

2024

**RAJYA SABHA
REPLIES**

**Interim Budget Session, 2024,
[263rd Session of Rajya Sabha]
[31st January, 2024 to 10th
February, 2024]**

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 66

Appointment

ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

Delay in notification of collegium recommendations

DS (Appnt.)

✓66. SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a) whether request of the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment of judges has been withheld without any justification even after repeated resolution passed to appoint certain names;
- (b) whether the recommendation for subsequent appointment has been approved but some names especially in respect of Madras High Court and in various other High Courts are withheld without any justification, if so, the reasons for not approving the names and the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of recommendations of collegium that are pending for more than six months and reasons for delay in approval?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

: 2 :

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *66 due for answer on 08.02.2024 regarding "Delay in notification of collegium recommendations"

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

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

As on 05.02.2024, there are only 09 proposals recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment, which are under consideration in the Government for more than six months. 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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No.75
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

e-Court

JS(PPP)

SETTING UP OF E-FILING CENTERS

✓75. Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there was an order passed by the Supreme Court regarding the establishment of e-filing centres in the country and the Allahabad High Court has stayed that order;
- (b) whether it tantamounts to violation of the order of the Supreme Court; and
- (c) whether Government will facilitate making e-filing centres operational in the State of Uttar Pradesh by cancelling the order of the Allahabad High Court, if so, by when?

ANSWER

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

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 75 for reply on 08.02.2024 regarding setting up of e-filing centers asked by Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee.

(a) & (b): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT (Information and Communication Technology) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented by Department of Justice in association with eCommittee Supreme Court of India. Phase I of the eCourts project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023.

Under eCourts Project Phase II, an e-Filing system has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers. This allows the lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7 which makes physical coming to the court unnecessary for filing of papers.

There is no judicial order passed by the Supreme Court regarding the establishment of e-Filing centres in the country. However, the Supreme Court eCommittee which is implementing the eCourts Project in partnership with Department of Justice (DoJ), Government of India, has prepared model rules on e-Filing in 2021 and circulated to all the High Courts for easier adoption of e-Filing. Adoption of these rules by the High Courts is an administrative matter as provided under Article 225 and 227 of the Constitution of India, which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the concerned High Court.

As on 31.12.2023, these rules have been adopted by 21 High Courts. Allahabad High Court has not adopted these rules, as separate instructions for electronic filing (e-Filing) have already been notified by Allahabad High Court in 2017 itself. In person e-Filing facilities have been enabled for filing the cases in Allahabad High Court from anywhere and remote filing of cases is also permissible. E-filing in District Courts has also been enabled through e-Filing version 3.0 of NIC software since August 2023.

To bridge the digital divide, e-Filing centres or e-Sewa Kendras have been established in High Courts and District Courts across the country. These centers are located in the court complexes to 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.

Under eCourts Project Phase II, as on 31.12.2023, a total of 880 e-Sewa Kendras has been established nationwide, underscoring the positive impact of this initiative in providing valuable services to legal practitioners and litigants. 74 e-Sewa Kendras has been established in

all the District Courts of Uttar Pradesh. Under Phase III of eCourts Mission Mode Project, for bridging the digital divide, provision of saturation of all court complexes with 4400 e-Sewa Kendras has been made. For Uttar Pradesh, provision of 353 e-Sewa Kendras has been made with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 30.99 crore.

Thus, no order of Hon'ble Supreme Court has been violated in this regard.

(c): In view of (a) & (b) above, does not arise.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 683
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

JR

JSL(NM)JR

Shortage of court rooms in lower courts

✓683. DR. C.M. RAMESH:

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

- (a) whether lower courts in different States of the country are facing shortage of courtrooms and infrastructure facilities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government in this regard during the last two years, 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): 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 them in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States.

The scheme initially covered the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of district and subordinate judiciary. From the year 2021, three new components viz., of digital computer room, lawyers' halls and toilet complexes were additionally brought under the ambit of the above CSS.

A sum of Rs. 10568.43 crore has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 1541.34 crores (14.58%) have been released during the last two years. In the financial years

2021-22 and 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 684.14 crore and Rs. 857.20 crores were released respectively. This outlay led to construction of 420 court halls in the year 2021-22 and corresponding residential units constructed during the period were 225. Similarly, 414 court halls and 374 residential units got constructed during the financial year 2022-23. The details of the funds allocated and released to States/UTs during the last two years is as under:

Financial Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Expenditure	(In Rs. Crore)
				Percentage expenditure
2021-22	776.00	770.44	684.14	88.79%
2022-23	848.00	848.00	848.00	100 %

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. There are 21,568 number of court halls and 18,948 number of residential units available in the district and subordinate courts against the working strength of 20,014 Judges/Judicial Officers as on 31.01.2024. Moreover, as per Nyaya Vikas Portal, 3,075 Court Halls and 2,076 residential units are under construction.

The Government is sensitive to the needs of building better infrastructure for the judicial officers of the lower and subordinate judiciary. For better monitoring of the funds released under the CSS and for efficient cash management, the Ministry of Finance introduced a revised Public Financial Management System (PFMS). Owing to non-fulfillment of number of procedural and technical requirements, the states/UTs were initially facing problems in on-boarding the PFMS. Due to vigorous efforts made by the Department by way of organizing trainings (both online and offline) for the state officials on the technicalities of PFMS, all the states/UTs are now fully on-boarded on PFMS and making expenditure only through PFMS portal. Apart from this, through regular review meetings via video conferencing, the states/UTs are being sensitized, so that all the States comply with PFMS procedures and funds get released and utilized in a timely manner.

The scheme guidelines have enough flexibility for the states to meet the local needs and requirements taking into account the peculiarities of topography, weather, climate and meet specific local demands like Lawyer' Building and Consultation Lounge, Litigants Waiting Hall, Library Complex etc., apart from customizing the building for ICT enablement and acoustics friendly by way of the provision of flexi funds under the scheme.

Effective monitoring mechanisms are in place for time bound and sustainable infrastructure developments in the States/UTs. There is a High Court Level Monitoring Committee in the State, chaired by the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts and this also has other stake holders such as, Registrar General of the High Court, portfolio judges, Law/Home Secretary of the State and Secretary of the State PWD as members. This committee meets every six months to review the physical and financial progress of the projects running under the scheme.

Apart from this, there is a Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice, chaired by Secretary (Department of Justice, Government of India) to review the progress of the projects and iron out any issues that hinder the smooth implementation of the scheme.

Besides, there are regular visits by the officials of the Department of Justice to the States for getting firsthand information on the ground. Regular meetings through video conferencing to sort out the problems of the States/UTs also takes place.

The States/UTs are required to geo-tag the on-going projects in real time and reflect it on the Nyaya Vikas Portal, which is an online monitoring system developed with the technical assistance of National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO for collection of data on progress and time bound completion of judicial infrastructure projects.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 739
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

ADR Cell (LA)

Disposal of older cases

✓ 739. Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

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

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

ANSWER

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

Further, section 6 of the Mediation Act, 2023 enables the court to refer for mediation, if deemed appropriate, any dispute relating to compoundable offences including the matrimonial offences which are compoundable and pending between the parties. However, the outcome of such mediation shall be further considered by the court in accordance with the law for the time being in force. Therefore, the provisions of the

Mediation Act, 2023 enable and recognise settlement of compoundable offences in terms of the provisions contained therein.

The disposal of pending cases in courts including those which are compoundable lies within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. The Government has no direct role in the disposal of cases in courts. The Government, however, has been making constant endeavors to provide an ecosystem for faster and efficient disposal of cases by the judiciary.

(c): It has been constant effort of the Government to reduce litigation in courts. A number of efforts over the years, have been initiated in the country with the vision to faster dispensation of Justice.

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.

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 for aiding justice delivery. Since the inception of the said Scheme in the year 1993-94, Rs. 10035 crores have been released under the Scheme. 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.

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 has been carried out with proper WAN connectivity, video conferencing facility, setting up of e-Sewa Kendras 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 crores. 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.

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. Further, 965 new Judges were appointed and 695 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. The sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1114 presently. Over a period of time, the strength of district & subordinate judiciary has also seen a marked increase. The district judiciary's sanctioned strength of judicial officers has 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.

In pursuance of Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts for reduction of pendency of

cases and to clear cases pending for more than five years. Similar Committees are also functional at district courts.

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 has also been set up. As of 31.10.2023, a total of 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs.

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

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.

(d): ADR mechanisms including arbitration and mediation are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes. The use of ADR mechanisms is also expected to reduce the burden on the judiciary and thereby enable timely justice dispensation to citizens of the country.

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

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

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

The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, was enacted to provide for the establishment and incorporation of India International Arbitration Centre (Centre) for the purpose of creating an independent, autonomous and world class body for facilitating institutional arbitration and to declare the Centre to be an institution of national importance. The Centre, which has since been established is equipped with necessary infrastructure and professional management offering quality legal and administrative expertise and empaneling reputed arbitrators for conduct of arbitration under its aegis. The Centre shall be providing world class arbitration related services at its facilities in a cost effective manner for both domestic and international commercial disputes including requisite administrative support, in the smooth conduct of arbitral proceedings.

