

# 2024

## LOK SABHA REPLIES

**Interim Budget Session, 2024,  
[15<sup>th</sup> Session of 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha]  
[31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 to 10<sup>th</sup>  
February, 2024]**

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02.02.2024

DS (APPEALS)

Appointment

Sanctioned Strength of Supreme Court and High Court Judges

✓ 5. SHRI MAHESH SAHOO:

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

- (a) the total sanctioned strength of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts across the country along with the number of judges at present;
- (b) the number of pending cases in Supreme Court and High Courts, High Court-wise details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering increasing the strength of Supreme Court and High Court judges to get over with the pending cases, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): As on 29.01.2024, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, the Supreme Court is functioning at full strength and there is no vacancy. As regards the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 783 Judges are working and 331 post of Judges are vacant in the various High Courts. The High Court-wise detail of sanctioned strength, working strength and .vacancy as on 29.01.2024 is at Annexure-I.

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.

The strength of the Supreme Court of India was increased from 31 to 34 Judges (including Chief Justice of India) on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. Whereas the strength of High Court has increased from 906 in 2014 to 1114 Judges. Presently, no complete proposal regarding increase in Judge strength of High Courts is under consideration of the Government.

A statement regarding number of pending cases in Supreme Court and High Courts; High Court-wise is placed at **Annexure-II**.

**ANNEXURE-I**

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (as on 29.01.2024)

A.	Supreme Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		34			34			0		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	76	14	90	43	27	70
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	8	30	6	1	7
3	Bombay	71	23	94	40	29	69	31	-6	25
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	37	14	51	17	4	21
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	6	16	7	-1	6
6	Delhi	46	14	60	37	5	42	9	9	18
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	16	7	23	6	1	7
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	31	0	31	8	13	21
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	11	4	15	2	0	2
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	17	1	18	3	4	7
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	39	12	51	8	3	11
13	Kerala	35	12	47	32	4	36	3	8	11
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	39	1	40	0	13	13
15	Madras	56	19	75	54	13	67	2	6	8
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	2	1	3	1	0	1
18	Orissa	24	9	33	20	0	20	4	9	13
19	Patna	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	41	15	56	23	6	29
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	34	0	34	4	12	16
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	21	5	26	11	5	16
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	6	0	6	3	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1114</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>331</b>

**ANNEXURE-II**

**Statement showing pendency of cases in Supreme Court and the High Courts**

The number of cases pending in Supreme Court, as on 23.01.2024, are 80,221 cases. The detailed Statement of High-Court-wise pendency of cases are as per Annexure.

<b>High-Court wise Pendency of Cases (as on 23.01.2024)</b>		
<b>Sr No.</b>	<b>High Court</b>	<b>No. of Pending Cases</b>
1	Allahabad High Court	1074789
2	Bombay High Court	722657
3	High Court Of Rajasthan	669554
4	Madras High Court	541829
5	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	447440
6	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	441573
7	High Court of Karnataka	288387
8	High Court of Kerala	255399
9	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	248979
10	High Court for State of Telangana	248088
11	Patna High Court	197798
12	Calcutta High Court	195208
13	High Court of Gujarat	170002
14	Orissa High Court	145882
15	High Court of Delhi	123658
16	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	100276
17	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	90354
18	High Court of Jharkhand	84358
19	Gauhati High Court	62579
20	High Court of Uttarakhand	50762
21	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	44622
22	High Court of Manipur	4687
23	High Court of Tripura	1271
24	High Court of Meghalaya	1137
25	High Court of Sikkim	182
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6211471</b>

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

PENDING CASES IN COURTS

SSC(MJR)  
✓ SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:  
SHRI COSME FRANCISCO CAITANO SARDINHA:  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

NM

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

- (a) whether any steps and mechanism have been taken/being taken to accelerate the disposal of cases pending in the courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of courts and judges in the country to ensure the justice within time-bond period; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Disposal of cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and the Government has no direct role in disposal of cases.

The Central Government has unwavering commitment towards speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end the Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

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



changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10567.00 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,524 as on 31.12.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,951 as on 31.12.2023, under this scheme.
- iii. Further under the Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. As a result, the number of computerised district & subordinate courts have increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 875 e-SewaKendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case-related information, and e-filing facilities. 25 virtual courts have been set up in 20 States/UTs. As on 31.12.2023, these courts have handled more than 4.24 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 492.79 crores in fines.

The Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block chain etc to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

- iv. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 11.01.2024, 61 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 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 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.12.2023	25,348	20,018

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

- v. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.
- vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As of 30.11.2023, 847 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the central

government has approved a scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As of 30.11.2023, a total of 758 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 2,08,000 cases. FTSCs Scheme has been further extended for 3 more years i.e. from FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26.

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

viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

Under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted

in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

- ix. The recently enacted Mediation Act, 2023 lays down that mediation can be conducted in civil and commercial matters in terms of the provisions of the Mediation Act, 2023 barring such matters explicitly listed in the First Schedule of the Act which are not fit for mediation and in which mediation cannot be conducted. It can be seen from the exempted list in the first schedule that only major offences have been excluded, thus leaving majority of the petty offences under the ambit of Mediation Act, 2023.
- x. Lok Adalats are being given impetus as an Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably. There are three types of Lok Adalats: National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats. Mobile Lok Adalats are also organized in various parts of the country, which travel from one location to another to resolve disputes in order to facilitate the resolution of disputes through a mediated mechanism. Since June, 2020, online Lok Adalat/e-Lok Adalats have been organised virtually that facilitates party interaction and exchange of information, allowing people to effectively participate from their homes with the help of internet technology.

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

<b>Years</b>	<b>Pre-litigation Cases</b>	<b>Pending Cases</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,92,54,489</b>	<b>3,08,01,775</b>	<b>14,00,56,264</b>

- xi. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and

disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App. As against 65,74,265 cases registered till 31.12.2023, there were 64,80,269 advices enabled through Tele-Law.

- xii. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Pro Bono Panel of advocates have been initiated in 22 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 89 select Laws Schools to instil Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

**(c) & (d):** Appointment of the Judges to the Constitutional Courts such as High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. The appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at State and Central level. The Government on its part, undertakes every effort to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously in the High Courts but the vacancies of Judges do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

During the Joint Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers held on 07.04.2013, a decision was taken to increase the number of Judges of the High Courts by 25%. Accordingly, during the period from 01.07.2014 to 29.01.2024 with the approval of the respective State Governments, concerned High Courts and the Chief Justice of India, Government has increased the Judge strength of the High Courts from 906 to 1114 i.e. by 208 posts.

At present there is no complete proposal pending with the Government to increase the strength of Judges in High Court(s). No proposal for increase in

strength of Judges of the Supreme Court is pending with the Government.

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

At present there is no complete proposal pending with the Government for setting up of Bench(es) in any High Court.

The establishment of new courts in the districts and the filling up of vacant posts of judicial officers in the District and Subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. The constitutional provisions for selection and appointment of judicial officers in district and subordinate judiciary as provided under Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, entrusts the responsibility to the respective state governments in consultation with their High Courts to frame the rules and regulations regarding the issues of recruitment of judicial officers in the respective state judicial service. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide judicial order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has stipulated certain timelines which are to be followed by the states and the respective High Courts for initiating the recruitment process of judges in subordinate courts. As such the Central Government does not have any role in the matter.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 45

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

Court Proceedings in Regional Languages

JSCMK(r)

J-I

45. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

SHRI A. RAJA:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As far as Supreme Court and all High Courts are concerned, Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in these Courts shall be in English language. However, Article 348 (2) of the Constitution of India provides that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. Further, Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 states that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize

the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English Language, for the purposes of any judgment, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State and where any judgment, decree or order is passed or made in any such language (other than the English Language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English Language issued under the authority of the High Court.

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

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

Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals as per the Cabinet Committee's decision taken in 1965 and the Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 16.10.2012 intimated that the Full Court in its meeting held on 11.10.2012, after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

Based on another request from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government requested the Chief Justice of India to review the earlier decisions in this regard and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India in July, 2014. The Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 18.01.2016 conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations, unanimously resolved that the proposals could not be accepted.

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



with each other and accordingly implemented it in their respective district and subordinate courts.

(b) to (d): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project, eFiling has been made functional and is available for all High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts across India. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been framed by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India (SCI) which were circulated to all High Courts for better implementation of online filing and are available on the website of eCommittee, SCI. A total of 20 High Courts has adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.10.2023. To promote eFiling all Central & State Government departments including the PSUs have been requested to use e filing in all commercial disputes coming up in the commercial courts. Further, instructions have been issued by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India to all HCs to ensure that all Government litigations are e-filed. Similar communication has also been shared by the Department of Justice to all Ministries requesting to use e filing in all Government litigation.

Till December 2023, 7,96,687 cases were filed in High Courts and 19,65,618 were filed in District & Taluka Courts using eFiling facility. Under eCourts Mission Mode Project, video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. One video conference equipment each was provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and additionally funds were released for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,17,99,976 cases since Covid lockdown started, while the High Courts heard 82,76,595 cases (totaling 3 cr) till 31.12.2023 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court held 6,24,427 hearings from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 till 04.01.2024 since the beginning of lockdown period. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

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

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

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

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(10)

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 47**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02.02.2024**

*Appointment*

**Regional Benches of Supreme Court**

*47.* **SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:  
SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI ADHIKARI DEEPAK (DEV):**

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

- (a) the names of States of the country where the regional benches of the Supreme Court have been functioning;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to set up new regional/circuit benches of the Supreme Court for better access to justice and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has a plan to establish a new Regional Bench of the Supreme Court at Ajmer in the State of Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any impact assessment of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

: 2 :

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

The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125<sup>th</sup> Report titled "The Supreme Court - A Fresh Look", submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95<sup>th</sup> Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229<sup>th</sup> Report submitted in 2009 had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai.

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

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

Presently, there are no regional benches of the Supreme Court in the States.

(c): There is no proposal for establishing a new Regional Bench of the Supreme Court at Ajmer in the State of Rajasthan.

(d): No such specific impact assessment of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has been undertaken. However, the Mission has been relentlessly working to provide for better infrastructure to courts, including computerization, adopting various policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. Among the prominent initiatives of the National Mission, the ones delineated below are noteworthy: -

- i. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10551.68 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,524 as on 31.12.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,951 as on 31.12.2023, under this scheme.
- ii. Sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as under: -

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
23.01.2023	25,348	20,018

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

- iii. With a view to reduce pendency and unlogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts

(Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

- iv. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted wholeheartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines. The recently enacted Mediation Act, 2023 lays down that mediation can be conducted in civil and commercial matters in terms of the provisions of the Mediation Act, 2023 barring such matters explicitly listed in the First Schedule of the Act which are not fit for mediation and in which mediation cannot be conducted. It can be seen from the exempted list in the first schedule that only major offences have been excluded, thus leaving majority of the petty offences under the ambit of Mediation Act, 2023
- v. Under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute. Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

- vi. Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. Furthering computerization of the district and subordinate courts with proper WAN connectivity, video conferencing facility, setting up of e-Sewa Kendras in the court complexes and virtual courts etc. under Phase-I and II of the e-Courts project. Recently, the Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved Phase-III of e-Courts with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. e-Courts Phase III envisages digitisation of the court records, both legacy records and pending cases; state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval; e-Sewa Kendras at all court complexes across India; 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 e-Courts 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.
- vii. 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. Three types of Lok Adalats: National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats are generally organized at regular intervals. Mobile

Lok Adalats are also organized in different parts of the country, which travel from one location to another to resolve disputes through a mediated mechanism. Since June, 2020, online Lok Adalat/e-Lok Adalats have been organised virtually that facilitates party interaction and exchange of information, allowing people to effectively participate from their homes.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 64

N/M

JS (N/MJR) TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

PENDING CASES BEFORE CONSTITUTION BENCHES

✓ 64. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:

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

- (a) whether several cases having serious consequences for the legal system of the country are pending before various Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the name of case, type of Constitution Bench and period of pendency;
- (c) whether the reason for pendency of the above mentioned cases is the lack of interest shown by the Government in expediting the same, if so, the action taken thereon; and
- (d) the decade-wise list of cases heard and disposed by the Constitutional Benches of the Supreme Court since its inception till date?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of cases pending before the Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court, as on 29.01.2024, are as under:

Bench	No. of Pending Cases (as on 29.01.2024)
Five-Judge Bench	38
Seven-Judge Bench	9
Nine-Judge Bench	7
Eleven-Judge Bench	0
More than 11 Judges	0

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

The detailed Statement of pending Constitution bench-wise cases along with name of the case and date of filing is *Annexed*.

(c): No, Sir, it cannot be said that the reason for pendency of the Constitution Bench cases is the lack of interest in expediting the same. As per information obtained from the Supreme Court, in respect of the Constitution Bench cases, there are intricate issues of law involved and arguments are addressed for number of days ranging from weeks to months. The said issues require deep analysis and thorough examination of law. Therefore, it is not possible to set out strict parameters and timelines regarding adjudication of such cases. Further, the adjudication and expeditious disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary.

(d): As per information provided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the decade-wise list of cases heard and disposed of by the Constitutional Benches of the Supreme Court since its inception are as under:

S.no.	Period	No. of Constitution Bench matters disposed off
1	1950-1959	440
2	1960-1969	956
3	1970-1979	292
4	1980-1989	110
5	1990-1999	157
6	2000-2009	138
7	2010-2019	70
8	2020-2023	25
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,188</b>

Source: Supreme Court of India (data as on 11.12.2023)

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) AND (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 64 FOR ANSWER ON 02.02.2024 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES BEFORE CONSTITUTION BENCHES'.**

Diary no.	Case Number	Date of Filing	Party Name
<b><u>Five-Judge Bench</u></b>			
25700 / 2023	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 678 / 2023	01-07-2023	GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF D Vs UNION OF INDIA
31429 / 2013	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 921 / 2013	01-10-2013	SAMA-RESOURCE GROUP FOR WOMEN AND HEALTH Vs UNION OF INDIA
11168 / 2014	CURATIVE PETITION(CIVIL) / 106 / 2014	02-04-2014	DR. SHEKHAR SESHADRI Vs SURESH KUMAR KOUSHAL
3658 / 2022	CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) / 91 / 2022	03-02-2022	PIYALI RAY CHOWDHURY Vs NARAYAN SWAROOP NIGAM
25917 / 2023	-	03-07-2023	ANJALI SHARMA Vs UNION OF INDIA
26252 / 2023	-	03-07-2023	THE ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA Vs UNION OF INDIA
46079 / 2023	REVIEW PETITION (CIVIL) / 1866 / 2023	03-11-2023	SUPRIYO @ SUPRIYA CHAKRABORTY Vs UNION OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
27935 / 2017	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 880 / 2017	04-09-2017	ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATICS REFORMS Vs UNION OF INDIA
7808 / 2018	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 202 / 2018	05-03-2018	ASHWINI KUMAR UPADHYAY Vs UNION OF INDIA
22311 / 2016	CRIMINAL APPEAL / 1003 / 2017	05-07-2016	PYARE LAL Vs STATE OF HARYANA
30032 / 2009	CIVIL APPEAL / 5965 / 2010	05-10-2009	FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA Vs NAV DURGA RICE MILLS .
10730 / 2022	SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) / 1 / 2022	06-04-2022	IN RE: FRAMING GUIDELINES REGARDING POTENTIAL Vs
17223 / 2015	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 311 / 2015	06-05-2015	DEPAK KUMAR NATH Vs UNION OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS REPRE

18396 / 2007	CIVIL APPEAL / 9935 / 2014	06-07-2007	RANCHI ASSOCIATION Vs UNION OF INDIA AND ORS .
3900 / 2008	SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) / 3660 / 2008	08-02-2008	THE STATE OF PUNJAB Vs SAHIL MITTAL
28531 / 2019	CIVIL APPEAL / 9486 / 2019	09-08-2019	CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICAT Vs M/S ECI SPIC SMO MCML (JV) A JOINT VENTURE CO
41794 / 2023	-	09-10-2023	SYDENA MUFADDAL SAIFUDDIN Vs CENTRAL BOARD OF DAWOODI BOHRA COMMUNITY
12551 / 2020	-	10-06-2020	SUVARNA PAKA JAGGA RAO Vs CHEBROLU LEELA PRASAD RAO
10865 / 2000	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 546 / 2000	10-07-2000	IN RE ARTICLE 334 OF THE CONSTITUTION Vs ...
18450 / 2021	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 887 / 2021	10-08-2021	GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI Vs UNION OF INDIA
38134 / 2009	CIVIL APPEAL / 1214 / 2011	11-12-2009	UNION OF INDIA Vs VINOD KUMAR
1543 / 2016	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 36 / 2016	12-01-2016	V. VASANTHAKUMAR Vs H.C. BHATIA AND ORS. MINISTRY OF LAW AND JU
27156 / 2016	WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) / 113 / 2016	12-08-2016	KAUSHAL KISHOR Vs THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH GOVT. OF U.P. HOME
28033 / 2005	CIVIL APPEAL / 7513 / 2005	14-12-2005	STATE OF A.P. Vs B. ARCHANA REDDY .
29686 / 2017	CIVIL APPEAL / 841 / 2018	16-09-2017	M/S. BAJAJ ALLIANCE GENERAL INSURANCE CO.LTD. Vs RAMBHA DEVI
42134 / 2016	SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) / 804 / 2017	17-12-2016	KARMANYA SINGH SAREEN Vs UNION OF INDIA
76079 / 1996	CIVIL APPEAL / 16879 / 1996	18-12-1996	STATE OF W B Vs PASCHIM BANGA B.K.SAMITY .
16155 / 2022	-	19-05-2022	CHEBROLU LEELA PRASAD RAO Vs SOMESH KUMAR
47928 / 2023	CRIMINAL APPEAL / 3589 / 2023	19-11-2023	HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION ALLAHABAD Vs THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH
13164 /	CIVIL APPEAL / 2634 /	21-04-2011	TEJ PRAKASH PATHAK Vs

2011	2013		RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT
38037 / 2022	-	23-11-2022	JAYA THAKUR Vs UNION OF INDIA
16113 / 2009	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 274 / 2009	25-05-2009	IN RE SECTION 6A OF THE CITIZENSHIP ACT 1955 Vs
23064 / 2018	CIVIL APPEAL / 9228 / 2022	26-06-2018	HARIHARAN Vs HARSH VARDHAN SINGH RAO
10061 / 2017	TRANSFER PETITION (CIVIL) / 582 / 2017	30-03-2017	KHUDALA GRAM SEVA SHAKARI SAMITI LTD Vs UNION OF INDIA
21589 / 2005	CRIMINAL APPEAL / 375 / 2006	30-09-2005	UNION OF INDIA . Vs PREETI AGGARWAL
40016 / 2015	SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) / 33677 / 2015	30-11-2015	S.A. SAMPATH KUMAR Vs KALE YADIAH .
60441 / 1992	CIVIL APPEAL / 37 / 1992	31-12-1992	ABHIRAM SINGH Vs C.D. COMMACHEN (DEAD) BY LRS.
64366 / 2002	CIVIL APPEAL / 8028 / 2002	31-12-2002	NMAIN Vs NMAIN
<b><u>Seven-Judge Bench</u></b>			
10177 / 2014	CRIMINAL APPEAL / 451 / 2019	26-03-2014	SITA SOREN Vs UNION OF INDIA
14059 / 2021	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 682 / 2021	24-06-2021	S.G. VOMBATKERE Vs UNION OF INDIA
15235 / 2015	SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) / 14842 / 2015	07-05-2015	REGISTRAR GENERAL, HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE A Vs TAMIL NADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
20234 / 2022	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 493 / 2022	08-07-2022	SUBHASH DESAI Vs PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA
23338 / 2003	WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) / 206 / 2003	09-11-2003	N. RAVI Vs SPEAKER, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, CHENNAI & ORS
25536 / 2010	CIVIL APPEAL / 2317 / 2011	13-08-2010	THE STATE OF PUNJAB Vs DAVINDER SINGH
71852 / 1994	CIVIL APPEAL / 8763 / 1994	11-02-1994	ARJUN FLOUR MILLS Vs THE STATE OF ODISHA FINANCE DEPARTMENT SECRET
9287 / 2006	CIVIL APPEAL / 2286 /	08-04-2006	ALIGARH MUSLIM

	2006		UNIVERSITY THROUGH ITS REGISTR Vs NARESH AGARWAL
9680 / 2017	CIVIL APPEAL / 8588 / 2019	28-03-2017	ROJER MATHEW Vs SOUTH INDIAN BANK LTD AND ORS CHIEF MANAGER
<b><u>Nine-Judge Bench</u></b>			
12996 / 2005	CIVIL APPEAL / 151 / 2007	05-07-2005	STATE OF U.P. . Vs M/S. LALTA PRASAD VAISH
16528 / 2001	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 419 / 2001	24-09-2001	AHMED HABIB INDIAN INHABITANT Vs STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH THE SECRETARY IN
38452 / 2018	REVIEW PETITION (CIVIL) / 3358 / 2018	10-10-2018	KANTARU RAJEEVARU Vs INDIAN YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION THR.ITS GENE
52396 / 2023	//	14-12-2023	A.GNESHWAR VYAS Vs MEENABEN JETHI
78629 / 1992	CIVIL APPEAL / 1012 / 2002	31-12-1992	PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION Vs STATE OF MAHARASHTRA .
9012 / 1999	CIVIL APPEAL / 4056 / 1999	26-05-1999	MINERAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ETC. Vs M/S STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA .
9099 / 2001	CIVIL APPEAL / 897 / 2002	24-05-2001	STATE OF U.P. Vs JAI BIR SINGH

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 80**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024.**

**Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy**

*Leg. III Sec. (2D)*

**80. SHRI ABHISHEK BANERJEE:**

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

- (a) whether the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bhartiya Sakshya Acts have underwent stakeholder consultation as mandated by the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**A N S W E R**

**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 Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 111<sup>th</sup> (2005), 128<sup>th</sup> (2006) and 146<sup>th</sup> (2010) Reports, recommended for a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System of the country by introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bringing about piece-meal amendments in respective Acts. Accordingly, in conformity with the constitutional and democratic

aspirations, the Ministry of Home Affairs had undertaken the comprehensive review of criminal laws (Indian Penal Code, 1860, Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973) with a view to provide accessible and affordable justice to all and create a legal structure which is citizen centric. In order to seek suggestions from all stakeholders, on 07.09.2019, letters were written to all Governors, Chief Ministers, Lieutenant Governors/Administrators of States and Union Territories for their suggestions on comprehensive amendments to the criminal laws. On 06.01.2020 and 09.01.2020 suggestions were also sought from Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Chief Justices of all High Courts, Bar Councils and Law Universities/Institutions. On 31.12.2021 letters were written to all Members of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) and sought their suggestions in this regard. A Committee was also constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice Chancellor, National Law University (NLU), Delhi to examine and suggest reforms in criminal laws. The Committee had also invited suggestions from various quarters including public. The Government received inputs/suggestions from States, Union Territories, Supreme Court of India, High Courts, Judicial Academies, Law Institutions and Members of Parliament. More than 1000 Police Officers from various States, Central Police Organizations, Central Bureau of Investigation, Intelligence Bureau and Bureau of Police Research & Development also submitted their suggestions. The Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi, after consideration of all suggestions, extensive consultation with the stakeholders and in-depth research, submitted its report in February, 2022 containing its recommendations. The Government considered all the suggestions received from various stakeholders and after detailed examination of all these suggestions the three Bills i.e. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 were introduced in Lok Sabha on 11.08.2023, to repeal and replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and the Indian



Evidence Act, 1872. These bills were subsequently referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for its examination and report. Again, letters were written to all the Chief Ministers, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court and Bar Council of India on 22.08.2023 with the request to send their valuable suggestions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs held several rounds of discussions with the officers of Ministry of Home Affairs, Legislative Department, domain experts and other stakeholders. After detailed deliberations, the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs submitted its recommendations in Report No. 246<sup>th</sup>, 247<sup>th</sup> and 248<sup>th</sup> on 10.11.2023 on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, respectively. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee, three new Bills, namely, the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023, to repeal the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita 2023, to repeal the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973; and the Bharatiya Saksha (Second) Bill, 2023, to repeal the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; were again introduced in Lok Sabha on 19.12.2023, which were passed Lok Sabha on 20.12.2023. After passing of three Bills in Rajya Sabha on 21.12.2023 and thereafter assent of the Hon'ble President of India, these were notified in the Gazette of India on 25.12.2023."

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †88  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**SETTING UP OF WOMEN COURTS**

NM

**†88. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:**

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

- (a) the number of women courts set up to dispose the cases related with atrocities on women till date in the country, State-wise/location-wise;**
- (b) whether there is any proposal to establish women courts in some more States; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

**(a):** The Central Government has set up special courts for dealing with crimes committed against women and atrocities on women. The details of such courts for women are as follows:

- i.** Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As of 31.12.2023, 851 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. The detailed, State/location-wise list of FTCs are at *Annexure-I*.
- ii.** Further, to provide for stringent provisions and expeditious trial and disposal of

cases involving incidents of rape and gang rape of minor girls and women, the Central Government enacted "The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018" that led to the setting up of the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs). The Central Government approved a scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under erstwhile Indian Penal Code (present Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023) and crimes under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. As of 30.11.2023, a total of 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. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 28.11.2023 has further extended this Scheme for another three years i.e. from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026 at a total financial outlay of Rs.1952.23 Cr. with Rs.1207.24 Cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund. The detailed, State/location-wise list of FTSCs are at *Annexure-II*.

- iii. Further, as per information provided by Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Government has launched 'Mission Shakti', an integrated woman empowerment programme which is carefully designed to touch upon and address all concerns and issues of women. One of the components included in Mission Shakti is Nari Adalat which aims for providing women with an alternate Grievance Redressal Mechanism for resolving cases of petty nature (harassment, subversion, curtailment of rights or entitlements) faced by them at Gram panchayat level. The component of Nari Adalat is being implemented in a phased manner.

Assam and Jammu and Kashmir have been selected by the Ministry to implement the new component of Nari Adalat on a pilot basis. Jammu and Kashmir has chosen 2 districts, viz., Kupwara and Baramulla covering 50 villages with 9 members in each panchayat in the initial phase during the year 2023-24.

The State Government of Assam has selected 7 districts and 7 blocks covering 50 village panchayats with 7 members in each panchayat in the initial phase during the year 2023-24. The details of 7 districts and blocks chosen by Assam are as under:-

**Districts and Blocks in the state of Assam**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Blocks</b>
1.	Barpeta	Mandia
2.	Baksa	Tamulpur
3.	Goalpara	Lakhipur
4.	South Salmara-Mankachar	Fekamari
5.	Udalguri	Bhergaon
6.	Darrang	Pub Mangaldoi
7.	Morigaon	Kapili

In respect of Jammu and Kashmir, funds to the tune of Rs. 21.60 Lakhs and for Assam funds to the tune of Rs.20.80 Lakhs have been released during the current financial year 2023-24.

(b) & (c): At present, there are no proposals pending with Union of India to establish women courts in other States.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 88 FOR ANSWER ON 02.02.2024  
REGARDING 'SETTING UP OF WOMEN COURTS'.**

**STATUS OF STATE/UT-WISE FAST TRACK COURTS (AS ON 31.12.2023)**

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of Functional Court in December -2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	22
2	Andaman & Nicobar island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	15
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Delhi	27
10	Diu & Daman	0
11	Goa	6
12	Gujarat	54
13	Haryana	6
14	Himachal Pradesh	3
15	Jammu & Kashmir	8
16	Jharkhand	36
17	Karnataka	0
18	Kerala	0
19	Ladakh	0
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	0
22	Maharashtra	95
23	Manipur*	6
24	Meghalaya	0
25	Mizoram	2
26	Nagaland	0
27	Odisha	0
28	Puducherry	0
29	Punjab	7
30	Rajasthan	0
31	Sikkim	2
32	Tamil Nadu	72
33	Telangana	0
34	Tripura	3
35	Uttar Pradesh	372
36	Uttarakhand	4
37	West Bengal	88
	<b>Total</b>	<b>851</b>

\* Data upto 30.11.2023

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 88 FOR ANSWER ON 02.02.2024  
REGARDING 'SETTING UP OF WOMEN COURTS'.**

**STATE/UT-WISE STATUS OF FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS (AS ON 31.12.2023)**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts	
		FTSCs including ePOCSO <sup>1</sup>	ePOCSO
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16
2	Assam	17	17
3	Bihar	46	46
4	Chandigarh	1	0
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11
6	Delhi	16	11
7	Goa	1	0
8	Gujarat	35	24
9	Haryana	16	12
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3
11	J&K	4	2
12	Jharkhand	22	16
13	Karnataka	31	17
14	Kerala	54	14
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57
16	Maharashtra	19	10
17	Manipur	2	0
18	Meghalaya	5	5
19	Mizoram	3	1
20	Nagaland	1	0
21	Odisha	44	23
22	Puducherry*	1	1
23	Punjab	12	3
24	Rajasthan	45	30
25	Tamilnadu	14	14
26	Telangana	36	0
27	Tripura	3	1
28	Uttarakhand	4	0
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74
30	West Bengal	3	3
31	A&N Islands	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>411</b>

\*The UT of Puducherry specially requested to join the Scheme and has since operationalized one exclusive POCSSO Court in May, 2023.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 123

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 02<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

WOMEN RESERVATION

Leg. II Sec. (LD)

✓ 123. DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has any proposal to implement Women reservation in forthcoming/ensuing general election in 2024;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) No Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Article 334A of the Constitution, inserted by the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, provides that the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose after the relevant figures for the first census taken after commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 have been published.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †135  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

DELAY IN HEARING OF CASES

NM

JSC(MJR)

†135. KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

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

- (a) whether it is true that hearing of cases is being delayed due to insufficient number of judges in the High Courts of the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): No Sir. The delay in hearing of cases cannot be attributed only to the inadequate number of judges in the High Courts. There are several other factors like lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments, lack of adequate arrangements to monitor, track and bunch similar nature of cases for hearing etc. which can lead to delay in hearing of cases.

Further, factors like increase in number of state and central legislations, accumulation of first appeals, continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, appeals against the orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, number of revisions/appeals, indiscriminate use of the writ jurisdiction, assigning of work of administrative nature to the Judges, etc. also contribute to the delay in timely hearing of cases.



Appointment of the Judges to the Constitutional Courts such as High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. The appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at State and Central level. The Government on its part, undertakes every effort to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously in the High Courts but the vacancies of Judges do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

As per information available with the Ministry of Law and Justice, on 25.01.2024, as against the sanctioned strength of 1114, there are 783 Judges working in various High Courts, leaving vacancy of 331 Judges. Out of the 331 vacancies, 145 proposals for appointment of Judges have been received from the High Courts, which are at various stages of processing. High Courts are yet to send proposals in respect of remaining 186 vacancies of Judges.

As a result of the collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary, during the year 2022 a record number of 165 Judges were appointed in various High Courts which is the highest ever in any given year and 110 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts in the year 2023. Further, the strength of Judges in High Courts, which was 906 in the year 2014 has been increased by 208 and stands at 1114 as on 25.01.2024.

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 142**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**ONE NATION ONE ELECTION**

*Leg. II Sec. (LD)*

- ✓142. SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:  
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:  
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBAJIRAO MANE:  
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:  
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether the high powered committee for "One Nation One Election" constituted under the chairmanship of former President Ram Nath Kovind has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the progress made therein and the time by which it is likely to submit its report;
- (c) whether the committee has sought suggestions from the general public and stakeholders in this regard and if so, the details thereof indicating the number of suggestions received till date;
- (d) whether the committee has set any deadline to consider the suggestions received from various quarters and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Law Commission was invited by the committee to discuss its own proposal, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the purview of the Committee including changes to the constitution, ECIs Model code of conduct and ratification by States etc.?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): No Sir.

- (b) and (c) : The High Level Committee has sought suggestions from the political parties on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 and from the general public through public notice on 01<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 *via* emails, website ([www.onoe.gov.in](http://www.onoe.gov.in)) and Post. The total suggestions received from the general public are 21,377 and from the political parties are 35. No specific time limit has been provided for submission of the report by the High Level Committee.
- (d) : No final deadline has been set by the High Level Committee.
- (e) : The Law Commission of India was invited by the High Level Committee on 25.10.2023 to provide their suggestions and viewpoints on the issue of simultaneous elections in the country.
- (f) : The purview of the High Level Committee is contained in the terms and reference placed at annexure 'A'.

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[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART I, SECTION 1]

**MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

**RESOLUTION**

New Delhi, the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023

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

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

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

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

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

1.	Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Former President of India	Chairman
2.	Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Government of India	Member

3.	Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of Single Largest Party in Opposition, Lok Sabha	Member
4.	Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Former Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha	Member
5.	Shri N.K.Singh, Former Chairman, 15 <sup>th</sup> Finance Commission	Member
6.	Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha	Member
7.	Shri Harish Salve, Senior Advocate	Member
8.	Shri Sanjay Kothari, Former Chief Vigilance Commissioner	Member.

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

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

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

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

(b) examine and recommend, if the amendments to the Constitution would require ratification by the States;

(c) analyse and recommend possible solution in a scenario of simultaneous elections emerging out of hung House, adoption of no-confidence motion, or defection or any such other event;

(d) suggest a framework for synchronisation of elections and specifically, suggest the phases and time frame within which simultaneous elections may be held if they cannot be held in one go and also suggest any amendments to the Constitution and other laws in this regard and propose such rules that may be required in such circumstances;

(e) recommend necessary safeguards for ensuring the continuity of the cycle of simultaneous elections and recommend necessary amendments to the Constitution, so that the cycle of simultaneous elections is not disturbed;

(f) examine the logistics and manpower required, including EVMs, VVPATs, etc., for holding such simultaneous elections;

(g) examine and recommend the modalities of use of a single electoral roll and electoral identity cards for identification of voters in elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha), State Legislative Assemblies, Municipalities and Panchayats.

5. The HLC shall commence functioning immediately and make recommendations at the earliest.

6. The headquarters of the HLC shall be at New Delhi.

7. The HLC may decide its own procedure for conducting its meetings and other relevant functions.

8. The HLC may hear and entertain all persons, representations and communications which in the opinion of the HLC shall facilitate its work and enable it to finalise its recommendations.

9. The Chairman and members of the HLC shall be paid allowances as follows—

(a) Chairman of the HLC shall be entitled for such allowances as provided in the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951;

(b) Members of the HLC who are Member of Parliament, shall be entitled to such allowances as defined in clause (a) of section 2 of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959;

(c) All other Members of the HLC shall be entitled to Travelling Allowance at the rates and as per rules applicable to the government servants of the highest grade.

10. The Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice shall provide Office space, secretarial assistance and other logistics support to the HLC.

11. The expenditure of the HLC shall be met through a separate budgetary allocation by the Government under the relevant budget heads of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department).

[F.No.H-11019/03/2023-Leg.II]

(Dr. Reeta Vasishtha)

Secretary to the Govt. of India

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 171

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE

Leg. II Sec. (D)

171. SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:  
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission (EC) has provided any substantive response to the "genuine concerns" raised by various registered parties/organisations/general public/voters regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), if so, the details thereof/reasons therefor; and

(b) whether there have been demands for 100% matching of the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips and EVMs inputs, if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken since the introduction of EVM to remove these doubts?

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 (ECI) has informed that to address various concerns and promote awareness regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), the ECI has published the following resources/publications on the ECI website, as under-

- (i) Manual on Electronic Voting Machine;
- (ii) Presentation on EVM;
- (iii) Status Paper on EVM;
- (iv) Legal History of EVMs and VVPATs;
- (v) Celebrating 40 Years of EVM;
- (vi) FAQs on EVMs.

The resources are regularly updated from time to time

(b) The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that the present system of mandatory counting of slips of randomly selected 5 Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) per Parliamentary Constituency/Assembly Constituency is as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment in case of *N. Chandrababu Naidu Vs Union of India* (Writ Petition (C) No. 273 of 2019). Further, various aspects related to VVPAT are *sub-judice* before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 172  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

POCSO ACT CASES

J-II

JS (PPP)  
✓ 172. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K. :

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to continue the Fast Track Special Courts scheme for the next three years for expeditious disposal of rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not making such courts permanent despite the continued rise in rape cases; and
- (d) the details of the existing fast track special courts, State-wise and the number of POCSO cases filed, disposal off and pending in each court at present?

ANSWER

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

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 28.11.2023 has approved the proposal of the Department for extending the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) Scheme for further 3 years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26 with an outlay of ₹1952.23 cr.

(c) : The primary responsibility to establish subordinate courts including special courts for providing speedy justice in the country lies within the domain of the State/UT Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with their respective High Courts.

However, in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018, the Government of India is implementing the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme since August, 2019 for expeditious trial and disposal of cases pertaining to rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 in a time-bound manner under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Scheme was initially for one year, which was further extended up to March, 2023. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 28.11.2023 has further extended the Scheme for another three years - from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026.

The Fast Track Special Courts Scheme is a temporary scheme being implemented during the scheme period for the expeditious disposal of pending rape and POCSO Act cases across the country. It does not intend to create any permanent infrastructure. After the Scheme period, the remaining cases, if any, will be dealt with by the regular courts or other special courts as decided by the State/UT Governments and High Courts.

**(d)** : As per the data submitted by High Courts, 757 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs as on 31.12.2023. These courts have disposed of more than 2,14,000 cases since the inception of the Scheme while more than 2,02,000 cases are pending. State-wise functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts and the total number of POCSO cases filed, disposed off and pending in e-POCSO courts as on 31.12.2023 are given at **Annexure.**

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**Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 172  
for 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024**

**State/UT-wise functional FTSCs including e-POCSO courts and the number of cases  
filed, disposed off and pending in e-POCSO courts as on December 2023**

S.NO.	State/UT	Functional Courts		e-POCSO Cases instituted since the inception of the Scheme	Cumulative Disposal of e-POCSO cases since the inception of the Scheme	Cumulative Pendency of e-POCSO cases
		FTSCs including e-POCSO	e-POCSO			
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	11314	4083	7231
2	Assam	17	17	10186	4979	5207
3	Bihar	46	46	27655	9939	17716
4	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	5423	3614	1809
6	Delhi	16	11	3778	1034	2744
7	Goa	1	0	34	34	0
8	Gujarat	35	24	13116	8273	4843
9	Haryana	16	12	7082	3982	3100
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	1350	967	383
11	J&K	4	2	394	70	324
12	Jharkhand	22	16	7087	3809	3278
13	Karnataka	31	17	9039	5894	3145
14	Kerala	54	14	7313	5165	2148
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	27763	20092	7671
16	Maharashtra	19	10	12231	10221	2010
17	Manipur	2	0	0	0	0
18	Meghalaya	5	5	1443	382	1061
19	Mizoram	3	1	82	48	34
20	Nagaland	1	0	3	3	0
21	Odisha	44	23	14880	7950	6930
22	Puducherry*	1	1	265	44	221
23	Punjab	12	3	2331	1902	429
24	Rajasthan	45	30	14025	9009	5016
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	10668	6228	4440
26	Telangana	36	0	2731	2731	0
27	Tripura	3	1	257	184	73
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	0	0	0
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	80467	28283	52184
30	West Bengal	3	3	2996	48	2948
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>273913</b>	<b>138968</b>	<b>134945</b>

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 174

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02.02.2024

Vacancies in Higher Courts

DSC Appals

Appointment

✓ 174. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

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

- (a) the number of vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts, especially for the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the number of proposals recommended against the said vacancies;
- (c) the time since the collegium of the Supreme Court recommended the said proposals;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the delay in judicial appointments as well as transfers, if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to reduce the delay; and
- (e) the reasons for non-clearance of names of judges of various High Courts recommended by the collegium of the Supreme Court?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): As on 29.01.2024, against the sanctioned strength of 34 Judges, the Supreme Court is functioning at full strength and there is no vacancy. As regards the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 783 Judges are working and 331 post of Judges are vacant in the various High Courts. The High Court-wise detail of sanctioned strength, working strength and

vacancy as on 29.01.2024 is at **Annexure**. The Madras High Court is functioning with a strength of 67 judges, against the sanctioned strength of 75 judges, leaving 8 vacancies of judges to be filled up. Out of these 8 vacancies, proposals for appointment of 4 posts of judges are under various stages of consideration with the Government. Recommendation against the remaining vacancies is yet to be received from the High Court Collegium.

As on 29.01.2024, 145 proposals for appointment of Judges received from various High Court Collegiums are at various stages of processing. Out of these 145 proposals, 84 proposals were sent to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for seeking advice against which the SCC has provided advice on 65 proposals which are at various stages of processing in the Government. 19 proposals are under consideration with the SCC. 61 fresh proposals received recently are being processed for seeking the advice of the SCC. Recommendations are yet to be received from High Court Collegiums in respect of the remaining 186 vacancies. 07 proposals for transfer of Judges are under consideration of the Government.

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

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 and 34 judges have been transferred among various High Courts.

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**ANNEXURE****Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (as on 29.01.2024)**

A.	Supreme Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		34			34			0		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	76	14	90	43	27	70
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	8	30	6	1	7
3	Bombay	71	23	94	40	29	69	31	-6	25
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	37	14	51	17	4	21
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	6	16	7	-1	6
6	Delhi	46	14	60	37	5	42	9	9	18
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	16	7	23	6	1	7
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	31	0	31	8	13	21
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	11	4	15	2	0	2
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	17	1	18	3	4	7
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	39	12	51	8	3	11
13	Kerala	35	12	47	32	4	36	3	8	11
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	39	1	40	0	13	13
15	Madras	56	19	75	54	13	67	2	6	8
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	2	1	3	1	0	1
18	Orissa	24	9	33	20	0	20	4	9	13
19	Patna	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	41	15	56	23	6	29
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	34	0	34	4	12	16
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	21	5	26	11	5	16
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	6	0	6	3	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1114</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>331</b>

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 188  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

Expenditure for e-Courts

e-Courts

188. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:

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

- (a) whether there was any expenditure during the last five years on schemes and programmes for introduction of e-Courts in the country;
- (b) the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The eCourts Mission Mode Project is a national eGovernance project for ICT enablement of district/subordinate courts of the country with a view to facilitate faster disposal of cases by speeding up court processes and providing transparent on-line flow of information on case status, orders/judgments etc. to the judiciary as well as litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders. The eCourts Phase I (2011-15) was aimed at basic computerization of courts and providing local network connectivity under which a total expenditure of Rs.639.41 crore was done. Phase II (2015-2023) of the project focused on citizen-centric e-services besides computerising 18735 courts and interconnecting these with wide area network (WAN). Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crore in the



phase II of the project, the Department of Justice has released Rs.1668.43 crore for implementation of the project till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The 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. The details of expenditure during the last five years, phase-wise is attached at Annexure-I.

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**Annexure-I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.188 for 02/02/2024 regarding Expenditure for e-Courts. The details of expenditure during the last five years is;

Year	Fund Allocated (Rs. Crore)	Fund Released (Rs. Crore)
2019-20	180.00	179.26
2020-21	180.00	179.31
2021-22	98.92	98.30
2022-23*	0.00	0.00
2023-2024	825 <sup>#</sup>	212.79**

\* 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.

\*\* Fund released till 10.01.2024.

# 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 AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 203  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 02.02.2024  
Renewal of Notaries**

*Notary Cell (LIA)*

**✓ 203. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any statistics regarding Central Government notaries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to enhance the Central quota of notaries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon;
- (e) Whether there are any applications pending before the Government for renewal of notaries licence; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): The maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government, State/UT-wise is as under:-

S. No.	State	Maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government
1	Andhra Pradesh	1700
2	Assam	575
3	Bihar	925
4	Gujarat	8000
5	Kerala	1750
6	Madhya Pradesh	1650
7	Tamil Nadu	4700
8	Maharashtra	8000

9	Karnataka	3500
10	Orissa	750
11	Punjab	2000
12	Rajasthan	4500
13	Uttar Pradesh	5150
14	West Bengal	600
15	Jammu & Kashmir	350
16	Nagaland	200
17	Haryana	2000
18	Himachal Pradesh	400
19	Manipur	225
20	Tripura	100
21	Meghalaya	175
22	Sikkim	100
23	Mizoram	200
24	Arunachal Pradesh	325
25	Goa	150
26	Uttranchal	325
27	Chhatisgarh	900
28	Jharkhand	450
29	Telangana	1000
30	Delhi	1600
31	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	50
32	Lakshadweep	25
33	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	25
34	Daman & Diu	50
35	Puducherry	250
36	Chandigarh	200
37	Ladakh	50

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e) and (f): In terms of provisions contained in Sub-Section (2) of Section 5 of the Notaries Act, 1952, the Certificate of Practices issued to the notary is required to be renewed every five years. It is a continuous process and efforts are made to dispose of all such applications for renewal expeditiously.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 209

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

Promotion of Hindi in Higher Courts

JS (MK<sup>gr</sup>)

J-I

✓ 209. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH PATEL:

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

- (a) the various efforts being made by the Government to promote the use of Hindi language in the High Courts and Supreme Court of India;
- (b) whether there is any new scheme proposed for the promotion of official language Hindi in the Supreme Court in future;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to promote the use of official language Hindi in issuing Judicial judgements;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the new set of guidelines issued by the Government to promote Official language Hindi in the courts?

ANSWER

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

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

judgment, decree or order is passed or made in any such language (other than the English Language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English Language issued under the authority of the High Court.

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

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

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

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.210

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

GRAM NYAYALAYAS

JK

✓ 210. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

- (a) the number of Gram Nyayalayas that have been notified and set up in the country and the number out of them currently operational, location-wise;
- (b) the total number of cases filed and currently pending in each of the operational Gram Nyayalayas in Maharashtra;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the resolution of pending cases in the Gram Nyayalayas of Maharashtra;
- (d) whether there are any plans to establish additional Gram Nyayalayas in other locations of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details indicating the proposed location thereof and the timelines 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): 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
<b>Total</b>		<b>477</b>	<b>290</b>

The District/Taluka-wise list of the Operational / Functional Gram Nyayalayas is at *Annexure-I*.

(b): As per information made available by the Bombay High Court, the total number of cases filed and currently pending in each of the operational Gram Nyayalayas in Maharashtra is at *Annexure-II*.

(c): The disposal of cases pending in gram Nyayalayas is within the exclusive domain of the respective High Court and the concerned State Government. Among the steps being taken to expedite resolution of pending cases in Gram Nyayalayas of



Maharashtra, regular inspections of the districts where Gram Nyayalayas are established is being conducted by the concerned Principal District and Sessions Judges as per Civil Manual chapter No. XXXIX and Criminal Manual chapter No. XXIV. Also, directions have been issued to all the Principal District and Sessions Judges to make efforts and direct the concerned courts to expedite the hearing in the matters in Gram Nyayalayas and get their disposal done at the earliest. Furthermore, the Government of Maharashtra is providing suitable finance and infrastructure support for the Gram Nyayalayas and getting enough publicity for the Gram Nyayalayas through Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority.

(d) & (e): At present, there is no proposal with the Government of India for establishment of additional Gram Nyayalayas in the country. The Gram Nyayalayas Act does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. It is for the States and the respective High Courts to decide establishing more Gram Nyayalayas as per their need in accordance to the extant provisions of the Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008.

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**Operational / Functional Gram Nyayalyas District/ Taluka Wise**

**Annexure-I**

Sl no	State	District	Location/Taluk
	<b>Uttar Pradesh (74)</b>		
1	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	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	Campianganj
35		Gorakhpur	Gola
36		Gonda	Mankapur
37		Gonda	Tarabganj
38		Hamirpur	Sarila
39		Hardoi	Sandila
40		Panchsheel Nagar district	Dhaulana

		(Hapur)	
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	Sidhauili
70		Sonabhadra	Ghorawal
71		Unnao	Hasangaj
72		Varanasi	Pindara
73		Moradabad	Bilari
74		Sant Kabir Nagar	Meinhdawal
	<b>Punjab (2)</b>		
75	<b>Punjab</b>	Rupnagar	Nangal
76		Moga	Kot Isse Khan
	<b>Kerala (30)</b>		
77	<b>Kerala</b>	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
	<b>Maharashtra (26)</b>		
107	<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>Ahmednagar</b>	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	
	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
	<b>Rajasthan (45)</b>		
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	<b>Rajasthan</b>	Dholpur	Basedi
152		Dungarpur	Aspur
153		Dungarpur	Bichhiwara
154		Ganganagar	Sriganganagar
155		Ganganagar	Anoopgarh
156		Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh
157		Jaipur	Sambhar
158		Jaipur	Bassi
159		Jalore	Sanchoe
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.Madhampur	Gangapurcity
173		Sikar	Kudli
174		Sirohi	Pindwara
175		Tonk	Deoli
176		Udaipur	Udaipur
177		Udaipur	Kherwara
<b>Odisha (19)</b>			
178		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	<b>Odisha</b>	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
<b>Jharkhand (1)</b>			
197	<b>Jharkhand</b>	Koderma	Jhumri Talaiya
<b>Karnataka (2)</b>			
198	<b>Karnataka</b>	Kolar	Gowribidaur
199		Chikkaballapur	Chikkaballapur
<b>Madhya Pradesh (89)</b>			
200		Alirajpur	Jobat
201		Anuppur	Kotma
202		Ashoknagar	Chanderi
203		Barwani	Sendhwa
204	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	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
	<b>Haryana (2)</b>		
289	<b>Haryana</b>	Kurukshetra	Shahabad
290		Sirsa	Rania

Source:- MIS portal of Department of Justice.



## Annexure-II

## Institution and Pendency of Civil and Criminal Cases in Gram Nyayalayas in the State of Maharashtra

S. No.	District	Taluka	Institution			Pendency as on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023		
			Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Wardha	Sewagram	68	2196	2264	4	55	59
2	Wardha	Alipur, Tal. Hinganghat	46	151	197	0	38	38
3	Wardha	Deoli	3	847	850	1	136	137
4	Ahmednagar	Ralegansiddhi, Tal. Parner	374	1569	1943	0	49	49
5	Raigad	Kharavali, Tal. Mahad	27	205	232	0	54	54
6	Raigad	Poladpur	0	208	208	0	65	65
7	Raigad	Tala	18	909	927	1	153	154
8	Dhule	Nizampur, Tal. Sakri	114	329	443	0	16	16
9	Ratnagiri	Pali	55	355	410	7	64	71
10	Nanded	Tamsa, Tal. Hadgaon	3	150	153	0	25	25
11	Thane	Jawhar	26	1004	1030	0	200	200
12	Pune	Male, Tal. Mulshi	0	1482	1482	0	138	138
13	Pune	Lonikalbhor, Kadam Wak Vasti, Tal. Haveli	0	3655	3655	0	79	79
14	Pune	Velha	0	337	337	0	295	295
15	Gadchiroli	Korchi	27	587	614	8	50	58
16	Gadchiroli	Mulchera	157	1675	1832	25	125	150
17	Sindhugarh	Vaibhavwadi	59	118	177	17	6	23
18	Gondia	Goregaon	0	623	623	0	92	92
19	Gondia	Salekasa	0	466	466	0	90	90
20	Latur	Shirur Anantpal	0	627	627	0	116	116
21	Latur	Jalkot	1	432	433	0	119	119
22	Nashik	Deola	27	1407	1434	0	325	325
23	Nashik	Trambakeshwar	0	5018	5018	0	589	589
24	Nashik	Harsul	0	471	471	0	450	450
25	Nashik	Sankh	2	123	125	2	115	117
26	Sangli	Gaganbawada	116	128	244	116	116	232
26	Kolhapur							
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,123</b>	<b>25,072</b>	<b>26,195</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>3,560</b>	<b>3,741</b>

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 222  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

JS (111)

Functional e-Courts

e-Court

✓ 222. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- (a) the number of e-Courts functional across the country at present and those under development, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized for the e-Court project during the last three years and the current year across the country, State-wise specially Bihar and Rajasthan;
- (c) whether the Government has set any target for setting up such courts in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with achievements made so far in this regard;
- (e) the number of courts with requisite digital infrastructure; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government under various phases of e-Court project and the status of 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): The High Court wise details of functional eCourts in the country has been attached at Annexure-I.

(b): Funds released and utilised during the last three years across the country including Bihar and Rajasthan are given in Annexure-II.

(c) to (f): 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, 880eSewa 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 will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- 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.

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**Annexure-I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 222 for 02/02/2024 regarding Functional e-Courts. 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
	<b>Total</b>		<b>18735</b>

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 222 for 02/02/2024 regarding the funds released during the last three years across the country including Bihar and Rajasthan is:

							Utilized (%)
1	Allahabad	15.04	13.63	13.79	10.22	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Bombay	0.00	0.00	8.86	8.86	0.00	0.00
4	Calcutta	0.00	0.00	4.93	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	4.44	4.44	2.34	2.34	0.00	0.00
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	3.00	2.85	0.00	0.00
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.98	0.98	1.52	1.52	1.26	1.18
8	Gauhati (Assam)	13.68	13.40	6.11	1.78	3.49	3.46
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.51	0.43	0.72	0.69	0.30	0.25
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.70	0.70	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.84
11	Gujarat*	0.00	0.00	3.48	0.83	0.00	0.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.78	0.00	0.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
14	Jharkhand	5.53	0.35	2.98	0.48	0.00	0.00
15	Karnataka	9.15	9.15	4.29	4.29	0.00	0.00
16	Kerala	0.00	0.00	2.83	2.83	1.58	1.58
17	Madhya Pradesh	11.21	11.06	6.28	6.21	0.00	0.00
18	Madras	0.00	0.00	4.73	2.46	0.00	0.00
19	Manipur	0.61	0.60	1.30	1.28	0.76	0.75
20	Meghalaya	0.92	0.09	2.32	0.51	2.23	0.85
21	Orissa	13.46	13.09	3.37	3.31	0.00	0.00
22	Patna	7.08	6.40	5.44	5.30	0.00	0.00



23	Punjab & Haryana	0.00	0.00	4.55	4.55	0.00	0.00
24	Rajasthan	1.29	1.29	10.58	10.57	1.62	1.62
25	Sikkim	1.61	0.68	1.01	0.92	0.77	0.00
26	Telangana	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Tripura	2.24	2.19	4.44	4.05	0.96	0.78
28	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.12	0.00	0.00

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

NOTE 1: For year the 2022-2023 no funds were released as the total outlay of Phase II amounting to Rs. 1670 crore had been exhausted and the DPR of Phase –III eCourts was under the process of approval.

NOTE 2: 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 AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*102  
ANSWERED ON – 09/02/2024

J-II

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS

TS (PPP)

✓\*102. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:  
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to implement the Fast Track Special Courts scheme;
- (b) the details of the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Courts operational in the country;
- (c) the number of cases resolved thereon so far, court-wise and State-wise;
- (d) the key achievements and outcomes of the Scheme;
- (e) the rate of disposal in rape and POCSO Act cases; and
- (f) whether the Government has made any assessment of the functioning of the FTSC scheme, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*102 FOR THE 09<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS'**

(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.

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

As per data submitted by various High Courts, up to 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. State-wise details of number of functional Fast Track Special Courts along with the number of cases disposed of as on 31.12.2023 is placed at **Annexure-I**.

(d) : Setting up Fast Track Special Courts demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Government towards women security, combating sexual and gender-based violence, reducing the backlog of pending cases related to Rape & POCSO Act, and providing expeditious access to justice for survivors of sexual crimes. With professional and experienced judges and support staff specialized in handling sensitive sexual offense cases, these courts ensure consistent and expert-guided legal proceedings offering victims of sexual offences swift resolutions in mitigating the trauma and distress, and enabling them to move forward. Fast Track Special Courts have notably adopted the approach of setting up Vulnerable

Witness Deposition Centres within the courts to facilitate the victims and to make the courts into Child-friendly Courts for providing crucial support for a compassionate legal system. These courts have disposed of more than 2,14,000 cases as of December 31, 2023.

(e) : As per the information provided by the High Courts on the FTSCs dashboard, a total of 81,471 cases were newly instituted from January, 2023 to December, 2023, while 76,319 cases have been disposed of during the period, resulting in a disposal rate of 93.6%.

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

(f) : A third-party evaluation of the Scheme was carried out by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) in the year 2023 which has inter-alia recommended for continuation of the scheme. The recommendations given by IIPA, are as under:

- IIPA strongly recommended the continuation of this scheme as its primary objective is to handle cases of sexual offences against women and children through a streamlined and expedited judicial process.
- To expedite trials, States and High Courts must strengthen parameters, including appointing Special Judges experienced in POCSO cases, ensuring sensitization training, and appointing female public prosecutors.
- The courtrooms need to be upgraded with modern technology, such as audio and video recording systems and LCD projectors. To be at par with the current evolving technologies, the court could enhance IT systems including electronic case filing and digitalization of court records.
- Forensic Labs to increase and to train manpower to expedite the pending cases in courts and ensure timely submission of DNA Reports. It will not only help the skilled manpower to assist the scientist and reporting officers but moreover will help to give a fair and speedy justice.

- Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers (VWDCs) should be established in all districts to facilitate a better process of recording victim testimonies, thereby initiating a smoother court proceeding. The States should take initiative to conduct the trial in a way that is child-friendly, behind closed doors without disclosing the child's identity. Further, every FTSC should have a child psychologist to assist the child with rigorous pre-trial and trial procedures

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**Annexures as referred to in Reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question  
No. \*102 for 09.02.2024**

**Annexure-I**

State/UT-wise number of functional FTSCs and cumulative disposal of cases  
as of December, 2023

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme
		FTSCs including e-POCSO	e-POCSO	
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	4083
2	Assam	17	17	4979
3	Bihar	46	46	9939
4	Chandigarh	1	0	244
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	4377
6	Delhi	16	11	1503
7	Goa	1	0	44
8	Gujarat	35	24	10295
9	Haryana	16	12	5342
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	1282
11	J&K	4	2	151
12	Jharkhand	22	16	5822
13	Karnataka	31	17	8897
14	Kerala	54	14	16878
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	23613
16	Maharashtra	19	10	16907
17	Manipur	2	0	127
18	Meghalaya	5	5	382
19	Mizoram	3	1	169
20	Nagaland	1	0	57
21	Odisha	44	23	11960
22	Puducherry	1	1	44
23	Punjab	12	3	3565
24	Rajasthan	45	30	13003
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	6228
26	Telangana	36	0	7799
27	Tripura	3	1	349
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	1355
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	55021
30	West Bengal	3	3	48
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>214463</b>

## State/UT-wise Disposal of cases in FTSCs as of December, 2023

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total cases instituted since inception of the Scheme	Cumulative disposal since inception of the Scheme	Cumulative pendency
1	Andhra Pradesh	11314	4083	7231
2	Assam	10186	4979	5207
3	Bihar	27655	9939	17716
4	Chandigarh	447	244	203
5	Chhattisgarh	6641	4377	2264
6	Delhi	5313	1503	3810
7	Goa	200	44	156
8	Gujarat	16633	10295	6338
9	Haryana	9541	5342	4199
10	Himachal Pradesh	2116	1282	834
11	J&K	604	151	453
12	Jharkhand	10308	5822	4486
13	Karnataka	14311	8897	5414
14	Kerala	24279	16878	7401
15	Madhya Pradesh	33806	23613	10193
16	Maharashtra	21262	16907	4355
17	Manipur	221	127	94
18	Meghalaya	1443	382	1061
19	Mizoram	258	169	89
20	Nagaland	108	57	51
21	Odisha	23020	11960	11060
22	Puducherry	265	44	221
23	Punjab	5003	3565	1438
24	Rajasthan	19125	13003	6122
25	Tamil Nadu	10668	6228	4440
26	Telangana	16262	7799	8463
27	Tripura	591	349	242
28	Uttarakhand	2263	1355	908
29	Uttar Pradesh	139799	55021	84778
30	West Bengal	2996	48	2948
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>416638</b>	<b>214463</b>	<b>202175</b>

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*113  
ANSWERED ON – 09/02/2024

FAMILY COURTS

✓\*113. SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN:

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

- (a) the number of Family Courts functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases filed, settled and pending in these courts during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether States are facing problems in settlement of cases registered in these courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

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



**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*113 FOR THE 09<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 REGARDING 'FAMILY COURTS'**

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

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

In Family Courts, delays in proceedings exacerbate tensions and prolong emotional stress, hindering timely dispute resolution. Enforcing decisions on child custody, visitation rights, and financial support remains challenging despite court rulings, leading to continued conflict and frustration. Additionally, the requirement for travel to another city for court appearances imposes significant logistical and financial burdens, especially for families already under strain. It is also important to note that counsellors play a vital role in providing advice and guidance, but their effectiveness depends on proper training and capacity building. Improving Family Courts necessitates providing sufficient infrastructure and specialized judges with adequate training. Sensitizing judges, court staff, and stakeholders, along with gender sensitivity training, is imperative to ensure fair treatment, reduce bias, and protect the rights of all parties, particularly women. Considering the appointment of lady judges and counsellors could further enhance the system's effectiveness.

The Government has brought these issues to the attention of the States and High Courts by sending communications at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice to the Chief Ministers of States/UTs and the Chief Justices of all High Courts. The last such

communication was sent on 15.07.2023. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedures for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. The Family Courts are also covered by the ambit of these initiatives. The major initiatives are given below:

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

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary was launched in 1993. Under this Scheme, the number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,524 as on 31.12.2023 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,951 as on 31.12.2023. Since inception of the Scheme, an amount of Rs.10567.00 has been released till 06.02.2024. The Scheme has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs.9,000 crore, including central share will be Rs.5,307 crore. Besides construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of Lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

**ii. Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** The Central Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for information and communication technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 02.02.2024, litigants can access case status of over 24.99 crore cases and 24.87 crore orders/judgments pertaining to these courts. e-Courts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders and final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through e-Courts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all

computerized courts, e-Courts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails.

With a view to handling the COVID-19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 880 e-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs.28.886 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs.12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes. Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 2,17,99,976 cases while the High Court heard 82,76,595 cases (totalling more than 3 crore) using video conferencing till 31.12.2023.

iii. **Filling up of vacant positions in District and Subordinate Courts:** Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.12.2023	25,348	20,018

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

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## Annexure as referred to in Reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. \*113 for 09.02.2024

## State/UT-wise details of functional courts and No. of Cases filed, Cases disposed and Cases pending during last three years

S.No	State/Uts	Functional Court	Cases Filed			Cases Disposed			Cases Pending		
			2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	15	5635	6877	8552	1632	4990	8090	10069	10447	13205
2	Andaman Nicobar	1	0	0	262	0	0	307	0	0	799
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	7	3935	6130	5758	4103	7450	4937	9356	7532	7158
5	Bihar	39	19382	24085	22737	7795	22501	21445	69792	71376	72668
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27	11525	15548	17550	9527	14995	16763	17779	18718	19505
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	30	21382	22664	***	30166	21014	***	48520	***	***
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	36	18508	24910	27194	22124	26557	30084	35335	34761	31954
13	Haryana	28	33315	46271	49164	31589	48301	43652	65337	62231	64656
14	Himachal Pradesh	3	2706	6275	4171	3096	5470	4160	5102	5924	6301
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	31	9380	13312	15782	5873	16670	16855	19371	15999	15306
17	Karnataka	40	21684	28208	29391	22603	28259	30409	39458	39397	38407
18	Kerala	35	50975	68111	84610	47146	68289	86250	114020	113756	112267
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	63	18758	12974	41598	18140	13724	43231	25769	65283	64020
22	Maharashtra	51	29321	40186	38830	26789	39673	40399	67315	67828	66259
23	Manipur	4	441	674	560	251	1058	422	634	628	720
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	2	185	257	210	150	223	194	153	199	233
27	Odisha	30	10874	14653	15588	8980	19567	18577	44689	39786	36797
28	Puducherry	2	873	1232	1094	835	1363	845	1452	1212	1473
29	Punjab	33	61023	67286	68711	40297	71313	72668	85061	79413	73388
30	Rajasthan	50	30168	43357	50912	27187	41740	48155	46048	47957	50714
31	Sikkim	2	240	349	287	286	417	325	195	148	35
32	Tamil Nadu	40	21774	25645	22608	13468	27775	23039	32519	30952	32222
33	Telangana	23	10820	11814	13439	11622	10568	13227	18095	7213	18888
34	Tripura	9	2762	4028	3636	2717	3663	3726	3604	3977	3957
35	Uttar Pradesh	189	170634	229098	287494	183793	234047	284091	396462	390256	396875
36	Uttarakhand	18	10749	13342	14707	11319	14722	14726	15997	14617	14591
37	West Bengal	4	165	301	657	118	351	312	1166	1124	1517
38	Total	812	497447	727587	825502	531606	744700	826889	1173298	1130734	1143915

\*\*\* Data not provided by the concerned High Court

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1153

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

A2J

52 (MK6)

**NYAYA BANDHU PROGRAMME**

1153. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) the number of pro bono advocates that have been registered under the Nyaya Bandhu Programme; and
- (b) the total cases that have been registered by the beneficiaries under the programme?;

**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 Government launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services) in the year 2017 with the aim to provide a dispensation framework for Pro Bono Legal Services and to advance the culture of pro bono in the country. In order to avail the services of a Pro Bono lawyer, both the applicants and lawyers are required to register on the Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application (available on Android, iOS and UMANG platform). As on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024, 10,779 Pro Bono advocates have been registered under the Nyaya Bandhu programme from 27 States/UT Bar Councils.(Annexure- 'A') and total cases that have been registered by the beneficiaries under the programme is 3157 as on 31<sup>st</sup> January,2024.(Annexure- 'B').

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## Annexure-'A'

Statement as referred to in reply to part (a) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1153 for answering on 09.02.2024 raised by SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL, MP on Nyaya Bandhu Programme

A State Bar Council-wise Statement containing number of Pro Bono Advocates registered under the Nyaya Bandhu Programme (2017-2023)

S. No.	State Bar Councils	No. of Advocates state Bar Council Wise
1	Andhra Pradesh	669
2	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim	266
3	Bihar	626
4	Chhattisgarh	343
5	Delhi	936
6	Gujarat	195
7	Himachal Pradesh	383
8	Jammu & Kashmir	152
9	Jharkhand	342
10	Karnataka	313
11	Kerala	157
12	Madhya Pradesh	634
13	Maharashtra & Goa	577
14	Manipur	57
15	Meghalaya	48
16	Odisha	289
17	Punjab & Haryana	1988
18	Rajasthan	1130
19	Tamil Nadu	394
20	Telangana	194
21	Tripura	6
22	Uttar Pradesh	720
23	Uttarakhand	160
24	West Bengal	179
25	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
27	Daman & Diu	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10779</b>

## Annexure-'B'

Statement as referred to in reply to part (b) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1153 for answering on 09.02.2024 raised by SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL, MP on Nyaya Bandhu Programme

A State/wise Statement containing number of cases registered by the Beneficiaries under the Nyaya Bandhu Programme (2017-2023)

S. No.	States/UTs	No. of Cases
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	20
2	Andhra Pradesh	84
3	Arunachal Pradesh	4
4	Assam	34
5	Bihar	113
6	Chandigarh	34
7	Chhattisgarh	45
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Daman & Diu	0
10	Delhi	571
11	Goa	5
12	Gujarat	90
13	Haryana	157
14	Himachal Pradesh	21
15	Jammu and Kashmir	27
16	Jharkhand	68
17	Karnataka	95
18	Kerala	40
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	167
21	Maharashtra	484
22	Manipur	9
23	Meghalaya	2
24	Mizoram	1
25	Nagaland	1
26	Odisha	129
27	Puducherry	0
28	Punjab	33
29	Rajasthan	66
30	Sikkim	1
31	Tamil Nadu	55
32	Telangana	88
33	Tripura	2
34	Uttar Pradesh	391
35	Uttarakhand	47
36	West Bengal	273
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3157</b>

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1159

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

Voters with Disabilities

*Leg. II Sec (LD)*

✓ 1159. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:  
SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:  
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:  
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:  
SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

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

- (a) the number of voters with disabilities who opted to vote from home in the recently conducted state elections, State-wise;
- (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 number of complaints received by ECI from voters with disabilities or caretakers of such individuals for failure to provide voting from home facilities during the last five years, 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): 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 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 has been received from the State of Karnataka.

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1174  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

JS (PPP)

e-Courts

e-Court

✓ 1174. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:  
SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:  
MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop e-courts through Phase III for operation of various courts including High Courts and District Courts across the country, constituency-wise;
- (b) if so, details thereof including the total outlay in Phase III of the e-Courts project including virtual hearings, establishment of virtual benches of the High Courts etc., State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted an assessment of usefulness of Phase I and Phase II in enabling citizens' access to justice, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the basis on which the Government decided to substantially increase the allocation for Phase III; and
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any standard operating procedure for the implementation of the Phase III of e-courts project, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b) : 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.

eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase I of the eCourts project was implemented between 2011-2015. It focused on the basics of computerisation like setting up computer hardware, ensuring internet connectivity, and operationalizing the e-Courts platform. Against the financial outlay of Rs.935 crore, total expenditure incurred was Rs.639.41 crore for implementation of this phase.

Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project extended from 2015-2023. It focused on ICT enablement of District & Subordinate Courts and various citizen centric initiatives such as ePayments, eFiling, virtual courts to handle traffic challans, hearings using Video Conferencing. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crore, total expenditure incurred was Rs. 1668.43 crore for implementation of this phase. Under this phase 18735 district and subordinate courts have been computerized, WAN connectivity has been provided and the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) created.

The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 13.09.2023 approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7210 crore spread over 4 years (2023 onwards). Subsequently, in October 2023, 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. Rs. 600 crore has recently been received as RE for FY 2023-24. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts through digitization of the entire court records including legacy records and by bringing in universalization of e-Filing/ e-Payments through saturation of all court complexes

with e-Sewa Kendras. It will put in place intelligent smart systems enabling data-based decision making for judges and registries while scheduling or prioritizing cases. The main objective of the Phase-III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary, which may provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. The project will help provide a smoother user experience by building a “smart” ecosystem. 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. The various components of eCourts Phase III including digitization of 3108 crore pages of legacy records, cloud infrastructure, 4400 fully functional eSewa Kendras in all court complexes, and use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, etc along with its financial details are at Annexure I.

(c) : Yes, Sir. Third-Party Evaluation has been conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) for eCourts Project Phase II and key findings are as follows:

- The eCourts Project has led to an increase in the total number of cases filed in the courts and helped with easier access to information through online portals and mobile applications.
- A high level of satisfaction was expressed with the access and quality of the various ICT facilities provided under the eCourts project.
- The procurement process by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India is well planned and all payments are received on time.
- Judges are satisfied with the improvement in court time management and transparency of information that has resulted from implementation of eCourts project.
- 90-100% of sample courts have provision of computers hardware and have installed Case Information System (CIS).

- High proportion of judges and court officials had received training in the use of CIS, NJDG and hardware. Almost all respondents were of the opinion that the trainings were very useful.
- Services like Case Information System (CIS), JustIS mobile app and The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) website are used very often and have an easy user interface.
- Majority of judges and court official feels that eCourts project has reduced pendency of cases because of easy access to cases laws resulting in better research.
- The pendency of cases over 5 years have displayed slow but steady decline over the years.
- Since 2017, a sharp increase in the clearance rate of district courts is also noticed.

(d) : Phase III of eCourts Project is leveraging technology to the next higher level as compared to Phase II by incorporating latest modern state of the art interventions in the form of digitization of court records, cloud storage and use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning & Blockchain for putting in place a regime of end to end digital and paperless courts. Accordingly, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) incorporating these interventions has estimated a total project cost of Rs.7210 crore (as illustrated at Annexure I) which is four times the allocation of Phase II.

(e) : eCourts project is being implemented in association with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, headed by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, and Department of Justice, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. The eCommittee is responsible for the policy planning, strategic direction and guidance for implementation of eCourts project and works in collaborative partnership with Department of Justice which is responsible for providing necessary funding for the

project. A Vision Document was prepared by the eCommittee and placed in the public domain for their comments. After incorporating the suggestions, a Detailed Project Report was prepared by the eCommittee which provides the complete outline of eCourts Phase III. In addition, the eCommittee has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for various activities like Video Conferencing, e-Filing, Digitization, etc and circulated to all the High Courts for their guidance.

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**Annexure I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1174 for 09/02/2024 regarding e-Courts. The components and financial details of eCourts Phase III are as below:

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

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1186**

*Appointment*

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.02.2024**

*DS (App<sup>ts</sup>)*

**Elevation of High Court Judges**

**✓ 1186. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:**

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court collegium, consisting of Chief Justice and other senior judges unanimously recommend on 17/10/2023, elevation of five lawyers from Punjab and Haryana High Court;
- (b) if so, whether it is true that Justice Harmeet Singh Grewal and Deepinder Singh Nalwa haven't been appointed by the Government, despite their recommendation, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the bench, led by Justice Kaul and Dhulia, expressed concern on 20/11/2023, regarding action of the Government?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) and (b): Yes Sir. As per the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Judges of High Courts, the proposals recommended by the High Court Collegium for appointment as High Court Judges, are to be considered in the light of such other reports/inputs as may be available to the Government for



assessing the suitability in respect of the names under consideration. The Government, being an indispensable consultee in the appointment process, in light of various reports/inputs received, which in opinion of the Government warrant further consideration by the Collegium, can send such proposals for reconsideration of the SCC. Only those persons are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts whose names have been recommended by the SCC.

Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 6.10.1993 in Supreme Court Advocate on Record Vs. Union of India (Second Judges Case) inter-alia observed that merit selection is the dominant method for judicial selections and the candidates to be selected must possess high integrity, honesty, skill, high order of emotional stability, firmness, serenity, legal soundness, ability and endurance.

Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level. The Government can exercise its opinion on the recommendations made by the SCC by virtue of this collaborative process so as to ensure that most suitable and meritorious candidate is appointed to the esteemed post of a Judge in the Constitutional Courts.

(c): The Supreme Court in its Order dated 20.11.2023, while noting the progress made in the process of appointments and transfers and appreciating the action taken by the Government in a particular case has also made certain observations regarding appointment and transfers of Judges in the High Courts.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1190**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**Response to One Nation One Election**

*Leg. II Sec (LD)*

✓1190. **SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:  
SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:  
DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:  
SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:  
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:**

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

- (a) the total number of the responses received by the ministry in relation to the notification regarding the One Nation One Election;**
- (b) whether the Government has prepared any data as to the percentage of responses favouring the One Nation One Election concept;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the timeline fixed for tabling the report in the Parliament?**

**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 High Level Committee has received more than 20000 responses from the general public, stakeholders and political parties.

(b) and (c): No such data has been prepared by the Government.

(d): No fixed time line has been laid down for the submission of report to the Government by the High Level Committee.

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1198**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN COURT CAMPUSES**

JSC (MTR)

NM

**1198. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a survey of instances of alleged sexual harassment reported from certain court campuses in the recent past;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) the details of such instances/complaints registered; and**
- (e) the details of the steps taken to prevent sexual harassment in court campuses in the country along with the outcome 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):** No, Sir.

**(b) to (e):** The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 mandates that every employer of a workplace shall, by an order in writing, constitute a Committee to be known as the "Internal Complaints Committee" for addressing complaint of sexual harassment at workplace by any aggrieved woman. As per Section 2(o) of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, a "workplace" includes any department, organisation, undertaking, establishment, enterprise, institution, office, branch or unit which is established, owned, controlled or wholly or substantially financed by funds provided directly

or indirectly by the appropriate Government or the local authority or a Government company or a corporation or a co-operative society. Accordingly, the Supreme Court of India and respective High Courts are the designated disciplinary authorities for Judges/Judicial Officers and staff members working in the various courts.

The Supreme Court being the highest court of the land is actively involved in initiating measures including training and education to prevent instances of sexual harassment in court campuses. In this regard, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has duly constituted an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) as well Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC).

Over the last one year several training and sensitisation programmes have been conducted by the Supreme Court of India to fulfill its commitment towards Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act, 2013, such as, awareness programmes for Delhi police security staff deputed in Supreme Court; awareness programme on the occasion of International Women's Day; workshop on gender sensitization for the registry staff; training programme for the law clerks-cum-research associates, research assistants, law researchers and law students in the Supreme Court; gender sensitization training for employees of the Supreme Court registry and training of gender sensitization and sexual harassment of women at workplace, for Supreme Court advocates.

The information with regard to the number of cases filed in this regard are not collected and maintained in the Department of Justice as the Supreme Court of India and respective High Courts are disciplinary authorities for Judges / Judicial Officers and staff members.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1209  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

VACANCY OF JUDGES IN SESSION COURTS

✓ 1209. SHRI BHOLANATH (B.P. SAROJ):

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

- (a) whether a number of posts of judges are lying vacant in the Sessions Courts of the country leading to pendency of cases of different category, especially land dispute cases in rural areas for many years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, State-wise and district-wise including Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government to set any time limit for immediate disposal of the land disputes in rural areas pending in the Sessions Courts and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the number of cases related to land dispute has been rising in the Sessions Courts due to the fact that Scheduled Caste farmers in the rural areas do not get justice in the respective police stations of the same area; and
- (e) if so, whether any concrete guidelines have been issued in this regard so that their cases are settled in their respective police stations?

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 State-wise, details of vacant positions in the District and Subordinate Courts, including Uttar Pradesh is given at *Annexure-I*. The information regarding District-wise vacancy position in Sessions Courts is not centrally maintained.

Further, as per information provided by Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, the pendency of land dispute cases are not Centrally maintained.

The filling up vacant positions in the Sessions Courts of the country is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. The Central Government has no direct role in the selection, recruitment and appointment of judicial officers in District/Subordinate judiciary level, as per the provisions of the Constitution. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

**(c) to (e):** The disposal of cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. The Central Government has no direct role in the stated matter.

Further, as per information provided by Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, as per Entry 18 and Entry 45 (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, "Land and its management" falls within the jurisdiction of States. Similarly, as per Entry 2 (State List) of the Constitution's Seventh Schedule "Police (including railway and village police)" falls within the jurisdiction of the States.

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## Annexure-I

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1209 FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCY OF JUDGES IN SESSION COURTS'.**

**Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Court as on 05.02.2024**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
3.	Assam	46
4.	Bihar	467
5.	Chandigarh	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	139
7.	D & N Haveli	1
8.	Daman & Diu	0
9.	Delhi	89
10.	Goa	10
11.	Gujarat	535
12.	Haryana	208
13.	Himachal Pradesh	22
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	94
15.	Jharkhand	182
16.	Karnataka	229
17.	Kerala	91
18.	Ladakh	7
19.	Lakshadweep	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	295
21.	Maharashtra	250
22.	Manipur	10
23.	Meghalaya	42
24.	Mizoram	28
25.	Nagaland	10
26.	Odisha	216
27.	Puducherry	19
28.	Punjab	112
29.	Rajasthan	300
30.	Sikkim	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	334
32.	Telangana	115
33.	Tripura	21
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1250
35.	Uttarakhand	29
36.	Andaman and Nicobar	0
37.	West Bengal	96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5342</b>

Source:- MIS portal of Department of Justice.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*JS(PPP)*

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1229  
ANSWERED ON – 09/02/2024

POCSO COURTS

*J-II*

✓1229. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

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

- (a) the number of POCSO courts, State-wise and district-wise;
- (b) the details of the progress made by POCSO courts in last five years;
- (c) the number of POCSO courts that have Video Conferencing system, State-wise;
- (d) the number of Judicial Magistrate courts that are equipped with audio-video facilities for recording statements of child victims under POCSO, State-wise; and
- (e) the number of POCSO courts that have been equipped with vulnerable witness safeguards?

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) : 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 per the data submitted by High Courts, 757 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs, as on 31.12.2023. These courts have disposed of more than 2,14,000 cases since the inception of the Scheme, while more than 2,02,000 cases are pending.

Against the initial mandate of setting up 389 e-POCSO courts, 411 e-POCSO Courts have been made functional across the country. These 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. State-wise total number of functional exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts along with the cumulative disposal and pendency of e-POCSO cases since the inception of the Scheme are given at **Annexure -I**.

**(c) & (d) :** In e-Courts Mission Mode Project, during Phase I of the project video conferencing facility has been operationalized between 488 court complexes & 342 corresponding jails. In e-Courts 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-II**). Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available (High Court wise details attached at **Annexure-III**). Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes. These VC facilities are available in the Court Complexes for the use of all courts, including FTSC and e-Pocso courts.

India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts, till 31.12.2023, have heard 2,17,99,976 cases using video conferencing system. Funds amounting to Rs.5.012 crore and Rs.28.886 crore have also been released for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipments for 14,443 courtrooms, respectively.

**(e) :** FTSCs have adopted the approach of setting up Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres within the court complexes for facilitation of the victims and making the courts child-friendly thereby providing crucial support for a compassionate legal system. The State/UT-wise details of POCSO courts that have been equipped with vulnerable witness safeguards are given at **Annexure -IV**.

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**Annexures as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred  
Question No. 1229 for 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

**Annexure-I**

**State/UT-wise functional e-POCSO courts and cumulative disposal of e-POCSO cases as of  
December, 2023**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal of e-POCSO cases since the inception of the Scheme	Cumulative Pendency of e-POCSO cases
		FTSCs including e-POCSO	e-POCSO		
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	4083	7231
2	Assam	17	17	4979	5207
3	Bihar	46	46	9939	17716
4	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	3614	1809
6	Delhi	16	11	1034	2744
7	Goa	1	0	34	0
8	Gujarat	35	24	8273	4843
9	Haryana	16	12	3982	3100
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	967	383
11	J&K	4	2	70	324
12	Jharkhand	22	16	3809	3278
13	Karnataka	31	17	5894	3145
14	Kerala	54	14	5165	2148
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	20092	7671
16	Maharashtra	19	10	10221	2010
17	Manipur	2	0	0	0
18	Meghalaya	5	5	382	1061
19	Mizoram	3	1	48	34
20	Nagaland	1	0	3	0
21	Odisha	44	23	7950	6930
22	Puducherry	1	1	44	221
23	Punjab	12	3	1902	429
24	Rajasthan	45	30	9009	5016
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	6228	4440
26	Telangana	36	0	2731	0
27	Tripura	3	1	184	73
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	0	0
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	28283	52184
30	West Bengal	3	3	48	2948
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>138968</b>	<b>134945</b>

**Annexure-II****High Court-wise details of VC equipment for Court Rooms\***

Sl. No.	High Court	Number of Functioning Court Rooms	Number of VC equipments already provided	Number of additional equipments to be provided
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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17892</b>	<b>3477</b>	<b>14443</b>

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

**Annexure-III****High Court-wise details for VC Cabins and Connectivity in Court Complexes\*\***

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>High Court</b>	<b>Number of VC Cabins</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2506</b>

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

**Annexure-IV****State-wise status of POCSO courts that have been equipped with vulnerable witness safeguards**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of POCSO courts that have been equipped with vulnerable witness safeguards
1	Andhra Pradesh	Temporary set up at ADR Centre with video conferencing system/ audio video linkage till permanent VWDCs are established and made functional
2	Assam	10
3	Bihar	42
4	Chandigarh	1
5	Chhattisgarh	36
6	Delhi	35
7	Goa	0
8	Gujarat	26
9	Haryana	14
10	Himachal Pradesh	6
11	J&K	7
12	Jharkhand	19
13	Karnataka	31
14	Kerala	18
15	Madhya Pradesh	Arrangements have been made in ADR building/child-friendly court/mediation centre
16	Maharashtra	128
17	Manipur	0
18	Meghalaya	9
19	Mizoram	7
20	Nagaland	1
21	Odisha	30
22	Puducherry	Data not provided
23	Punjab	11
24	Rajasthan	55
25	Tamil Nadu	Data not provided
26	Telangana	69
27	Tripura	6
28	Uttar Pradesh	Interim arrangements have been made in all districts.
29	Uttarakhand	4
30	West Bengal	10

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1231  
ANSWERED ON - 09/02/2024

FUNCTIONAL FAST TRACK COURTS

JS(PPP)

J-II

✓ 1231. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:  
SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

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

- (a) the details and features of the Fast Track Courts (FTCs) Scheme;
- (b) the total number of FTCs set up and made functional against the set target as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether there exists a shortfall of about 40 per cent in FTCs and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps undertaken by the Government to expedite the establishment of remaining FTCs in the country; and
- (e) the details of measures proposed to be taken to improve implementation and functioning under the scheme?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts. The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (FC) had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) at a total cost of Rs.4,144 cr. during 2015-2020 by urging the State/UT Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The basic aim for setting FTCs was 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. As per information made available by the High Courts, 851 FTCs are functional across the country as on 31.12.2023. The State/UT-wise details of number of FTCs to be set up and made functional as of December, 2023 is given at Annexure. The Union Government has urged the State/UT

Governments since 2015-16 onwards to set up more FTCs to achieve the target. The setting up of more FTCs has featured as one of the agenda items in the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices.

Pursuant to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) 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 extended up to March, 2023. The Union Cabinet has further extended the Scheme for another three years, from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026, at a total outlay of Rs.1952.23 cr. including Rs.1207.24 cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund. As per the data submitted by the High Courts, 757 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts are functional in 30 States/UTs, as on 31.12.2023. These courts have disposed of more than 2,14,000 cases since the inception of the Scheme while more than 2,02,000 cases are pending.

For efficient implementation of the Scheme, the Department of Justice is conducting regular review meetings through Video Conferencing with the nodal officers of the State/UT Governments and their respective High Courts. 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, a dashboard has been created by the Department to gather detailed information and track the performance of the FTSCs, through the High Courts. The performance of FTSCs is also a permanent item on the agenda of Inter-State Zonal Council meetings.

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**Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1231  
for 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

**State/UT-wise status of allocated and functional FTCs as of December, 2023**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of FTCs to be established	No. of Functional FTCs
1	Andhra Pradesh	47	22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3	Assam	36	15
4	Bihar	147	0
5	Chandigarh	2	0
6	Chhattisgarh	28	23
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	1	0
8	Delhi	63	27
9	Goa	5	6
10	Gujarat	174	54
11	Haryana	48	6
12	Himachal Pradesh	13	3
13	Jammu & Kashmir	21	8
14	Jharkhand	50	36
15	Karnataka	95	0
16	Kerala	41	0
17	Ladakh	0	0
18	Lakshadweep	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	133	0
20	Maharashtra	203	95
21	Manipur *	3	6
22	Meghalaya	4	0
23	Mizoram	7	2
24	Nagaland	3	0
25	Odisha	63	0
26	Puducherry	2	0
27	Punjab	50	7
28	Rajasthan	93	0
29	Sikkim	1	2
30	Tamil Nadu	87	72
31	Telangana	37	0
32	Tripura	9	3
33	Uttar Pradesh	212	372
34	Uttarakhand	28	4
35	West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Island	94	88
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>851</b>

\*data upto 31.11.2023

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1239**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.02.2024**

**Collegium System**

**1239. SHRI D.K. SURESH:**

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

- (a) whether the collegium system has received strong opposition due to lack of transparency;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government is taking any measures to ensure transparency in the appointment and elevation of judges in the collegium system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d): Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges of

High Courts, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal for filling up of vacancies of a Judge in a High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies.

In order to replace the Collegium system of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts with a more broad-based, transparent, accountable appointment mechanism and to bring greater objectivity in the system, the Government brought into operation the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f. 13.04.2015. However, both the Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.10.2015 declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative.

Hon'ble Supreme Court while hearing WP(C) 13 of 2015 in NJAC matter issued detailed Order on 16-12-2015 on supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) and laid down that Government of India may finalize the Memorandum of Procedure by supplementing it in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The Chief Justice of India will take a decision based on the unanimous view of the Collegium comprising of four senior most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The order stated that they shall take the following factors into consideration such as eligibility criterion, transparency in the appointment process, secretariat, complaint mechanism and miscellaneous matter considered appropriate for ensuring transparency and accountability including interaction with the recommendees, the Collegium of the Supreme Court without sacrificing the confidentiality of appointment.

In pursuance of the above orders, the Government of India, after due diligence sent the revised MoP to Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 22.3.2016 and the response of the Supreme Court Collegium on the revised draft MoP was received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The views of the Government in response to the views of the SCC was conveyed to the CJI on 03.08.2016. Subsequent comments of SCC on the views of Government on the draft MoP were received on 13.03.2017.

● Thereafter, the Supreme Court in judgment dated 04.07.2017 in Suo-Motu Contempt proceedings against a Judge of Calcutta High Court brought out the system's failure of not providing an appropriate procedure for making assessment of the personality of the contemnor at the time of recommending his name for elevation as High Court Judge inter-alia highlighting the need to revisit the process of selection and appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts. The views of the Government on the relevant points was conveyed to Supreme Court of India vide letter dated 11.07.2017.

A two-judge Bench of Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 28.03.2018 in Criminal Appeal No. 470 of 2018, brought out deficiencies in the system and emphasized the need to improve the process of appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts.

In another case, while hearing a matter involving M/s PLR Projects Pvt Ltd. vs Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. and Ors [transfer petition (civil) no: 2419 of 2019] regarding issue of appointment of High Court Judges, the three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, vide order dated 20.04.2021, laid down additional timelines in respect of the time taken by the Government in processing the proposal for appointment of Judges of High Courts. However, these timelines are not yet a part of MoP.

The Supreme Court, while hearing another case No. WP(C) 1236 of 2019 on the matter of appointment of retired judges at sittings of High Courts under Article 224A of the Constitution of India, vide its judgment dated 20.04.2021 has laid down fresh criterion for their appointment. After detailed deliberation, Government has submitted its views to the Chief Justice of India on 18.08.2021 to supplement para 24 of existing MoP which provides for the appointment of retired judges at the sitting of High Courts under Article 224A. The issue is still under consideration of the Supreme Court. .

While sending the proposal for supplementation of MoP on the criteria fixed in Supreme Court order dated 16.12.2015 in W.P.(C) 13 of 2015 in NJAC matter, Government has made suggestions including the need for a Screening-cum- Evaluation Committee at the Supreme Court and High Court levels to assist the Collegiums of Supreme Court and High Courts, respectively. It was proposed

that the Committees may screen and evaluate relevant material on the suitability of the prospective candidates and would act as a facilitator. The decision to make recommendations will continue to be exercised by the respective Collegiums of the Supreme Court and High Courts. However, the Supreme Court did not agree to set up such Committees.

In its communication dated 06.01.2023 to the Chief Justice of India, the Government has emphasized the need to finalize the MoP in view of various judicial pronouncements and inter-alia suggested that the Search-cum-Evaluation Committee in respect of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of High Courts should consist of a representative nominated by Government of India. For appointment of Judges in the High Courts, the Committee should consist of a representative nominated by Government of India and a representative of State Government(s) under the jurisdiction of High Court as nominated by the Chief Minister(s). The existing MoP stipulates that if the Chief Minister desires to recommend the name of any person, he/she should forward the same for consideration. However, since this has not been put in actual practice, the names recommended by the Chief Minister can also be received by the Search-cum-Evaluation Committee along with the names taken from senior Judges outside the Collegium and eligible candidates taken from the database (Judicial Officers and Advocates) as maintained by the proposed Secretariat. The said Committees will be entrusted to prepare a panel of eligible candidates from which the respective Collegiums will make recommendation. The High Court Collegium may deliberate upon panel of names drawn up by the said Committee and recommend the names of most suitable candidates for appointment as Judges in the Supreme Court, Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts. The Collegium at appropriate level may address the above requirements of drawing up panel of eligible candidates from aforementioned sources and draw up their proceedings by rendering requisite reasons and thereafter send the proposal to the Government with relevant documents.

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1242  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

**SCO Meeting**

*Admn III (CLA)*

✓ **1242. SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR:**

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

- (a) the outcomes of the 10th SCO meeting of the Ministers of Law and Justice; and
- (b) the measures being taken by the Government regarding the commitments to SCO charter and the present status 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)**

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(a) The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Justice of the SCO Member States, held on 05<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, was represented by the Indian delegation, led by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice. A Joint Statement was adopted by the Member States at the conclusion of the meeting.

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

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

*JS(PPP)*

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1257**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**Infrastructure in District Courts**

*e-Court*

✓ **1257. SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:**

**SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that legal proceedings in the city's district courts are being hampered by a scarcity of equipment for hybrid hearing and infrastructure, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/court-wise;
- (b) whether several Advocates/Judges are seeking appropriate infrastructure for smooth functioning of hybrid hearings particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the courts which allowed parties in a litigation to argue via video conferencing, court/State-wise; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken in this regard till now along with funds sanctioned/spent therefor, court/State-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): 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 component. 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.

In Phase II of the project, 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, video conferencing facility and e-filing services, particularly benefiting those who may lack access to technology or reside in remote areas. 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. Under Phase III of the Project, for bridging the digital divide, provision of saturation of all court complexes comprising 4400 e-Sewa Kendras has been made with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 394.48 crore.

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (High Courts and district courts wise details on number of cases dealt using video conferencing attached at Annexure III). The Supreme Court held 6,24,427 hearings till 04.01.2024 since the beginning of lockdown period, making it a world leader. In Phase-III of the Project, 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 have been directed to provide necessary funds to the High Courts to put into place the requisite VC facilities.

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**Annexure-I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1257 for 09/02/2024 regarding infrastructure in district courts. 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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17892</b>	<b>3477</b>	<b>14443</b>

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

**Annexure-II**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1257 for 09/02/2024 regarding infrastructure in district courts. 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
<b>Total</b>		<b>2506</b>

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

**Annexure-III**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1257 for 09/02/2024 regarding infrastructure in district courts. High Courts and district courts wise details on number of cases dealt using video conferencing across the country as on 31.12.2023 is as under:

S. No.	High Court	High Courts	District Courts	Grand Total
1	Allahabad	243581	5381161	5624742
2	Andhra Pradesh	390472	1423856	1814328
3	Bombay	48660	134931	183591
4	Calcutta	146925	87131	234056
5	Chhattisgarh	103554	158365	261919
6	Delhi	319540	5072149	5391689
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	2327	8146	10473
8	Gauhati – Assam	266358	406866	673224
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	3965	13268	17233
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	976	737	1713
11	Gujarat	395254	200449	595703
12	Himachal Pradesh	183975	181463	365438
13	Jammu & Kashmir	259521	502761	762282
14	Jharkhand	220725	665438	886163
15	Karnataka	1239626	140745	1380371
16	Kerala	163639	583517	747156
17	Madhya Pradesh	671777	898771	1570548
18	Madras	1450678	387133	1837811
19	Manipur	47972	15399	63371
20	Meghalaya	4552	41936	46488
21	Orissa	316542	277801	594343
22	Patna	277203	2423727	2700930
23	Punjab & Haryana	586805	2320628	2907433
24	Rajasthan	234464	191314	425778
25	Sikkim	529	14371	14900
26	Telangana	588797	191104	779901
27	Tripura	21761	31947	53708
28	Uttarakhand	86417	44862	131279
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8276595</b>	<b>21799976</b>	<b>30076571</b>

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

*JS(PPP)*

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †1272**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

*e-Court*

**e-Courts**

✓ †1272. **DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN:**

**SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:**

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

**SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement the e-Courts mission mode project;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government under the various phases of the project including policy initiatives for creation of necessary infrastructure for e-courts;
- (c) the number of courts with the requisite digital infrastructure along with the status of implementation of the e-Court project, State-wise and district-wise;
- (d) the manner in which the personal data is maintained in these courts and safety measures in place to check data breach; and
- (e) the training and awareness programme for judicial staff regarding the use of e-courts?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): 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. It aimed at computerization of courts and providing network connectivity. Phase I of the e-Courts project was largely aimed at procuring and installing hardware and providing network connectivity LAN. It operationalised the national e-Courts portal with limited online services. 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 in eCourts Phase II: -

- 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, 880eSewa 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 will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- 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 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. Rs. 600 crore has recently been received as RE for FY 2023-24. 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. The High Court wise details of implementation of eCourts in the country has been attached at Annexure-I.

(d):The Supreme Court of India in its decision in Justice K S Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India has held that right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms governed by Part III of the Constitution. To balance the right of privacy, right to information and data security, a Sub-Committee consisting of six judges of the High Courts, assisted by technical working group members consisting of domain experts, has been constituted by the Chairperson of the e-Committee to suggest/recommend secure connectivity and authentication mechanisms for data protection to preserve the right to privacy. The Sub-Committee is mandated to critically assess and examine the digital infrastructure, network and service delivery solutions created under the e-Courts project for giving solutions for strengthening data security and for protecting the privacy of citizens. Following institutional arrangements for Data and Cyber Security are already in place:

- In eCourts Phase II, public facing applications developed centrally and hosted on central infrastructure is taken care of by the National Informatics Centre as per their comprehensive guidelines for secure application and infrastructure.
- These applications are audited periodically by NIC through CERTIN empanelled vendor.

- Comprehensive Cyber Security Audit of eCourts Applications and Infrastructure was completed under guidance of eCommittee.

(e):As per the data received from eCommittee, Supreme Court of India the training and awareness programmes conducted from May 2020 to December 2022 for judicial staff in shown in below table.

Year	Number of Trainings	Number of Participants
May 2020-December 2020	15	70960
January 2021- December 2021	23	25397
January 2022- December 2022	197	143773

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**Annexure-I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1272 for 09/02/2024 regarding e-Courts. The details of implementation of 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
	<b>Total</b>		<b>18735</b>

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

*JSC(PPP)*

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1274  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

Virtual Courts *e-Court*

✓1274. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is working on any scheme to set up virtual courts/branches for conducting virtual proceedings in the high courts of the country including Rajasthan; and  
(b) if so, the details of such virtual branches likely to be setup?

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): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode project is under implementation since 2007 for Information and Communications 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 under the joint partnership of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India and e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through respective High Courts. The enhancement of the

Video Conferencing (VC) facilities, e-filing etc are important components of the eCourts project.

Establishment of additional benches of High Courts where geographical area of the State is large and terrain is difficult has been a long-standing demand of states. For the establishment of additional Benches of a High Court, there is a prescribed process that involves a long duration of time. The decision to establish Virtual Benches of High Courts is an administrative matter of the concerned High Courts and the Central Government is not directly involved in the matter. However, a letter dated 09.03.2023 was addressed to Chief Justices of all High Courts (including Rajasthan) by then Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice for taking necessary action for creation of Virtual Benches through the facility of e-filing and Video Conferencing in different districts in the State so as to access the High Courts directly from the district and thus serve the purpose that an Additional Bench of the High Court in that region/district would otherwise provide. A reminder letter dated 11.10.2023 was addressed by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice as well.

Taking a lead in this sphere, the High Court of Orissa (Cuttack) has established 20 Virtual Benches of High Court at District Courts facilitating advocates/party in person to appear through the Virtual High Court Centers and conduct cases before the High Court. Guidelines for the same are available on the website of High Court of Orissa.

eCourt project has provided facility of e-Sewa Kendras in various court complexes to serve as a one stop solution for VC, Virtual Hearing, e-filing and other facilities of eCourt project to bridge the digital divide that exists in the country. e-filing of cases from e-Sewa Kendras at different districts and participation through Virtual Hearings would enable the common citizens to avail the accessibility of legal services of the High Courts. 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. Under Phase III of the Project, for bridging the digital divide, provision of saturation of all court complexes comprising 4400 e-Sewa Kendras has been made with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 394.48 crore.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 103<sup>rd</sup> Report on 'Functioning of Virtual Courts/Court Proceedings through Video Conferencing' has also emphasised the importance and utility of establishment of virtual courts.

In September 2023, the Union Cabinet has accorded approval to the Phase – III of the eCourts project with a budget of Rs. 7,210 crore. As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Phase – III, there is a provision of enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of video conferencing, an essential requirement for conducting virtual hearing. Funds of Rs. 228.48 crore has been earmarked for expansion of the VC facilities with a physical target of upgradation of facilities in 10,200 Courts all over India.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JS(PPP)

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1280  
ANSWERED ON - 09/02/2024

**COURTS FOR RAPE CASES**

J-II

✓ 1280. SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up district rape courts on the lines of district labour courts/fast track courts across the country and formulate any action plan to ensure early punishment to the rape accused and provide speedy justice to the rape victims and if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (b) whether the Government also proposes to prepare a master plan and necessarily implement any significant scheme to provide immediate relief to the rape victims, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the incidents of rape have increased in the country during the period from the year 2010-2022, if so, the details thereof, year and State-wise; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that police cases have also been registered in the said rape cases and if so, the number of cases registered and those in which judgement has been given from the year 2010 till date, year and 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) : 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 extended up to March, 2023. The Union Cabinet has further extended the Scheme for another three years, from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026 at a total outlay of Rs.1952.23 cr. including Rs.1207.24 cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund.

As per data submitted by various High Courts, up to 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. State-wise details of number of functional Fast Track Special Courts along with the number of cases disposed as on 31.12.2023 is placed at **Annexure-I**.

**(b) : (i)** The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, *inter alia*, prescribes timelines for investigation, inquiry, trial and appeal in respect of rape cases. Section 173 (1A) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C.) prescribes two months' time limit for completion of investigation. Section 309 of Cr.P.C. prescribes a two-month time limit for completion of inquiry or trial. These provisions offer relief to rape victims by minimizing trauma, increasing accountability, and enhancing access to justice.

**(ii)** Women, children and victims of violence who have to file or defend a case are entitled to free legal services under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Section 357A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, mandates that "(1) