patna            | 53                  | 35               | 18         |
| 20.          | Punjab & Haryana | 85                  | 57               | 28         |
| 21.          | Rajasthan        | 50                  | 34               | 16         |
| 22.          | Sikkim           | 3                   | 03               | 00         |
| 23.          | Telangana        | 42                  | 26               | 16         |
| 24.          | Tripura          | 5                   | 05               | 00         |
| 25.          | Uttarakhand      | 11                  | 07               | 04         |
| <b>Total</b> |                  | <b>1114</b>         | <b>790</b>       | <b>324</b> |

**Annexure-II**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2111 FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING 'VACANT SANCTIONED POSTS IN COURTS'.**

Sanction and Working Strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Judiciary as on 11.12.2023.

| Sl. No.      | States & UTs        | Total Sanctioned Strength | Total Working Strength | Total Vacancy |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1.           | Andhra Pradesh      | 618                       | 535                    | 83            |
| 2.           | Arunachal Pradesh   | 44                        | 34                     | 10            |
| 3.           | Assam               | 485                       | 439                    | 46            |
| 4.           | Bihar               | 2016                      | 1543                   | 473           |
| 5.           | Chandigarh          | 30                        | 29                     | 1             |
| 6.           | Chhattisgarh        | 562                       | 423                    | 139           |
| 7.           | D & N Haveli        | 3                         | 2                      | 1             |
| 8.           | Daman & Diu         | 4                         | 4                      | 0             |
| 9.           | Delhi               | 887                       | 798                    | 89            |
| 10.          | Goa                 | 50                        | 40                     | 10            |
| 11.          | Gujarat             | 1720                      | 1175                   | 545           |
| 12.          | Haryana             | 772                       | 564                    | 208           |
| 13.          | Himachal Pradesh    | 179                       | 158                    | 21            |
| 14.          | Jammu and Kashmir   | 317                       | 223                    | 94            |
| 15.          | Jharkhand           | 693                       | 500                    | 193           |
| 16.          | Karnataka           | 1375                      | 1150                   | 225           |
| 17.          | Kerala              | 605                       | 514                    | 91            |
| 18.          | Ladakh              | 17                        | 10                     | 7             |
| 19.          | Lakshadweep         | 4                         | 3                      | 1             |
| 20.          | Madhya Pradesh      | 2028                      | 1734                   | 294           |
| 21.          | Maharashtra         | 2190                      | 1940                   | 250           |
| 22.          | Manipur             | 59                        | 49                     | 10            |
| 23.          | Meghalaya           | 99                        | 57                     | 42            |
| 24.          | Mizoram             | 74                        | 41                     | 33            |
| 25.          | Nagaland            | 34                        | 24                     | 10            |
| 26.          | Odisha              | 1008                      | 803                    | 205           |
| 27.          | Puducherry          | 29                        | 10                     | 19            |
| 28.          | Punjab              | 797                       | 585                    | 212           |
| 29.          | Rajasthan           | 1638                      | 1342                   | 296           |
| 30.          | Sikkim              | 35                        | 23                     | 12            |
| 31.          | Tamil Nadu          | 1371                      | 1040                   | 331           |
| 32.          | Telangana           | 560                       | 445                    | 115           |
| 33.          | Tripura             | 128                       | 108                    | 20            |
| 34.          | Uttar Pradesh       | 3696                      | 2449                   | 1247          |
| 35.          | Uttarakhand         | 298                       | 271                    | 27            |
| 36.          | West Bengal         | 1014*                     | 931*                   | 83*           |
| 37.          | Andaman and Nicobar |                           |                        |               |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                     | <b>25439</b>              | <b>19996</b>           | <b>5443</b>   |

Source:- MIS portal of 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.

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2134  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 15.12.2023

Notary (Cell (L.A)) **Appointment of Advocates as Notary Public**

**2134. SHRI B.B. PATIL:**

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

- (a) the number of legal professionals appointed as Notary Public by the Central Government during the last five years, State and UT-wise;
- (b) whether many advocates who submitted online applications for the said post in the year 2022-23 are still waiting for their appointment;
- (c) if so, the details of such applications that are pending as on date, State and UT-wise along with the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which all the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

**ANSWER**

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

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

b. Yes, Sir.

c. Statement showing the online applications received in the year 2022-23 and are pending as on date, State and UT-wise is enclosed at Annexure-II. The applications are pending as appointment of central notaries is an ongoing process and will be done as per provisions of the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956, as amended from time to time.

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

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2134 on the subject of Appointment of Advocates as Notary, for answer on 15.12.2023

**Table: Statement showing the total notaries appointed by the Central Government during the last five years**

| S. No.       | State Name        | No. of Appointment of Notaries during the last five years |
|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 1            | Andhra Pradesh    | 172   |
| 2            | Arunachal Pradesh | 24  |
| 3            | Assam             | 13  |
| 4            | Bihar             | 168   |
| 5            | Chandigarh        | 29  |
| 6            | Chhattisgarh      | 182   |
| 7            | Delhi             | 324   |
| 8            | Goa               | 16  |
| 9            | Gujarat           | 1896  |
| 10           | Haryana           | 374   |
| 11           | Himachal Pradesh  | 95  |
| 12           | Jammu And Kashmir | 91  |
| 13           | Jharkhand         | 66  |
| 14           | Karnataka         | 570   |
| 15           | Kerala            | 441   |
| 16           | Lakshadweep       | 3   |
| 17           | Madhya Pradesh    | 193   |
| 18           | Maharashtra       | 1949  |
| 19           | Manipur           | 4   |
| 20           | Meghalaya         | 9   |
| 21           | Mizoram           | 1   |
| 21           | Nagaland          | 5   |
| 23           | Odisha            | 66  |
| 24           | Puducherry        | 156   |
| 25           | Punjab            | 351   |
| 26           | Rajasthan         | 786   |
| 27           | Tamilnadu         | 748   |
| 28           | Telangana         | 79  |
| 29           | Tripura           | 23  |
| 30           | Uttar Pradesh     | 504   |
| 31           | Uttarakhand       | 32  |
| 32           | West Bengal       | 91  |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                   | <b>9461</b>   |

**Annexure-II**

**Statement referred to in reply to Part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2134 on the subject of Appointment of Advocates as Notary, for answer on 15.12.2023**

**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 |             |             |
|--------------|--|---|-------------|-------------|
|              |  | 2022                                      | 2023        | Total       |
| 1            | Andhra Pradesh                           | 18  | 1132        | 1150        |
| 2            | Arunachal Pradesh                        | 16  | 2           | 18          |
| 3            | Assam                                    | 2   | 7           | 9           |
| 4            | Bihar                                    | 628                                       | 12          | 640         |
| 5            | Chandigarh                               | 4   | 3           | 7           |
| 6            | Chhattisgarh                             | 1   | 1           | 2           |
| 7            | Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And DIU | 0   | 4           | 4           |
| 8            | Delhi                                    | 40  | 144         | 184         |
| 9            | Goa                                      | 2   | 3           | 5           |
| 10           | Haryana                                  | 128                                       | 79          | 207         |
| 11           | Jammu And Kashmir                        | 4   | 5           | 9           |
| 12           | Jharkhand                                | 9   | 6           | 15          |
| 13           | Karnataka                                | 60  | 358         | 418         |
| 14           | Kerala                                   | 18  | 51          | 69          |
| 15           | Lakshadweep                              | 1   | 1           | 2           |
| 16           | Madhya Pradesh                           | 34  | 30          | 64          |
| 17           | Maharashtra                              | 76  | 419         | 495         |
| 18           | Odisha                                   | 14  | 20          | 34          |
| 19           | Punjab                                   | 39  | 38          | 77          |
| 20           | Rajasthan                                | 64  | 61          | 125         |
| 21           | Tamilnadu                                | 37  | 61          | 98          |
| 22           | Telangana                                | 13  | 335         | 348         |
| 23           | Uttar Pradesh                            | 40  | 122         | 162         |
| 24           | Uttarakhand                              | 5   | 21          | 26          |
| 25           | West Bengal                              | 8   | 14          | 22          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |  | <b>1261</b>                               | <b>2929</b> | <b>4190</b> |

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2146  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

JS(NMJK)  
✓  
DELAY IN DELIVERY OF JUSTICE

2146. SHRI JUAL ORAM:  
DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:  
SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the problem being faced by common people in getting justice in time due to continuous rise in the number of pending cases in the various courts across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is considering for setting up various courts and appointing the judges in large numbers across the country to ensure quick delivery of judgement to the people and speedy disposal of cases pending in various courts and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is making efforts to ensure that poor people have easy access to the judicial system and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the cause of justice is best served by making it accessible to all and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether it is also true that cost and language are barriers for getting access to justice in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the pendency of cases across courts, as on 1.12.2023, is as follows:

| S. No              | Court                         | No. of Pending Cases |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1                  | Supreme Court                 | 80,040               |
| 2                  | High Court                    | 61,75,579            |
| 3                  | District & Subordinate Courts | 4,46,30,237          |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |                               | <b>5,08,85,856</b>   |

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

There are several reasons that lead to pendency of cases in courts which, *inter-alia*, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. Moreover, in case of pendency of criminal cases, the Criminal Justice System functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Delay in providing assistance by allied agencies also entails delay in disposal of cases.

(b): High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No. 379 of 2000. Accordingly, setting up of Benches of a High Court is considered by the Government of India only after receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Governor of the State. The State Government has to provide requisite infrastructure and facilities for establishment of a Bench of a High Court as well as expenditure of the High Court and its Benches. At present, there is no complete proposal for establishment of High Court Benches.

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

The Judge strength of Supreme Court of India has been increased from 31 to 34 (including Chief Justice of India) in 2019. In so far as various High Courts are concerned, the

judge strength of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1114 as on 11.12.2023. The Government is committed towards speedy delivery of Justice. As a result of the collaborative process between the Executive and Judiciary, during the year 2022, 165 Judges were appointed in various High Courts which is a significant number of appointments in one year. Further, 110 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts till 11.12.2023.

In the last five years, 01 new post of judge in Tripura High Court and 18 new posts of Judges in the Telangana High Court were created in 2021. In the year 2022, 06 new posts of Judges in the Orissa High Court and 04 new posts in Himachal Pradesh High Court were created. 06 new posts of Judges in the Gauhati High Court have been created w.e.f. 06.02.2023.

The establishment of District / Session Courts in the country lies within the domain of the State Governments, who set up such courts as per their requirement and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts having territorial jurisdiction.

The appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned and the Central Government has no direct role in the matter. The strength of subordinate judiciary has seen a marked increase, with district judiciary's sanctioned strength of 19,518 in year 2014 rising to 25,423 in the year 2023, while the corresponding working strength rising from 15,115 judicial officers in the year 2014 to 20,026 in the year 2023.

For timely appointment of judges in the district and subordinate judiciary, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, through a judicial order in January 2007 in Malik Mazhar Sultan case, stipulated certain timelines according to which the process for recruitment of judges in subordinate courts should commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year.

**(c) to (e):** While providing justice to the people lies primarily within the domain of the Judiciary, the Government is making multiple efforts to ensure that justice is accessible to all, especially the poor and downtrodden and that cost and language barriers do not hinder easy access to justice. The important initiatives in this regard are as under: -

- i. Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The



intervention of technology has contributed to the increase in case clearance rate/disposal particularly during the COVID times. The “Case Clearance Rate” of District & Subordinate Courts had risen from 60.57% in 2011 to 89.33% in 2022. Components of eCourts Mission Mode Project such as Video Conferencing, Virtual Courts for traffic challans, eFiling, ePayment, eSewa kendras, eCourts services app and portal, JustIS app, National Service and tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP), etc. have helped in reducing the procedural delay, thus, enabling faster adjudication of cases. A total of 2.92 crore virtual hearings had been conducted by various High Courts and Subordinate Courts until 31.10.2023. 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.

- ii. For the safety and security of women and children, 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 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. 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.
- iii. The Central Sector Scheme “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)” was launched in the year 2021 to provide pan India comprehensive and citizen-centric legal delivery, advice, assistance and empowerment solutions through Tele-Law, Pro Bono Legal Services (Nyaya Bandhu) and Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness programmes. 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 Application. As on 30th November, 2023 legal advice for 60,23,222 cases had been enabled through 2.5 lakh CSCs under the aegis of Tele Law and Tele Law Mobile App. In 2017, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services)

was also launched to provide free legal assistance and counsel to eligible persons through advocates who are registered with the Department of Justice. Nyaya Bandhu's primary initiative is to establish a framework for dispensation of pro bono legal services across the country. Apart from this, efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country.

- iv. 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.
- v. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Judicial Infrastructure for District and Subordinate Courts, suitable infrastructure such as court halls, residential quarters, lawyers halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms are being constructed. There has been a marked increase in the number of court halls available from 15,818 in year 2014 to 21,500 in year 2023. Similarly, there has been an increase in the number of residential units for judicial officers from 10,211 units in year 2014 to the present 18,882 units in year 2023.
- vi. For enhancing the access to justice for the poor people, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been step up 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. 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. 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 organized virtually that facilitates party interaction and exchange of information, allowing people to effectively participate from their homes with the help of internet technology.

- vii. The Government is aware of the difficulties which common people face because of the litigation costs and language barriers in the day-to-day court proceedings. Recognizing that language is a barrier in access to justice in the country, Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India mandates that while all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in English language, as per Clause (2) of the Article 348 it is stated 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. In pursuance of the same, 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 the use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals and it was intimated that the Full Court of the Supreme Court after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

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

Recently, on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 during the Constitution Day celebrations, the Hon'ble President of India inaugurated the eSCR (electronic Supreme Court Reports) portal of the Supreme Court of India, developed under the eCourts Mission Mode Project. This portal includes Hindi translations for 21,388 judgements out of a total of 36,068 delivered since January, 1950. Already, the English versions of all judgements are accessible through this portal at no cost to judges, lawyers, litigants and the general public.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2160

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

Judicial Section(LA)

Recovery of Litigation Expenses on Filing False Cases

**2160. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to adopt strict measures like recovery of litigation expenses and doubling the fine/punishment against the persons who file false cases repeatedly in order to bring transparency in the judicial system of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make provision for imprisonment/punishment in case of non-payment of fine by such persons; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the decision in this regard is likely to be finalised?

**ANSWER**

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

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

As per the contentions of the parties in a case, it is for the Court to decide whether the case/petition/suit is maintainable or not and

what relief is admissible or otherwise depending on the facts and circumstances of the case. Further, there are certain laws to deal with the frivolous litigations by errant litigants. Under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, section 35A provides for payment of costs by way of compensation in respect of false or vexatious claims or defences. Also, under section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, the court is empowered to direct payment of compensation to the accused, if the court considers that there is no reasonable ground for making the accusation. Further, as per section 209 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, whoever fraudulently or dishonestly, or with intent to injure or annoy any person, makes in a Court of Justice any claim which he knows to be false, is liable to be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine. The Hon'ble Supreme Court and High Courts have also issued certain directions from time to time through their orders/judgements to keep a check on frivolous litigation/false claims. The courts are also concerned that its process are not abused by any persons, organisations and institutions by filing frivolous petitions in the name of PILs. Further, Public-interest litigation is a rule of declared law by the courts of record. However, the person (or entity) filing the petition must prove to the satisfaction of the court that the petition serves the public interest and is not a frivolous lawsuit brought for monetary gain.

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

- (a) The courts must encourage genuine and bona fide PIL and effectively discourage and curb the PIL filed for extraneous considerations.
- (b) Instead of every individual judge devising his own procedure for dealing with the public interest litigation, it would be appropriate for each High Court to properly formulate rules for encouraging the genuine PIL and discouraging the PIL filed with oblique motives. Consequently, we request that the High Courts who have not yet framed the rules, should frame the rules within three months. The Registrar General of each High Court is directed to ensure that a copy of the Rules prepared by

the High Court is sent to the Secretary General of this court immediately thereafter.

- (c) The courts should prima facie verify the credentials of the petitioner before entertaining a PIL.
- (d) The court should be prima facie satisfied regarding the correctness of the contents of the petition before entertaining a PIL.
- (e) The court should be fully satisfied that substantial public interest is involved before entertaining the petition.
- (f) The court should ensure that the petition which involves larger public interest, gravity and urgency must be given priority over other petitions.
- (g) The courts before entertaining the PIL should ensure that the PIL is aimed at redressal of genuine public harm or public injury. The court should also ensure that there is no personal gain, private motive or oblique motive behind filing the public interest litigation.
- (h) The court should also ensure that the petitions filed by busybodies for extraneous and ulterior motives must be discouraged by imposing exemplary costs or by adopting similar novel methods to curb frivolous petitions and the petitions filed for extraneous considerations.

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

Recently, the Supreme Court, in *Charu Kishor Mehta vs. Prakash Patel & Ors.*, SLP(C) No. 11030 /2022vide order dated 22.06.2022

confirmed the Order dated 13.06.2022 of the Bombay High Court, and held that filing frivolous cases in a court of law is an abuse of process of law. The Court also upheld the order of Bombay High Court imposing the cost of Rs. 5 lakhs on the petitioner and dismissed the Special Leave Petition.

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

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



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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2170**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

*Leg. II Sec. LD*  
**ELECTONIC POSTAL BALLOT FOR OVERSEAS VOTERS**

**2170. DR. M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to amend the Conduct of Elections Rules to facilitate an Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System for overseas electors in order to make them participate in the election process of the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has forwarded a proposal to amend the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 to facilitate Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System for overseas electors. The ECI and Ministry of External Affairs have been working to address the various logistical challenges involved in facilitating the Electronic Transmitted Postal Ballot to overseas electors.

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

LOK SABHA e-Court  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2198  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

E-Seva Kendras in Courts

JS(PPP)

✓ 2198. SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA;

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

- (a) the salient features of E-Seva Kendras in Courts;
- (b) the details of the achievements made thereunder in the country so far;
- (c) the details of the facilities being provided through these Kendras in the country;
- (d) the details of such E-Seva Kendras set up by the Government in Rajasthan so far; and
- (e) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilised for setting up of E-Seva Kendras in Rajasthan so far including the target set in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase II, eSewa Kendras have been established in High Courts and District Courts across the country. These centers located in court complexes, have been instituted to bridge the digital divide and extend assistance to lawyers and litigants. These kendras aim to serve as a one-stop centre offering free of cost information on court cases/orders/judgments, facilitation of court related matters, and e-filing services, particularly benefiting those who may lack access to technology or reside in remote areas.

A total of 875 eSewa Kendras have been established for District Courts nationwide, underscoring the positive impact of this initiative in providing valuable services to legal practitioners and litigants. High Court wise details of eSewa Kendras set up in District Courts across the country under the project is placed at Annexure-I.

Following services are provided at eSewa Kendras for litigants and lawyers:

- Handling inquiries about case status, next date of hearing and other details.
- Facilitate online Applications for certified copies.
- Facilitate e-Filing of petitions right from the scanning of hard copy petitions, appending eSignatures, uploading them onto CIS and generation of filing number.
- To assist in online purchase of e-Stamp papers/ePayments.
- To help in applying and obtaining Aadhaar based digital signature.
- Publicise and assist in downloading the Mobile App of eCourts for Android and IOS.
- Facilitate in the booking of eMulakat appointments for meeting relatives in jail.
- Handling queries about Judges on leave.
- Guide people on how to avail free legal services from the District Legal Service Authority, High Court Legal Service Committee and Supreme Court Legal Service Committee.
- Facilitate disposal of traffic challan in virtual Courts as also online compounding of traffic challans and other petty offences.
- Explaining the method of arranging and holding a video conference court hearing.
- Provide soft copies of judicial orders/judgments via email, WhatsApp or any other available mode.

The establishment of eSewa Kendras thus facilitates virtual hearings, scanning services, and access to eCourts facilities, enhancing overall efficiency and thus contributing to time saving, eliminating extensive travel, and reducing costs.

(d) & (e): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase II, Rs.16,02,000 was released by Government of India to High Court of Rajasthan for setting up 3 eSewa Kendras in Rajasthan (1 in Rajasthan High Court, 1 in High Court Bench at Jaipur and 1 in District Court of Rajasthan) which are functional. However, under Phase III of eCourts Mission Mode Project, 374 eSewa Kendras at a budgetary outlay of Rs. 32.83 crore have been provided for the State of Rajasthan.

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**Annexure-I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2198 for 15/12/2023 regarding E-Seva Kendras in Courts. The High Court wise detail of eSewa Kendras set up under the project across the country is as under:

| Sr. No. | High Court                  | Functioning e-Sewa Kendras in District Courts |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1       | Allahabad                   |   |
| 2       | Andhra Pradesh              | 74  |
| 3       | Bombay                      | 0   |
| 4       | Calcutta                    | 43  |
| 5       | Chhattisgarh                | 7   |
| 6       | Delhi                       | 26  |
| 7       | Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh | 9   |
| 8       | Gauhati - Assam             | 24  |
| 9       | Gauhati - Mizoram           | 78  |
| 10      | Gauhati - Nagaland          | 8   |
| 11      | Gujarat                     | 11  |
| 12      | Himachal Pradesh            | 1   |
| 13      | Jammu and Kashmir           | 11  |
| 14      | Jharkhand                   | 10  |
| 15      | Karnataka                   | 24  |
| 16      | Kerala                      | 24  |
| 17      | Madhya Pradesh              | 162   |
| 18      | Madras                      | 25  |
| 19      | Manipur                     | 21  |
| 20      | Manipur                     | 15  |
| 21      | Meghalaya                   | 12  |
| 22      | Orissa                      | 109   |
| 23      | Patna                       | 37  |
| 24      | Punjab and Haryana          | 108   |
| 25      | Rajasthan                   | 1*  |
| 26      | Sikkim                      | 10  |
| 27      | Telangana                   | 0   |
| 28      | Tripura                     | 15  |
| 29      | Uttarakhand                 | 10  |
|         | <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>875</b>                                    |

\* In Rajasthan, total 03 eSewa Kendras are functional (2 in High Court and 1 in District Court)

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2203  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

Admn. III Sec. (LA)

**Meeting of Ministers of Justice of SCO**

**2203. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:**

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

- (a) the details of issues discussed in the 10<sup>th</sup> SCO Meeting of Ministers of Justice and the outcome thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government in connection with SCO Charter commitments along with the status thereof;
- (c) the details of the representatives and the Ministers of Justice who attended the said meeting along with the details of the previous last nine such SCO meetings; and
- (d) the general outcomes and the achievements of such meetings?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

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(a) The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held on 5th September 2023 discussed issues including matters pertaining to provision of legal services to individuals or legal entities, ensuring rule of law, cooperation in legal and judicial spheres, organising conferences, legal cooperation forums and seminars etc. At the conclusion of the meeting a Joint Statement was adopted by the Member States.

(b) India is participating in the negotiations on the Reforms of the SCO, including its Charter. As the negotiations are at a nascent stage and are

subject to consensus of all the Member States, no firm commitments have been made by India at this stage.

(c) The representatives of 9 Member States of SCO, namely the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, participated in the 10th meeting.

Indian was represented by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law & Justice, who participated virtually, in the said meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

India has been participating in SCO Justice Ministers Conference from the year, 2017. The details of previous SCO meetings, where India had participated, are as under:

- (i) The 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was held in Tashkent on 20-21 October, 2017.
- (ii) The 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was held in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.
- (iii) The 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was hosted by India on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 through video conferencing.
- (iv) The 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was held on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 through video conferencing.
- (v) The 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministers of Justice of SCO Member States was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 through video conferencing.

(d) The meetings are a regular mechanism of cooperation amongst the SCO Members States. The participants work on agreed agenda on various cooperation activities in the field of Law and Justice.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

NM

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2248  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

FINDINGS OF NATIONAL JUDICIAL DATA GRID

JS(NMJR)

✓ 2248. DR. AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the findings of the National Judicial Data Grid, which States that there are currently over 40 million pending cases in our courts, while the sanctioned strength of judges is around 20,000 only; and

(b) if so, the details of the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in mind that a large number of cases are being assigned to each judge which lead to delay in the disposal 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) & (b): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) the pendency of cases in the courts, as on 1.12.2023, are as follows:

| S. No | Court                         | No. of Pending Cases |
|-------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1     | Supreme Court                 | 80,040               |
| 2     | High Court                    | 61,75,579            |
| 3     | District & Subordinate Courts | 4,46,30,237          |
|       | <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>5,08,85,856</b>   |

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

At present, as on 1.12.2023, the sanctioned strength of the judges is as follows:

| S. No | Court                         | Sanctioned Strength of Judges |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1     | Supreme Court                 | 34                            |
| 2     | High Court                    | 1,114                         |
| 3     | District & Subordinate Courts | 25,420                        |
|       | <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>26,568</b>                 |

Source: MIS portal, Department of Justice

Assignment of cases to the judges and its disposal lies within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter. The Government, however, has been making constant endeavors to provide an ecosystem for faster and efficient disposal of cases by the judiciary.

- i. To this end, the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the avowed 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.
- 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. 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.
- iii. Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. Furthering computerization of the district and subordinate courts with proper WAN connectivity, video conferencing facility, setting up of e-SewaKendras in the court complexes and virtual courts etc. under Phase-I and II of the eCourts project.



Recently, the Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved Phase-III of eCourts 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. Besides, the government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in the 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.
- v. Over a period of time, the strength of district & subordinate judiciary has seen a marked increase. The district judiciary's sanctioned strength of judicial officers increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 25,423 in the year 2023 while the corresponding working strength increased from 15,115 in the year 2014 to 19,518 in the year 2023.
- vi. Separate Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years in the wake of Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015. Similar Committees are functional at district courts.
- vii. 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, HIV/AIDS etc. and property related cases pending for more than five years. As of 31.10.2023, 848 Fast Track Courts are functional. 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.
- viii. 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.

- ix. 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.

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.

- x. Lok Adalats have come up 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 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.

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.

- xi. 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 application.

As on 30th November, 2023 legal advice for 60,23,222 cases had been enabled through 2.5 lakh CSCs under the aegis of Tele Law and Tele Law Mobile App.

- xii. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No- 2254

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

Training to Panel of Lawyers

✓ 2254. SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:

DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI:

SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA:

SHRI C.R. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government has any provision to provide training to the panel of lawyers who render advice services under the Tele-Law scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of individuals who have received advice from the State of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Gujarat under the said scheme;

(d) whether the Government has made any special efforts to reach out to marginalized rural women and assist them in the utilization of the said scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether video conferencing infrastructure has been set up in all Common Service Centres (CSCs) in the Pali, Jhansi, Deoria, Pratapgarh, Balasore and Navsari parliamentary constituencies to render advice under the said scheme 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) : Yes Sir, the Government has provisions to provide training to the panel lawyers who render legal advice to the beneficiaries under the Tele-Law

scheme. The Panel Lawyers undergo regular training and orientation once they are onboarded for rendering their services for the Tele Law scheme. The training ensures that they are equipped to provide quality pre-litigation services, well conversant in regional languages, and in central, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.

(c) As of November 30, 2023, the number of individuals who have received pre-litigation advice from the Tele-Law scheme are as follows: Rajasthan: 3,85,536; Uttar Pradesh: 10,63,065; Odisha: 2,38,957; Gujarat: 2,59,117

(d) Yes Sir, the Government has made special efforts to reach out to marginalized rural women and assist them in utilizing the Tele-Law scheme. Out of the 774 Panel Lawyers engaged, 54% are women lawyers. Additionally, approximately 74,000 women Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) who run the Common Service Centres are trained on Tele-Law services. Regular training and awareness sessions are conducted in the villages, with 1,384 trainings and 2,416 awareness sessions organized across the country since 2021. Till 30.11.2023, 60,23,222 number of beneficiaries have been benefitted with legal services under Tele Law scheme out of which 21,49,485 are women.

(e) Yes Sir, the Tele-Law service is operational across 2.5 Lakh Gram Panchayats in 782 districts across 36 States and UTs including the districts of the Pali, Jhansi, Deoria, Pratapgarh, Balasore and Navsari equipped with adequate video -conferencing infrastructure facilities to render advice under the Tele-Law scheme. The facilities are in place to connect Panel Lawyers with citizens seeking pre-litigation advice via tele/video conferencing.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2255

JR

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

JS(WMTR)

Gram Nyayalayas in Andhra Pradesh

✓ 2255. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

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

- (a) the number of Gram Nyayalayas that have been notified and set up in Andhra Pradesh and the number out of them currently operational, location wise;
- (b) the total number of cases filed and currently pending in each of the operational Gram Nyayalayas in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the resolution of pending cases in the Gram Nyayalayas of Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether there are any plans to establish additional Gram Nyayalayas in other locations in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, the details of the proposed locations and the timeline for their establishment?

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 (e): In order to provide access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps, the Central Government had enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. In terms of Section 3(1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments, after consultation with their respective High Courts, 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. Gram Nyayalayas are deemed to be a Court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class with civil and criminal jurisdiction as provided in the Schedule to the Act. Central Government and State Government have the power to add or omit any item in such Schedules. However, the Act does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory

Thus, it is up to States to notify and operationalize Gram Nyayalayas in their State, as per their need and urgency. As per the scheme guidelines, the Central Government provides nonrecurring expenses for setting up these courts with an assistance limited to Rs.18 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya as a one-time measure, as well as recurring expenses of these courts subject to a ceiling of Rs.3.2 lakhs per court per annum during the first three years of operation. After the year 2021, the Central assistance funds for Gram Nyayalayas is provided on reimbursement mode.

So far as the State of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it had notified 42 Gram Nyayalayas for which a sum of Rs.4.36 crore was provided to the State in the financial year 2020-21. However, no Gram Nyayalaya has been made functional by the state so far. The Department of Justice has been holding review meetings with the State Governments and High Courts including the State of Andhra Pradesh for taking urgent action for operationalization of the already notified Gram Nyayalayas. There is at present no proposal with the Central Government for establishment of additional Gram Nyayalayas in Andhra Pradesh.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2258**

*Appointment*

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15.12.2023**

*DS (Appnt.)*

**All India Judicial Service**

*✓* **2258. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:  
SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR:**

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

- (a) whether there has been a long pending demand to create an All India Judicial Service in the country and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to implement the All India Judicial Service for appointing the Judges in the District Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court by reforming the procedure of appointment in higher Judiciary ensuring equal opportunity and representation to marginalized sections of the society and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a provision of reservation in Higher Judicial Services and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, whether the Government proposes to bring reservation in Judiciary in future and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of posts lying vacant at various levels in the judiciary?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a) to (e): Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of All India Judicial Service (AIJS), which ~~does~~ not include any post inferior to that of



a District Judge. The constitutional provision enables creation of the AIJS at District Judge level only. The All India Judicial Services do not envisage to include direct appointment of Judges to the High Courts & Supreme Court of India. In Government's view, a properly framed All India Judicial Service is important to strengthen overall justice delivery system. This will give an opportunity for induction of suitably qualified fresh legal talent selected through a proper all-India merit selection system as well as address the issue of social inclusion by enabling suitable representation to marginalized and deprived sections of society.

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

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

The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges/judicial officers at all level was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference, which was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> and 04<sup>th</sup> 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 05<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

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. In case of reservation of seats in the District Courts/Subordinate judiciary, the Central Government has no role under the Constitution of India.

As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court, frames the rules and regulations regarding the issues of reservation and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Higher Judicial Services. Thus, the selection and appointment of judicial officers in the District and 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 does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

As on 11.12.2023, the Supreme Court is functioning at its full strength and there is no vacancy. Against the sanctioned strength of 1114 judges in High Courts, there are 790 judge working, leaving vacancy of 324 post of judges.

As on 11.12.2023, against the sanctioned strength of 25439, there are 5443 vacancies of judicial officers in the District and Subordinate Judiciary.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2281  
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2023

LAP

LEGAL AID TO VICTIMS OF TRIPLE TALAQ

JS(WRG)

✓ 2281. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

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

- (a) the details on the trend in the number of triple talaq cases during the past 20 years;
- (b) whether there has been an increase or decrease in these cases, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons attributed to any observed changes in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide support services and legal aid to the victims of triple talaq;
- (d) if so, the number of individuals who have utilized these services during the said period; and
- (e) the measures being taken to improve their accessibility and effectiveness?

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) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) collects and publishes Statistics on Crime in India. NCRB has published Crime in India report for the year 2022 on 01.12.2023 which is available on their website. No separate data regarding the triple talaq cases has been published by NCRB.
- (c) and (d) Under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, all women including victims of triple talaq are entitled to get free legal services. No separate data regarding legal aid to the victims of Triple Talaq is maintained.

However, details of women benefitted through legal services during last five financial years viz. 2019-20 to 2023-24 (upto October, 2023) are as under:

| 2019-20  | 2020-21 | 2021-22  | 2022-23  | 2023-24<br>(upto October, 23) |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|
| 2,69,787 | 95,654  | 5,41,208 | 2,45,587 | 1,57,725                      |

In addition, Ministry of Women and Child Development implements the umbrella Scheme of 'Mission Shakti' under which there is a component of One Stop Centers (OSC's). The OSC's provide integrated service under one roof such as temporary shelter, medical aid, legal aid and counselling, psycho-social counselling and police facilitation to the distressed and needy women including women victims of Triple Talaq. As on date, 753 OSC's are functional in the country.

- (e) The Legal Services Authorities have taken the following steps to improve the access to free legal services:
- (i) NALSA has created a web portal to file an application for getting legal assistance wherein application can be filed in ten different languages i.e. English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, Bengali, Odia and Kannada.
  - (ii) NALSA has launched a Legal Services Mobile App for Android and IOS version which facilitate seeking legal assistance, legal advice, tracking of application, applying for victim compensation, etc.
  - (iii) Legal Services Authorities are also providing legal advice through NALSA's National Toll Free Helpline Number 15100 through IVRS Technology.

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