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

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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-740
ANSWERED ON – 08/02/2024

J-II

JS(PPP)

PENDENCY OF CASES IN POCSO COURTS

✓740. SHRI A.D. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that over 2.43 lakh POCSO cases are pending trial in the Fast Track Special Courts in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that over 1000 POCSO courts in the country are disposing of only 28 cases per year per court; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor, and the efforts which are being made to accelerate the disposal of POCSO cases?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts since October, 2019 for expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases pertaining to Rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in a time-bound manner. As on 31.12.2023, 411 e-POCSO Courts are functional across the country. These e-POCSO courts have disposed of more than 1,38,000 cases since the inception of the Scheme while more than 1,34,945 cases remain pending as on 31.12.2023. As per the data submitted by the High Courts, on an average, approximately 125 POCSO Act cases have been disposed of by each FTSC during the year, 2023.

The disposal of pending cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary wherein the Government has no direct role as such. There are several reasons that lead to delay in disposal of cases in courts which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved,

nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. Moreover, the Criminal Justice System functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Though for e-POCSO Courts, the FTSC Scheme is instrumental in providing dedicated resources and personnel to help expedite and streamline the judicial process for POCSO-related cases, however, delays in these cases often arise due to various factors, including a shortage of public prosecutors, unavailability of witnesses, and the absence of crucial experts such as interpreters, translators, deposition writers etc.

For efficient implementation of the scheme, the Department of Justice is conducting regular review meetings through Video Conferencing with the State Governments and High Court officials. Communications have been sent at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice to the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the States/UTs and Hon'ble Chief Justices of High Courts to ensure adherence to timelines for disposal of cases as prescribed by the amendment to CrPC in 2018. To ensure effective monitoring and data collection, a dashboard has been created to gather detailed information and track the performance of the FTSCs. The performance of FTSCs is also a permanent item on the agenda of Inter-State Zonal Council Meetings.

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

Rajya Sabha

Unstarred Question No. 741

ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

Cost of litigation

Judl. Sec. (L.A.)
✓ 741. Dr. V. Sivadasan:

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

- payment made by Government to the Supreme Court/High Court lawyers and counsels other than State appointed law officers in last five years;
- the total cost of litigation incurred by the Union Government in the High Courts and Supreme Court cases; and
- the criteria for the selection of advocates or counsel who appear for Government?

ANSWER

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

Part (a) and (b): The information regarding expenditure on litigation is tabulated below:

S. No.	Financial Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs.)
1	2018-19	590732191/-
2	2019-20	730717250/-
3	2020-21	622173605/-
4	2021-22	586892043/-
5	2022-23	701111922/-

(c) The criteria for the selection of advocates or counsel who appear for Union of India are advocate registered under the provisions of Advocates Act, 1961.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-742
ANSWERED ON - 08/02/2024

e-Court

JS (PPP)

✓ COURTS WITH FULLY OPERATIONAL VIDEO CONFERENCING FACILITIES

742. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) the State-wise details of total number of courts with fully operational video conferencing facilities;
- (b) whether it is a fact that due to non-payment of telephone bills by district courts, internet facilities have been disconnected thereby hampering the video conferencing facilities; and
- (c) if so, the State-wise details of district courts having outstanding telephone bills?

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 for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented by Department of Justice in association with eCommittee Supreme Court of India. Phase I of the eCourts project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023.

In eCourts Mission Mode Project, during Phase I of the project video conferencing facility has been operationalised between 488 court complexes & 342 corresponding jails. In eCourts Phase II of the project, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes

including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms (High Court-Wise details attached at Annexure I). Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available (High Court-Wise details of VC Cabins attached at Annexure II). Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been acquired. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

(b): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase II, connectivity has been provided by BSNL to court complexes spread across the country using various technologies like OFC (Optical Fibre Cable), RF (Radio Frequency), VSAT (Very Small aperture Terminal). So far, 2977 sites have been commissioned out of 2992 sites with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed (completing 99.4% sites). As part of the eCourts Phase II, a tripartite agreement was signed between Department of Justice, High Courts and respective State Governments which specified the role and responsibilities of each. According to this agreement, payment of charges for connectivity and maintenance post 2 years from the time of installation will be borne by the respective State Governments. However, BSNL has reported that no connection has been disconnected on account of non-payment of bills.

(c): In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 742 for 08/02/2024 regarding Courts with fully operational Video Conferencing Facilities. High Court wise details of VC equipment for Court Rooms is as follows:

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

*Total estimated cost for VC equipment for 14443 court rooms is Rs.28.886 crore

Annexure II

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 742 for 08/02/2024 regarding Courts with fully operational Video Conferencing Facilities. High Court wise details for VC Cabins in Court Complexes is as follows:

S. No.	High Court	Number of VC Cabins
A	B	C
1	Allahabad	438
2	Andhra Pradesh	57
3	Bombay	271
4	Calcutta	128
5	Chhattisgarh	58
6	Delhi	103
7	Gauhati	77
8	Gujarat	94
9	Himachal Pradesh	18
10	Jammu & Kashmir	34
11	Jharkhand	78
12	Karnataka	128
13	Kerala	52
14	Madhya Pradesh	169
15	Madras	140
16	Manipur	12
17	Meghalaya	11
18	Orissa	84
19	Patna	171
20	Punjab & Haryana	135
21	Rajasthan	143
22	Sikkim	11
23	Telangana	52
24	Tripura	17
25	Uttarakhand	25
Total		2506

*Total estimated cost for equipment for VC cabin is Rs.5.012 crore

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 743**

ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

TRANSLATION OF STATUTES /RULES IN SCHEDULED LANGUAGES

OL Wing (LD)
✓743. Shri S Niranjana Reddy:

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

- (a) whether the work of translation of Statutes/Rules in Scheduled Languages has been slowed;
- (b) if so, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any steps to expedite the process of the translation works of authoritative texts of the Constitution of India and Central Acts in all the regional languages mentioned under the Eight Schedule;
- (d) if so, details thereof; and
- (e) 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 (b): The Official Languages Wing (OLW) and its Regional Languages Unit (RLU) of the Legislative Department are undertaking all efforts to bring out translation and updating of the Constitution of India and all the Central Acts in all the languages as mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The work of translation of Central Acts is done by the RLU with the active co-operation of the State Governments. Therefore, the output of the RLU is dependent on co-operation in translation work extended by the State Governments.
- (c) to (e): The translation, updation, printing and publication of the Constitution of India in Bodo, Santhali, Maithili, Kashmiri, Odia, Sindhi, Assamese, Nepali, Konkani, Gujarati and Sanskrit languages is being done through Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-744
ANSWERED ON- 08/02/2024

e-Court

JS(PPP)

e-SEVA KENDRAS IN COURTS

✓744. SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

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 in Karnataka so far; and
- (e) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilised for setting up of e-Seva Kendras in the State of Karnataka 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 are located in the court complexes and have been established 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 880 eSewa Kendras have been established nationwide as on 31.12.2023, 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.

The following services are provided at eSewa Kendras for the 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 eSewa Kendras thus facilitates virtual hearings, scanning services, and access to eCourts facilities, thereby enhancing overall efficiency and contributing to time saving, eliminating extensive travel, and reducing costs.

(d) & (e): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase II, Rs.21,36,000/- was released by Government of India to High Court of Karnataka for setting up 4 eSewa Kendras in Karnataka (3 in Karnataka High Court & its benches and 1 in District Court of Karnataka) which are functional. However, under Phase III of eCourts Mission Mode Project, provision of 234 eSewa Kendras at a budgetary outlay of Rs. 20.54 crore have been made for Karnataka.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 744 for 08/02/2024 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 eSewa Kendras in District Courts
1	Allahabad	74
2	Andhra Pradesh	0
3	Bombay	43
4	Calcutta	7
5	Chhattisgarh	23
6	Delhi	13
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	24
8	Gauhati - Assam	78
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	8
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	11
11	Gujarat	1
12	Himachal Pradesh	11
13	Jammu and Kashmir	9
14	Jharkhand	24
15	Karnataka	24
16	Kerala	162
17	Madhya Pradesh	28
18	Madras	21
19	Manipur	15
20	Meghalaya	14
21	Orissa	109
22	Patna	37
23	Punjab and Haryana	108
24	Rajasthan	1
25	Sikkim	9
26	Telangana	0
27	Tripura	16
28	Uttarakhand	10
	Total	880

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 745
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

JR

JS(NMJK)

SETTING UP OF GRAM NYAYALAYAS

✓45. SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

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

- (a) State and district-wise details of Gram Nyayalayas;
- (b) whether setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in every Panchayat under Gram Nyayalayas Act is only persuasive in nature and not mandatory;
- (c) whether in view of part (b) above, States are not serious in setting up Gram Nyayalayas in Panchayats;
- (d) the reasons behind States not coming forward in spite of the Central Government releasing funds for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas and also recurring expenditure; and
- (e) whether Government will consider amending Section 3(1) of Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 and make it mandatory for all States to set up Gram Nyayalayas in the country?

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): Section 3(1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 mandates that 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. However, the Act does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. The list of Notified and operational Gram Nyayalayas is as under:

S. No.	State	Gram Nyayalayas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas Functional
1.	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
2.	Rajasthan	45	45
3.	Karnataka	2	2
4.	Odisha	24	19
5.	Maharashtra	36	26
6.	Jharkhand	6	1
7.	Goa	2	0
8.	Punjab	9	2
9.	Haryana	2	2
10.	Uttar Pradesh	113	74
11.	Kerala	30	30
12.	Andhra Pradesh	42	0
13.	Telangana	55	0
14.	Jammu Kashmir	20	0
15.	Ladakh	2	0
Total		477	290

The District/Taluka-wise list of Operational / Functional Gram Nyayalayas is *Annexed*.

The main reasons for lack of interest by the State Governments in coming forward for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas are non-filling of the post of Nyayadhikari in many States, non-availability of public prosecutors, notaries and general shortage of First-Class Judicial Magistrates, limited pecuniary value for Gram Nyayalaya, insufficient staff, inadequate financial backing from states, reluctance from legal and state authorities, and lack of community awareness. Besides, the issue of overlapping jurisdiction with regular courts is another reason for slow take off in respect of Gram Nyayalayas in some states. Moreover, many states have their own parallel systems of village courts functioning at panchayat level. The issues affecting the operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas were discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 7th April, 2013. It was decided in the conference that the State Government and High Courts should decide the question of setting up Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account the local issues and situations.

(e): At present, there is no proposal with the Government of India for amending section 3(1) of Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO. 745 FOR ANSWER ON 08.02.2024**

Operational / Functional Gram Nyayalyas District/ Taluka Wise

Sl. No.	State	District	Location/Taluk
	Uttar Pradesh (74)		
1	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	Bah
2		Agra	Etmadpur
3		Agra	Kirawali
4		Aligarh	Ghabana
5		Allahabad	Meja
6		Allahabad	Phoolpur
7		Amroha	Dhanaura
8		Bagpat	Baraut
9		Bahraich	Nanpara
10		Bahraich	Mahsi
11		Ballia	Sikandarpur
12		Balrampur	Tulsipur
13		Banda	Naraini
14		Barabanki	Ram Nagar
15		Barabanki	Sirauli Gauspur
16		Barabanki	Fatehpur
17		Badaun	Bilsi
18		Bulandshahr	Siyana
19		Bulandshahr	Dilbai
20		Chitrakoot	Manikpur
21		Etah	Aliganj
22		Etawah	Saifai
23		Etawah	Chakranagar
24		Fatehpur	Bindki
25		Faizabad	Radauli
26		Faizabad	Bikapur
27		Faizabad	Milkipur
28		Farukhabad	Amritpur
29		Firozabad	Jasrana
30		Firozabad	Tundla
31		Ghaziabad	Modinagar
32		Ghazipur	Jakhania
33		Gorakhpur	Chauri Chaura
34		Gorakhpur	Campierganj
35		Gorakhpur	Gola
36		Gonda	Mankapur
37		Gonda	Tarabganj
38		Hamirpur	Sarila
39		Hardoi	Sandila

40		Panchsheel Nagar district (Hapur)	Dhaulana
41		Jalaun at Orai	Madhogarh
42		Jaunpur	Shahganj
43		Jaunpur	Kerakat
44		Jaunpur	Machhlishahr
45		Jaunpur	Badlapur
46		Kannauj	Tirwa
47		Kanpur Dehat	Bilhaur
48		Kasganj	Patiyali
49		Lalitpur	Talbehat
50		Lakhimpur Kheri	Gola
51		Maharajganj	Nautanwan
52		Maharajganj	Nichlual
53		Mainpuri	Karhal
54		Mathura	Mant
55		Mau	Madhuban
56		Mirzapur	Marihaan
57		Mirzapur	Lalganj
58		Muzaffer Nagar	Khatauli
59		Pilibhit	Pooranpur
60		Pratapgarh	Patti
61		Raebareli	Lalganj
62		Raebareli	Salon
63		Rampur	Bilaspur
64		Rampur	Shahabad
65		Rampur	Swar
66		Saharanpur	Behat
67		Shravasti at Bhinga	Ikauna
68		Sitapur	Laharpur
69		Sitapur	Sidhauri
70		Sonabhadra	Ghorawal
71		Unnao	Hasangaj
72		Varanasi	Pindara
73		Moradabad	Bilari
74		Sant Kabir Nagar	Meinhdawal
	Punjab (2)		
75	Punjab	Rupnagar	Nangal
76		Moga	Kot Isse Khan
	Kerala (30)		
77	Kerala	Kollam	Chadaya-mangalam
78		Idukki	Nedumkandom
79		Thiruvananthapuram	Parassala
80		Idukki	Azhutha
81		Wayanad	Kalpetta
82		Kannur	Iritty
83		Kozhikkode	Koduvally

84		Kottayam	Pampady
85		Ernakulam	Vadavucode
86		Malappuram	Ponnani
87		Kasaragod	Parappa
88		Kannur	Panoor
89		Kottayam	Vaikom
90		Malappuram	Perinthalmanna
91		Palakkad	Sreekrishnapuram
92		Trissur	Pazhayannur
93		Palakkad	Kuzhalmannam
94		Pathanamthitta	Ranni
95		Ambalappuzha	Ambalappuzha
96		Kollam	Chittumala
97		Ambalappuzha	Kanjikuzhy
98		Idukki	Kattappana
99		Kollam	Chavara
100		Thiruvananthapuram	Vellandu
101		Ernakulam	Paravur
102		Pathanamthitta	Pandalam
103		Kozhikkode	Kunnummal
104		Kannur	Irikkur
105		Palakkad	Malampuzha
106		Trissur	Eriyad
	Maharashtra (26)		
107	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar	Parner (Ralegaon-Siddhi)
108		Dhule	Sakri (Nijampur)
109		Gondia	Goregaon
110		Gondia	Sakekasa
111		Gadchiroli	Korchi
112		Gadchiroli	Mulchera
113		Latur	Jalkot
114		Latur	Shirur Anantpal
115		Nanded	Tamsa, Tal. Hadgaon
116		Nasik	Deola
117		Nasik	Trimbakeshwar
118		Nasik	Harsul
119		Pune	Uralikanchan (Haveli)
120		Pune	Male (Tal Mulshi)
121		Pune	Velhe
122		Raigarh-Alibagh	Birwadi (Mahad),
123		Raigad-alibag	Tala
124		Raigad-Alibag	Poladpur
125		Ratnagiri	Pali
126		Sangli	Sakh. Tal Jat
127	Sindhudurg	Vaibhavwadi	
128	Thane	Jawahar	

129		Wardha	Sewagram
130		Wardha	Alipur
131		Wardha	Deoli
132		Kolhapur	Gaganbawada
	Rajasthan (45)		
133		Ajmer	Pisangan
134		Alwar	Tijara
135		Alwar	Nimrana
136		Balotra	Barmer
137		Baran	Atru
138		Banswara	Talwara
139		Banswara	Gaddi
140		Bharatpur	Roopwas
141		Bharatpur	Kama
142		Bhilwara	Mandal
143		Bhilwara	Suwana
144		Bikaner	Bikaner
145		Bikaner	Kolayata
146		Bundi	Talera
147		Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh
148		Chittorgarh	Bhadesar
149		Churu	Rajgarh
150		Dausa	Dausa
151		Dholpur	Basedi
152		Dungarpur	Aspur
153		Dungarpur	Bichhiwara
154	Rajasthan	Ganganagar	Sriganganagar
155		Ganganagar	Anoopgarh
156		Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh
157		Jaipur	Sambhar
158		Jaipur	Bassi
159		Jalore	Sanchore
160		Jaisalmer	Sankra
161		Jhalawar	Jhalrapatan
162		Jhunjhunu	Nawalgarh
163		Jodhpur	Mandore
164		Jodhpur	Osian
165		Karauli	Hindaun
166		Kota	Kherabad
167		Kota	Itawa
168		Merta	Jayal
169		Pali	Raipur
170		Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh
171		Rajsamand	Railmagra
172		S.Madhupur	Gangapurcity
173		Sikar	Kudli
174		Sirohi	Pindwara
175		Tonk	Deoli

176		Udaipur	Udaipur
177		Udaipur	Kherwara
Odisha (19)			
178	Odisha	Puri	Puri Sadar
179		Kalahandi	Junagarh
180		Keonjhar	Ghasipura
181		Kendrapara	Rajnagar
182		Koraput	Similiguda
183		Rayagada	Kolnara
184		Jharsuguda	Lakhanpur
185		Ganjam	Sanakhemundi
186		Nayagarh	Odagaon
187		Bargarh	Atabira
188		Khurda	Tangi
189		Nuapada	Komna
190		Nabarangpur	Raighar
191		Balasore	Bhograi
192		Sonepur	Dunguripali
193		Gajapati	Kashinagar
194		Jagatsinghpur	Raghunathpur
195		Jajpur	Sukinda
196		Puri	Brahmagiri
Jharkhand (1)			
197	Jharkhand	Koderma	Jhumri Talaiya
Karnataka (2)			
198	Karnataka	Kolar	Gowribidaur
199		Chikkaballapur	Chikkaballapur
Madhya Pradesh (89)			
200	Madhya Pradesh	Alirajpur	Jobat
201		Anuppur	Kotma
202		Ashoknagar	Chanderi
203		Barwani	Sendhwa
204		Betul	Multai
205		Bhind	Lahar
206		Bhopal	Berasiya
207		Chhatarpur	Bijawar
208		Chhindwara	Pandhurna
209		Damoh	Hatta
210		Datia	Seodha
211		Dewas	Kannod
212		Dhar	Manawar
213		Guna	Chachoda
214		Gwalior	Dabra
215		Hoshangabad	Sohagpur
216		Jabalpur	Patan
217		Jhabua	Thandla

218	Mandsaur	Garoth
219	Morena	Ambah
220	Narsinghpur	Gadarwara
221	Neemuch	Manasa
222	Panna	Pawai
223	Raisen	Bareli
224	Rajgarh	Biora
225	Ratlam	Jaora
226	Rewa	Sirmour
227	Sagar	Khurai
228	Satna	Nagod
229	Sehore	Budni
230	Seoni	Lakhnadon
231	Shahdol	Jisinghnagar
232	Shajapur	Agar
233	Shivpuri	Karera
234	Sidhi	Majholi
235	Balaghat	Balaghat
236	Tikamgarh	Niwari
237	Ujjain	Mahidpur
238	Vidisha	Sironj
239	Mandleshwar	Bhikangaon
240	Alirajpur	Alirajpur
241	Anuppur	Anuppur
242	Ashoknagar	Ashoknagar
243	Barwani	Barwani
244	Barwani	Barwani
245	Betul	Betul
246	Bhind	Bhind
247	Bhopal	Bhopal
248	Burhanpur	Burhanpur
249	Chhatarpur	Chhatarpur
250	Chhindwara	Chhindwara
251	Damoh	Damoh
252	Datia	Datia
253	Dewas	Dewas
254	Dhar	Dhar
255	Dindori	Dindori
256	Khandwa	Khandwa
257	Guna	Guna
258	Gwalior	Gwalior
259	Harda	Harda
260	Narmadapuram	Narmadapuram
261	Indore	Indore
262	Jabalpur	Jabalpur
263	Jhabua	Jhabua

264		Katni	Katni
265		Mandla	Mandla
266		Mandsaur	Mandsaur
267		Morena	Morena
268		Narsinghpur	Narsinghpur
269		Neemuch	Neemuch
270		Panna	Panna
271		Raisen	Raisen
272		Rajgarh	Rajgarh
273		Ratlam	Ratlam
274		Rewa	Rewa
275		Sagar	Sagar
276		Satna	Satna
277		Sehore	Sehore
278		Seoni	Seoni
279		Shahdol	Shahdol
280		Shajapur	Shajapur
281		Sheopur	Sheopur
282		Shivpuri	Shivpuri
283		Sidhi	Sidhi
284		Tikamgarh	Tikamgarh
285		Ujjain	Ujjain
286		Umaria	Umaria
287		Vidisha	Vidisha
288		Mandleshwar	Mandleshwar
	Haryana (2)		
289	Haryana	Kurukshetra	Shahabad
290		Sirsa	Rania

Source: - MIS portal of Department of Justice.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-746
ANSWERED ON – 08/02/2024

J-II

FAST TRACK COURTS IN THE STATE OF GOA

JS(PPP)
✓746. SHRI SADANAND SHET TANAWDE:

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

The steps taken by Government to implement the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme in the State of Goa?

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)

Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTC) lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission (FC) had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The FC had further urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. As per information made available by High Courts, 06 FTCs are functional in the in the State of Goa as on 31.12.2023.

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

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

As per the data submitted by High Courts, 757 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs which have disposed more than 2,14,000 cases as on December 31, 2023. In the State of Goa, 1 FTSC is functional since March 2022, which has disposed of more than 40 cases.

For efficient implementation of the scheme, the Department of Justice is conducting regular review meetings through Video Conferencing with the State Governments and High Court officials. Communications have been sent at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice to the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the States/UTs and Hon'ble Chief Justices of High Courts to ensure adherence to timelines as prescribed by the amendment to CrPC in 2018. To ensure effective monitoring and data collection, a Dashboard has been created to gather detailed information and track the performance of the FTSCs. The performance of FTSCs is also a permanent item on the agenda of Inter-State Zonal Council Meetings.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-747
ANSWERED ON - 08/02/2024

e-Court

JS (PPP)

e-COURT MISSION MODE PROJECT

✓747. Dr. Sasmit Patra:

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

- (a) the status of implementation of the e-Court Mission Mode Project;
- (b) the number of operational e-courts in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the number of operational e-courts in Odisha, district -wise; and
- (d) the details of funds released and utilized under the project, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented by Department of Justice in association with eCommittee Supreme Court of India. Phase I of the eCourts project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023. The Government has taken the following e-initiatives 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 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information

- relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 24.79 crore cases and more than 24.53 crore orders / judgments (as on 02.01.2024).
- 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. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.
 - v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (4,74,371 SMS sent daily), Email (6,06,818 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 2.15 downloads till 31.12.2023) and JustIS app for judges ((19,461 downloads till 31.12.2023).
 - vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,17,99,976 cases while the High Courts heard 82,76,595 cases (totalling 3 crore) till 31.12.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 6,24,427 hearings through video conferencing till 04.01.2024. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
 - vii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
 - viii. 25 Virtual Courts in 20 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 4.24 crore cases have been handled by 25 virtual courts and in more than 47 lakhs (47,51,482) cases online fine of more than Rs. 492.79 crore has been realized till 31.12.2023.

- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 21 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.12.2023.
- x. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. 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 31.12.2023.
- xi. To bridge the digital divide, 880 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 e-Courts 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 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.
- xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiii. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for eCourts Phase-III was approved by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India on 21.10.2022. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) accorded approval to the Phase-III of eCourts Project in its meeting held on 23.02.2023. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 13.09.2023 approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7210 crore. Subsequently, Rs. 225 crore has been released for eCourts Phase III by the Ministry of Finance from the Contingency Fund, out of which Rs. 102.50 crore has been allocated to BSNL and NIC and Rs. 110.24 crore has been sub-allocated to various High Courts for scanning and digitization, e-Sewa Kendras, IT Hardware for existing and newly setup courts, solar power backup etc. eCourts Phase III envisages state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval; paperless courts; video conferencing facilities

to be expanded to also cover district hospitals; Live Streaming of court proceedings and expansion of the scope of Virtual Courts. 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 may thus prove to be a game changer in ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country.

(b): The High Court wise details of operational eCourts in the country has been attached at Annexure-I.

(c): As per National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) data, district-wise number of courts covered under eCourts project in the State of Odisha as on 04.02.2024 is enclosed at Annexure II.

(d): The funds released/utilized under eCourts Project is attached under Annexure III.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 747 for 08/02/2024 regarding e-Court Mission Mode Project. The details of operational eCourts in the country are as under:

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

Annexure II

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 747 for 08/02/2024 regarding e-Court Mission Mode Project. As per data available on NJDG, the district-wise details of courts sharing data on NJDG in the State of Odisha covered under eCourts project as on 04.02.2024 are as below:

Sr No.	District Name	Total Courts
1	Anugol	27
2	Balangir	27
3	Balasore	31
4	Bargarh	18
5	Bhadrak	19
6	Boudh	12
7	Cuttack	55
8	Deogarh	9
9	Dhenkanal	19
10	Gajapati	10
11	Ganjam	52
12	Jagatsinghpur	16
13	Jaipur	18
14	Jharsuguda	17
15	Kalahandi	21
16	Kandhamal	18
17	Kendrapada	14
18	Keonjhar	23
19	Khurda	42
20	Koraput	22
21	Malkangiri	9
22	Mayurbhanj	29
23	Nabarangpur	10
24	Nayagarh	21
25	Nuapada	9
26	Puri	23
27	Rayagada	16
28	Sambalpur	31
29	Sonepur	10
30	Sundargarh	30
	Total	658

Annexure-III

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.747 for 08/02/2024 regarding e-Court Mission Mode project. The details of fund released/utilized under eCourts Phase II (court-wise) are as under:

Sr.No	High Courts	Released (In Rs. Crore)	Utilized (In Rs. Crore)
1	Allahabad	109.48	104.11
2	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana*	72.25	47.61
3	Bombay	125.24	125.20
4	Calcutta	37.09	20.30
5	Chhattisgarh	27.31	27.31
6	Delhi	26.80	26.62
7 (a)	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	12.90	12.78
7 (b)	Gauhati (Assam)	70.77	70.66
7 (c)	Gauhati (Mizoram)	7.87	7.65
7 (d)	Gauhati (Nagaland)	7.99	7.99
8	Gujarat**	72.82	63.26
9	Himachal Pradesh	11.19	10.94
10	Jammu & Kashmir	18.98	18.98
11	Jharkhand	24.25	16.57
12	Karnataka	65.38	65.38
13	Kerala	37.61	37.61
14	Madhya Pradesh	74.05	73.84
15	Madras	70.15	66.25
16	Manipur	9.27	9.22
17	Meghalaya	13.17	12.33
18	Orissa	46.41	45.63
19	Patna	55.82	54.42
20	Punjab & Haryana	54.13	54.13
21	Rajasthan	74.56	74.54
22	Sikkim	7.58	6.85
24	Telangana***	1.79	0.00
25	Tripura	17.86	17.57
26	Uttarakhand	11.65	11.38
Total		1164.37	1089.11

*Funds released erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court, and both the states shared the available funds in the ration of 58:42 respectively.

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

*** Separate funds released to Telangana from FY 2020-21.

Note: - For year the 2022-2023 no funds were released as the total outlay of Phase II amounting to Rs. 1670 crore were exhausted and the Detailed Projected Report for Phase -III was under the process of approval. eCourts Phase-III was approved by the Union Cabinet on 13.09.2023 and Ministry of Finance released Rs. 225 crore from the Contingency Fund of India on 05.10.2023 of which Rs. 102.50 crore has been allocated to BSNL and NIC and Rs. 110.24 crore has been allocated to various High Courts. Recently on 08.01.2024 Rs. 600 crore under RE 2023-24 has been received for further allocation to different High Courts as per the plan approved by the eCommittee of Supreme of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 749
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

JR

JS (INMTR)

✓ **FUNDS ALLOTTED UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES OF THE MINISTRY**

749. SHRI BRIJ LAL:
DR. ANIL AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) whether the funds allotted to the State of Kerala under various schemes of the Ministry during the period 2019-20 to 2023-24 is higher as compared to the recent past;
- (b) if so, the allotment of funds thereof annually from 2019-20 to 2023-24;
- (c) whether the Central Government approved any special projects in the field of Law and Justice for the State of Kerala from 2019 to 2024; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, annually?

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): The Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, has been administering the following schemes under which funds are released to State Governments/High Courts.

1. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary (including sub-scheme of Gram Nyayalayas): The Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for

Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern between Centre and States. The Scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of Court Halls and Residential Units of subordinate judiciary. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 covering 3 new components, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer room, in addition to the Court Halls and Residential Units, with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including central share of Rs. 5307.00 crore and Rs.50 cr for Gram Nyayalayas The status of release of funds under the Scheme to the State of Kerala is as under:

(In Rs. crore)

Scheme \ Period	2014-15 to 2018-19 (5 years)	(2019-20 to 2023-24) 5 Years					
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as on 06/02/2024)	Total 19-20 to 23-24
Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary	55.82	15.82	13.00	50.00	0.00*	0.00*	78.82

*Owing to the fact that the state was having unspent balance of funds with it, no funds under the scheme could be released either in the FY 2022-23 or in the current financial year 2023-24 till date. As on date, the State of Kerala is having unspent balance of funds amounting to around Rs.12 crore. For release of funds to a state, one of the main conditions is utilization of funds released to the states previously.

Thus, as per table above, the funds allocated during 2019-20 to 2023-24 are more as compared to the funds released to the State during the period 2014-15 to 2018-19. As far as funds released under the scheme of Gram Nyayalayas is concerned, the admissible amount of central assistance of Rs. 8.28 crore was released to the state upto 2019-20, for operationalizing 30 Gram Nyayalayas.

2. Scheme of Fast Track Special Courts: In pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Government of India finalized a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in August, 2019 for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious trial and disposal of cases pertaining to rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 in a time-bound manner. As per data submitted by various High Courts, upto December, 2023, 757 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 2,14,000 cases. As per data submitted by Kerala High Court, upto December 2023, 54 FTSCs are functional including 14 e-POCSO courts, contributing to the disposal of over 16,878 cases related to rape and the POCSO Act while 7,401 cases are pending. This status of fund release under the scheme is as under:

(In Rs. crore)

Period Scheme	2014-15 to 2018-19	2019- 20	2020- 21	2021- 22	2022- 23	2023- 24	Total (2019- 20 to 2023- 24)
Scheme of Fast Track Special Courts	Nil** **The scheme came into effect from Oct 2019 only.	8.40	0.00***	0.00***	7.40	21.80	37.60

***For release of funds to a state, one of the main conditions is utilization of funds released to the state previously. Owing to the fact that the state was having unspent

balance of funds with it, no funds under the scheme could be released either in the FY 2020-21 or in the financial year 2021-22.

(c)& (d): No special projects in the field of Law and Justice for the State of Kerala have been approved since 2019.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 750

ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

VOTING FROM HOME

Leg. II Sec. (LD)

✓750. Shri Kapil Sibal:
Dr. Ameer Yajnik:

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

- (a) the State-wise details of the number of voters with disabilities who opted to vote from home in the recently conducted State elections;
- (b) whether it is a fact that some voters with disabilities were denied the facility based on the percentage of disability, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the State-wise number of complaints received by the Election Commission of India from voters with disabilities or caretakers of such individuals for failure to provide voting from home facilities in the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Election Commission of India has informed that the number of voters with disabilities who opted for voting from home in the recently conducted State elections, are as under:-

Sl. No.	State	Number of voters with disabilities opted for voting from Home
1.	Chhattisgarh	1501

2.	Madhya Pradesh	21051
3.	Mizoram	170
4.	Rajasthan	12121
5.	Telangana	9961

(b): The Election Commission has informed that the eligibility criteria for Absentee Voters in the category of Persons with Disability (AVPD) for the purpose of home voting is an elector, who is flagged in the database for electoral roll and having a benchmark disability certificate (not less than 40% of specified disability) as certified by the concerned certifying authority, under section 2 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

(c): The Election Commission has informed that one complaint was received from the State of Karnataka.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 752

Appointment

ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

DS (Appa.)

Vacancies of posts of judges and pendency of cases in High Courts

✓ 752. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that out of the total sanctioned strength of 1108 Judges in various High Courts, around 330 posts of judges in various High Courts are remaining vacant which hinders the justice delivery system across the country, which in turn has led to voluminous pendency of cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has fixed any time-frame to fill all the vacancies in the posts of judges existing across various High Courts so that pendency of cases can be reduced considerably;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) 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 FOR THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): As on 02.02.2024 against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 783 Judges are working and 331 post of Judges are vacant in the various High Courts. Out of the 331 vacancies, 144 proposals received from various High Courts are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. Recommendations against 187 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums.

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

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

Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level. 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 during the year 2023, 110 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts. The strength of the Supreme Court of India was increased from 31 to 34 Judges (including Chief Justice of India) on 9th August, 2019, whereas the strength of High Court has increased from 906 in 2014 to 1114 Judges at present.

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

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-755
ANSWERED ON- 08/02/2024

e-court

FACILITIES FOR E-HEARING

→ SC (PPP)

✓ 755. SMT. SUMITRA BALMIK:

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

the details of steps which have been taken to increase the IT infrastructure to facilitate e-hearing in various 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)

As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented by Department of Justice in association with eCommittee Supreme Court of India. Phase I of the eCourts project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023.

Under eCourts Mission Mode Project, provision of video conferencing facility is one of the major components. During Phase I of the project, video conferencing facility was operationalised between 488 court complexes & 342 corresponding jails while in Phase II of the project, VC facility have been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. In eCourts Phase II of the project, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms (State-Wise details attached at Annexure I). Funds for setting

up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available (State-Wise details attached at Annexure II). Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been acquired to facilitate e-hearing.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. To bring uniformity and standardization in the conduct of VC, an overarching order was passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 6th April 2020 which gave legal sanctity and validity to the court hearings done through VC. Further, VC rules were framed by a 5-Judge Committee which was circulated to all the High Courts for adoption after local contextualization and are available on the website of eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. All the High Courts have implemented Video Conferencing rules. Since Covid lockdown started, the District & Subordinate courts heard 2,17,99,976 cases while the High Courts heard 82,76,595 cases (totalling 3 crore) till 31.12.2023 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court held 6,24,427 hearings till 04.01.2024 since the beginning of lockdown period, making it a world leader.

The Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore out of which Rs. 228.48 crore has been allocated towards further enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of video conferencing in various courts.

Further, in the case of Sarvesh Mathur vs The Registrar General, High Court of Punjab & Haryana (WP (Crl.) No. 351/2023), Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed an order (dated 06.10.2023) that no High Court shall deny access to video conferencing facilities or hearing through the hybrid mode to any member of the Bar or litigant desirous of availing of such a facility. Moreover, all State Governments shall provide necessary funds to the High Courts to put into place the facilities requisite for that purpose within the time frame indicated above.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 755 for 08/02/2024 regarding facilities for e-hearing. High Court wise details of VC equipment for Court Rooms* across the country is as under:

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

*Total estimated cost for VC equipment for 14443 court rooms is Rs.28.886 crore

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 755 for 08/02/2024 regarding facilities for e-hearing. High Courts wise details for VC Cabins and Connectivity in Court Complexes* across the country is as under:

S.No.	High Court	Number of VC Cabins
A	B	C
1	Allahabad	438
2	Andhra Pradesh	57
3	Bombay	271
4	Calcutta	128
5	Chhattisgarh	58
6	Delhi	103
7	Gauhati	77
8	Gujarat	94
9	Himachal Pradesh	18
10	Jammu & Kashmir	34
11	Jharkhand	78
12	Karnataka	128
13	Kerala	52
14	Madhya Pradesh	169
15	Madras	140
16	Manipur	12
17	Meghalaya	11
18	Orissa	84
19	Patna	171
20	Punjab & Haryana	135
21	Rajasthan	143
22	Sikkim	11
23	Telangana	52
24	Tripura	17
25	Uttarakhand	25
Total		2506

*Total estimated cost for equipment for VC cabin is Rs.5.012 crore

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 756
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

ADR Cell (LA)

Logistics for implementation of The Mediation Act, 2023

✓ 756. Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

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

- (a) the fund which has been allocated for the development of infrastructure, training and awareness necessary to implement The Mediation Act, 2023;
- (b) the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government to expedite the enforcement of the Act, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): The allocation of fund estimates for *inter-alia* the establishment of the Mediation Council of India, for the current financial year (2023-24) is Rs. 2 lakhs.

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

P.K. Malhotra, former Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, was constituted. The said working Group/Committee has submitted its report to the Department on 31.08.2023 and has recommended a draft of provisions under rules, regulations for operation of the Mediation Act 2023.

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 757
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

NM

JS(NMJA)

PENDENCY OF CASES IN DISTRICT AND HIGH COURTS

✓ 757. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the details of cases which are pending in various districts and High Courts in the country as on date, State-wise; and
- (b) the details of new cases filed in various courts and disposed of during 2023 and 2024 till date, State-wise and High Court-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): As per information available on National Judicial Grid (NJDG), as on 02.02.2024, the details of cases which are pending in various District and High Courts in the country, State-wise is given at *Annexure-I* and *II* respectively.

(b): The details of new cases filed in various courts and disposed of during 2023 and 2024, State-wise and High Court-wise is given at *Annexure-III* and *IV* respectively.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 757 FOR ANSWER ON 08.02.2024 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES IN DISTRICT AND HIGH COURTS'.

Sl. No.	State/UTs	District	Pendency as on 02.02.2024
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair	8766
		Total	8766
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Ananthapur	77568
		Chittor	83293
		East Godavari	80200
		Guntur	91591
		Kadapa	47929
		Krishna	92801
		Kurnool	80058
		Nellore	48914
		Prakasham	63699
		Srikakulam	29150
		Visakapatnam	82264
		Vizianagaram	27638
		West Godavari	64259
		Total	869364
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	East Kameng	345
		East Siang	347
		Leparada	108
		Lohit	562
		Lower Dibang Valley	178
		Papum Pare	4215
		Tawang	67
		Upper Siang	109
		Upper Subansiri	36
		West Kameng	220
		Total	6187
4.	Assam	Bajali	2748
		Baksa	3109
		Barpeta	18670
		Biswanath	4248
		Bongaigaon	12479
		Cachar	29294
		Charaideo	1414
		Chirang	3358
		Darrang	18721
		Dhemaji	2869
		Dhubri	32249
		Dibrugarh	13855
		Dima Hasao	665

Goalpara	13101
Golaghat	7627
Hailakandi	15167
Hojai	11164
Jorhat	11692
Kamrup	13433
Kamrup Metro	121580
KarbiAnglong	2924
Karimganj	17155
Kokrajhar	5113
Lakhimpur	8578
Majuli	786
Morigaon	11648
Nagaon	26189
Nalbari	10381
Sivasagar	4652
Sonitpur	13051
South Salmara Mankachar	5803
Tinsukia	13531
Udalguri	2578
Total	459832
Araria	75190
Aurangabad	64242
Banka	54591
Begusarai	95749
Bettiah	136344
Bhagalpur	133086
Bhojpur	107515
Buxar	65516
Darbhanga	96507
Gaya	160124
Gopalganj	96344
Jamui	52689
Jehanabad	45949
Kaimur at Bhabhua	53968
Katihar	75054
Khagaria	52199
Kishanganj	26074
Lakhisarai	36243
Madhepura	54121
Madhubani	101523
Motihari	177981
Munger	58826
Muzaffarpur	190487
Nalanda	123606
Nawada	83603
Patna	462603
Purnea	79831
Rohtas Sasaram	103784

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Bihar

		Saharsa	64949
		Samastipur	121581
		Saran at Chapra	168448
		Sheikhpura	18341
		Sheohar	12543
		Sitamarhi	86226
		Siwan	107140
		Supaul	60612
		Vaishali	110582
		Total	3614171
6	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	133970
		Total	133970
7	Chhattisgarh	Balod	6753
		Balodabazar	15970
		Balrampur	7691
		Ramanujganj	9919
		Bastar	6450
		Bemetara	52885
		Bilaspur	2267
		Dantewada	9371
		Dhamtari	40741
		Durg	20308
		Janjgir	6087
		Jashpur	6373
		Kanker	9229
		Kawardha	3406
		Kondagaon	19947
		Korba	12780
		Koriya	14003
		Mahasamund	7988
		Mungeli	28489
		Raigarh	84712
		Raipur	21072
		Rajnandgaon	13810
		Surajpur	15123
		Surguja at Ambikapur	415374
		Total	415374
8	Delhi	Central	168557
		East	64232
		New Delhi	153714
		North	83297
		North East	38697
		North West	154051
		Shahdara	68487
		South	106988
		South East	123186
		South West	201771
		West	91526
		Total	1254506
9	Diu and Daman	Diu	780

		Daman	2315
		Total	3095
10	DNH at Silvasa	Silvasa	4322
		Total	4322
11	Goa	North Goa	41212
		South Goa	16458
		Total	57670
12	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	543086
		Amreli	22677
		Anand	38136
		Aravalli at Modasa	13606
		Banaskanth at Palanpur	35919
		Bharuch	41455
		Bhavnagar	43504
		Botad	11145
		Chhota Udepur	12717
		Dahod	18437
		DevbhumiDwarka at Khambhaliya	8508
		Gandhinagar	41247
		Gir Somnath at Veraval	21460
		Jamnagar	27655
		Junagadh	26323
		Kachchh at Bhuj	64930
		Kheda at Nadiad	33901
		Mehesana	44963
		Mahisagar at Lunawada	7936
		Morbi	24356
		Narmada	8865
		Navsari	15690
		Panchmahal at Godhra	26344
		Patan	21607
		Porbandar	10199
		Rajkot	114997
		Sabarkantha at Himmatnagar	24767
		Surat	155176
		Surendranagar	24483
		Tapi	6497
		Vadodara	113582
		Valsad	36981
		Total	1641149
13	Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur	31097
		Chamba	20649
		Hamirpur	37027
		Kangra	70844
		Kinnaur	30006
		Kullu	86744

		Mandi	58465
		Shimla	104012
		Sirmaur	34157
		Solan	84318
		Una	35732
		Total	593051
14	Haryana	Ambala	63886
		Bhiwani	66619
		Faridabad	136287
		Fatehabad	28877
		Gurugram	360423
		Hisar	73539
		Jhajjar	43557
		Jind	38206
		Kaithal	41871
		Karnal	75322
		Kurukshetra	43845
		Narnaul	43705
		Nuh	42649
		Palwal	44376
		Panchkula	27920
		Panipat	54288
		Rewari	49920
		Rohtak	52784
		Sirsa	42258
		Sonepat	72898
Yamunanagar	59858		
		Total	1463088
15	Jammu and Kashmir	Anantnag	24650
		Bandipora	6339
		Baramulla	21224
		Budgam	13522
		Doda	6775
		Ganderbal	4754
		Jammu	64505
		Kathua	11869
		Kishtwar	3584
		Kulgam	7964
		Kupwara	13240
		Poonch	6277
		Pulwama	11884
		Rajouri	10338
		Ramban	5539
		Reasi	5431
		Samba	7105
		Shopian	6750
		Srinagar	47069
		Udhampur	11279
		Total	290098
16	Jharkhand	Bokaro	27651

		Chatra	21959
		Daltonganj	35168
		Deoghar	26834
		Dhanbad	61041
		Dumka	14025
		East Singhbhum at Jamshedpur	50071
		Garhwa	19823
		Giridih	44674
		Godda	20244
		Gumla	11125
		Hazaribagh	42313
		Jamtara	7087
		Khunti	5227
		Koderma	16844
		Latehar	10262
		Lohardaga	6363
		Pakur	6668
		Ramgarh	15132
		Ranchi	75477
		Sahibganj	11981
		Seraikella	8399
		Simdega	3853
		West Singhbhum at chaibasa	7303
		Total	549524
		Alappuzha	88369
		Ernakulam	314894
		Idukki	62135
		Kannur	73508
		Kasaragod	27923
		Kollam	214020
		Kottayam	82758
		Kozhikode	90726
		Lakshwadeep	89
		Malappuram	86862
		Palakkad	90264
		Pathanamthitta	102305
		Thiruvananthapuram	396747
		Thirssur	194946
		Wayanad	26747
		Total	1852293
17	Kerala	Kargil	694
		Leh	739
		Total	1433
		Bagalkot	56939
		Ballari	59899
		Belagavi	133617
		Bengaluru	374876
		Bengaluru Rural	158785
		Bidar	27993
18	Ladakh		
19	Karnataka		

Chamrajnagar	22498
Chikkballapur	41423
Chikkamagaluru	34351
Chitradurga	41590
Dakshina Kannada	55264
Davangere	39394
Dharwad	47717
Gadag	19815
Hassan	86283
Haveri	38823
Kalaburagi	49708
Kodagu	17695
Kolar	48056
Koppal	33968
Mandya	86496
Mysuru	121047
Raichur	31632
Ramanagaram	52437
Shivamogga	49158
Tumakuru	93013
Udupi	33693
Uttara Kannada	37694
Vijayapura	65602
Yadgir	18996
Total	1978462
Ahmednagar	203399
Akola	86850
Amravati	143052
Aurangabad	219405
Beed	112326
Bhandara	26041
Buldhana	111330
Chandrapur	96448
Dhule	47851
Gadchiroli	17648
Gondia	30795
Jalgaon	115484
Jalna	76691
Kolhapur	146245
Latur	106600
Mah State Cooperative Appellat	18980
Maharashtra Industrial and Lab	59737
Maharashtra-Family Courts	56978
Maharashtra-School Tribunals	796
Mumbai City Civil Court	161357
Mumbai CMM Courts	555579

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Maharashtra

		Mumbai Motor Accident Claims T	7696
		Mumbai Small Causes Court	26755
		Nagpur	301866
		Nanded	97915
		Nandurbar	28276
		Nashik	254293
		Osmanaabad	86418
		Parbhani	92743
		Pune	663678
		Raigad	100859
		Ratnagiri	28070
		Sangli	105156
		Satara	122379
		Sindhudurg	18194
		Solapur	233729
		Thane	437398
		Wardha	72857
		Washim	49780
		Yavatmal	121356
		Total	5243010
21	Madhya Pradesh	Alirajpur	7001
		Anuppur	15260
		Ashoknagr	17867
		Balaghat	24212
		Barwani	17598
		Betul	24752
		Bhind	35340
		Bhopal	135321
		Burhanpur	11683
		Chhatarpur	36845
		Chhindwara	36508
		Damoh	22180
		Datia	18956
		Dewas	40902
		Dhar	46659
		Dindori	12301
		Guna	31891
		Gwalior	94939
		Harda	12491
		Hoshangabad	31067
		Indore	235464
		Jabalpur	146635
		Jhabua	16231
		Katni	37998
		Khandwa	21936
		Mandla	13448
Mandleshwar	26169		
Mandsaur	39877		
Morena	50208		

		Narsinghpur	18948
		Neemuch	22335
		Panna	15534
		Raisen	22247
		Rajgarh	37732
		Ratlam	44200
		Rewa	86832
		Sagar	67997
		Satna	61863
		Sehore	24736
		Seoni	24880
		Shahdol	29820
		Shajapur	33048
		Sheopur	8805
		Shivpuri	32673
		Sidhi	32568
		Singrauli	40332
		Tikamgarh	30713
		Ujjain	72546
		Umaria	10798
		Vidisha	32759
		Total	2013105
22	Manipur	Bhisnupur	1175
		Chandel	99
		Churachandpur	166
		Imphal East	2648
		Imphal West	7148
		Senapati	401
		Tamenglong	117
		Thoubal	1429
		Ukhrul	149
		Total	13332
23	Meghalaya	East Garo Hills	390
		East Jaintia Hills	1352
		East Khasi Hills	6155
		Eastern West Khasi Hills	20
		KHADC Court	3107
		North Garo Hills	288
		Ri Bhoi	1440
		South Garo Hills	286
		South West Garo Hills	175
		South West Khasi Hills	165
		West Garo Hills	1306
		West Jaintia Hills	1089
		West Khasi Hills	400
		Total	16173
24	Mizoram	Aizwal	4758
		Champhai	379
		Lunglei	499

		Total	5636
		Dimapur	1441
		Kiphire	13
		Kohima	668
		Longleng	53
		Mokokchung	179
		Mon	110
		Peren	48
		Phek	44
		Tuensang	36
		Wokah	276
		Zunheboto	25
		Total	2893
25	Nagaland		
		Anugul	74983
		Balangir	47314
		Balasore	111461
		Bargarh	45522
		Bhadrak	98171
		Boudh	17124
		Cuttack	153989
		Deogarh	11449
		Dhenkanal	40081
		Gajapati	6629
		Ganjam	77630
		Jagatsinghpur	35419
		Jajpur	69061
		Jharsuguda	45233
		Kalahandi	39106
		Kandhamal	16234
		Kendrapada	37700
		Keonjhar	49693
		Khurda	185137
		Koraput	34494
		Malkangiri	8854
		Mayurbhanj	67571
		Nabarangpur	20066
		Nayagarh	25906
		Naupada	12818
		Puri	68594
		Rayagada	18799
		Sambalpur	86911
		Sonepur	16170
		Sundargarh	99666
		Total	1621785
26	<u>Odisha</u>		
		Karaikal	6782
		Mahe	402
		Puducherry	26705
		Yanam	402
		Total	34291
27	Puducherry		
28	Punjab	Amritsar	77730

Barnala	14759
Bathinda	49200
Faridkot	16127
Fatehgarh sahib	19944
Fazilka	29583
Ferozepur	26222
Gurdaspur	36177
Hoshiarpur	38497
Jalandhar	70807
Kapurthala	26083
Ludhiana	134758
Mansa	19414
Moga	20175
Mohali	49781
Pathankot	18746
Patiala	72419
Rupnagar	24047
Sangrur	50637
SBS Nagar	13546
Sri Muktsar Sahib	25920
Tarn Taran	23045
Total	857617
Ajmer	101787
Alwar	139012
Balotra Barmer	31799
Banswara	20794
Baran	34382
Bharatpur	70511
Bhilwara	84244
Bikaner	63581
Bundi	29956
Chittorgarh	52623
Churu	36430
Dausa	37796
Dholpur	22749
Dungarpur	14648
Ganganagar	72179
Hanumangarh	47185
Jaipur District	66388
Jaipur Metro I	296165
Jaipur Metro II	278248
Jaisalmer	12168
Jalore	22772
Jhalawar	36500
Jhunjhunu	41443
Jodhpur District	28127
Jodhpur Metro	118518
Karauli	26404
Kota	101520
Merta Nagaur	48680

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Rajasthan

		Pali	69664
		Pratapgarh	13255
		Rajsamand	37874
		Sawai Madhopur	28945
		Sikar	67302
		Sirohi	24801
		Tonk	39921
		Udaipur	120388
		Total	2338759
30	Sikkim	Gangtok	1119
		Gyalshing	110
		Mangan	27
		Namchi	408
		Pakyong	34
		Soreng	21
		Total	1719
31	Tamil Nadu	Ariyalur	12667
		Chennai	156419
		Coimbatore	78688
		Cuddalore	53223
		Dharmapuri	21514
		Dindigul	46146
		Erode	42716
		Kancheepuram	71103
		Kanniyakumari	49994
		Karur	23238
		Krishnagiri	40438
		Madurai	78235
		Mayiladuthurai	12755
		Nagapattinam	23054
		Namakkal	27520
		Perambalur	9150
		Pudukkottai	23453
		Ramanathapuram	23735
		Salem	61160
		Sivagangai	31254
		Thanjavur	38517
		The Nilgiris	7727
		Theni	26679
		Thoothukudi	37450
		Tiruchirappalli	56281
		Tirunelveli	86687
		Tiruppur	51861
		Tiruvallur	63665
		Tiruvannamalai	35311
		Tiruvarur	14609
		Vellore	55082
		Viluppuram	55331
		Virudhunagar	36697
		Total	1452359

32	Telangana	Adilabad	8779
		Bhadradi	19175
		Kothagudem	31113
		Hanumakonda	168600
		Hyderabad Central	17038
		Jagitial	11059
		Jangoan	8576
		Jayashankar Bhupalapally	8675
		Jogulamba Gadwal	12943
		Kamareddy	35245
		Karimnagar	34202
		Khammam	5177
		Kamuram Bheem Asifabad	11520
		Mahabubabad	19347
		Mahabubnagar	17185
		Mancherial	11960
		Medak	87912
		Medchal Malkajgiri	3518
		Mulugu	17058
		Nagarkurnool	41519
		Nalgonda	5742
		Narayanpet	9365
		Nirmal	22640
		Nizamabad	18052
		Peddapalli	11767
		Ranjanna Sricilla	117945
		Rangareddy	32701
		Sangareddy	22382
		Siddipet	25832
		Suryapet	16972
		Vikarabad	10794
		Wanaparthi	41793
Warangal	12805		
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	919391		
33	Tripura	Dhalai Tripura	3530
		Gomati District	4451
		Khowai Tripura	6645
		North Tripura	4933
		Sepahijala Tripura	6414
		South Tripura	3781
		Unakoti Tripura	3943
		West Tripura	18539
		Total	52236
34	Uttarakhand	Almora	2560
		Bageshwar	622
		Chamoli	1492
		Champawat	3072
		Dehradun	128563

		Haridwar	103485
		Nainital	29777
		Pauri Garhwal	12509
		Pithoragarh	3013
		Rudraprayag	642
		Tehri Garhwal	3809
		Udham Singh Nagar	75004
		Uttarkashi	1694
		Total	366242
35	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	376350
		Aligarh	196730
		Ambedkar Nagar	89183
		Amroha	76508
		Auraiya	63979
		Ayodhya	157868
		Azamgarh	187786
		Baghpat	60240
		Bahraich	191054
		Ballia	126638
		Balrampur	98606
		Banda	76424
		Barabanki	131381
		Bareilly	229098
		Basti	121314
		Bhadohi SR Nagar	55942
		Bijnor	172966
		Badaun	151884
		Bulandshahr	163242
		Chandauli	94199
		Chitrakoot	32342
		Deoria	166621
		Etah	81055
		Etawah	69188
		Farrukhabad	96348
		Fatehpur	109978
		Firozabad	175415
		Gautam Buddha Nagar	420125
		Ghaziabad	412769
		Ghazipur	157084
		Gonda	194640
		Gorakhpur	265883
		Hamirpur	60560
		Hapur	106123
		Hardoi	184398
Hathras	85332		
Jalaun	70609		
Jaunpur	216974		
Jhansi	106070		
Kannauj	66516		

Kanpur Dehat	157390
Kanpur Nagar	633838
Kasganj	58993
Kaushambi	69617
Kushinagar	180584
Lakhimpur	170312
Lalitpur	64015
Lucknow	477753
Maharajganj	108990
Mahoba	41497
Mainpuri	100127
Mathura	172425
Mau	112259
Meerut	350081
Mirzapur	100094
Moradabad	162226
Muzaffarnagar	142937
Pilibhit	93143
Pratapgarh	172847
Prayagraj	349579
Raebareli	171434
Rampur	82759
Saharanpur	247656
Sambhal at Chandausi	88883
Santkabir Nagar	75652
Shahjahanpur	141192
Shamli at Kairana	69712
Shravasti	44430
Siddharthnagar	110742
Sitapur	200239
Sonbhadra	64918
Sultanpur	222815
Unnao	117472
Varanasi	455316
Total	11711349
Alipurduar	2857
Bankura	41485
Bhirbum	68367
Calcutta	837435
Coochbehar	39522
Darjeeling	33873
Hooghly	117546
Howrah	117943
Jalpaiguri	85941
Jhargram	15005
Kalimpong	1365
Malda	65359
Murshidabad	209956
Nadia	142287
North Twenty-Four	303405

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West Bengal

Parganas	
North Dinajpur	48630
Paschim Bardhaman	113480
Paschim Medinipur	103891
Purba Bardhaman	79974
Purba Medinipur	110523
Purulia	34953
South Dinajpur	37213
South Twenty Four Parganas	401699
Total	3012709

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 757 FOR ANSWER ON 08.02.2024 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES IN DISTRICT AND HIGH COURTS'.

Pendency in High Court as on 02.02.2024

Sr No.	Name of High Court	Pendency
1	Allahabad High Court	1073671
2	Bombay High Court	723548
3	High Court Of Rajasthan	668985
4	Madras High Court	541267
5	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	447073
6	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	440152
7	High Court of Karnataka	288473
8	High Court of Kerala	255383
9	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	248975
10	High Court for State of Telangana	247588
11	Patna High Court	197742
12	Calcutta High Court	194951
13	High Court of Gujarat	170325
14	Orissa High Court	146023
15	High Court of Delhi	123615
16	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	100556
17	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	90723
18	High Court of Jharkhand	83612
19	Gauhati High Court	62754
20	High Court of Uttarakhand	50954
21	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	44753
22	High Court of Manipur	4698
23	High Court of Tripura	1266
24	High Court of Meghalaya	1146
25	High Court of Sikkim	184
	Total	6208417

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 757 FOR ANSWER ON 08.02.2024
REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES IN DISTRICT AND HIGH COURTS'.**

State wise report of Registered and Disposed cases during 2023 and 2024

Sl. No	State/Uts	Registered Cases between 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023	Disposed Cases between 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023	Registered Cases between 01.01.2024 to 02.02.2024	Disposed Cases between 01.01.2024 to 02.02.2024
1	Uttar Pradesh	5189486	4711733	252870	186764
2	Maharashtra	1836584	1652849	133369	96634
3	Bihar	776412	671207	56946	40642
4	West Bengal	756345	523090	37808	25411
5	Rajasthan	1166635	1009319	79069	63500
6	Madhya Pradesh	997970	982742	64807	62466
7	Odisha	339690	290615	106951	78075
8	Karnataka	1665066	1611284	71574	63470
9	Kerala	999585	1112563	22677	15401
10	Gujarat	1391769	1494429	112629	74558
11	Tamil Nadu	2616690	2637799	50898	40589
12	Haryana	774497	728826	180027	180957
13	Delhi	532999	586792	54926	39158
14	Telangana	486443	453832	25019	20317
15	Andhra Pradesh	538347	499237	22773	21197
16	Punjab	804537	864678	51723	49503
17	Jharkhand	398816	385304	43165	32811
18	Himachal Pradesh	522198	423890	31812	26413
19	Assam	228487	226710	8288	4509
20	Chhattisgarh	333018	332847	18510	15468
21	Uttarakhand	222670	179825	15602	10222
22	Jammu and Kashmir	212162	192602	11695	13256
23	Chandigarh	94207	111167	4759	2140
24	Goa	26850	29382	2796	3167
25	Puducherry	35863	35726	7769	2188
26	Tripura	60390	53490	2137	1946
27	Meghalaya	14165	14271	726	615
28	Manipur	11683	10402	873	734
29	Andaman and Nicobar	1471	865	5	6
30	Mizoram	1652	1440	33	13
31	DNH at Silvasa	1976	1540	222	170
32	Arunachal Pradesh	4252	3331	176	114
33	Diu and Daman	1866	1709	146	127
34	Nagaland	1345	1132	65	35
35	Sikkim	3050	3212	71	31
36	Ladakh	1823	1724	114	32
	Total	23050999	21841564	1473030	1172639

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 757 FOR ANSWER ON 08.02.2024
REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES IN DISTRICT AND HIGH COURTS'.**

High Court wise report of Registered and Disposed cases during 2023 and 2024

Sl No.	High Court	Registered Cases between 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023	Disposal Cases between 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023	Registered Cases between 01.01.2024 to 02.02.2024	Disposal Cases between 01.01.2024 to 02.02.2024
1	Allahabad High Court	164875	257836	260	3316
2	Bombay High Court	70041	132599	2361	10642
3	Calcutta High Court	44927	88721	1628	7248
4	Gauhati High Court	17875	28701	374	1705
5	High Court for State of Telangana	30973	68672	1415	5341
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	24553	53076	668	5458
7	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	25835	42627	921	3457
8	High Court of Delhi	28309	51135	1311	4087
9	High Court of Gujarat	49894	74301	2943	6940
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	25267	35237	1373	3145
11	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	4099	14329	117	251
12	High Court of Jharkhand	24963	47895	86	4934
13	High Court of Karnataka	32337	87749	883	8748
14	High Court of Kerala	52614	81917	1634	5673
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	90943	138058	3122	12515
16	High Court of Manipur	1344	2410	46	183
17	High Court of Meghalaya	880	1543	6	19
18	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	84436	158292	3421	13922
19	High Court Of Rajasthan	80949	163016	1856	9286
20	High Court of Sikkim	62	151	0	0
21	High Court of Tripura	1253	2330	32	189
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	9803	15335	257	984
23	Madras High Court	207379	335147	8024	26343
24	Orissa High Court	77779	117649	1971	8433
25	Patna High Court	84900	138532	2144	12890
	Total	1236290	2137258	36853	155709

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).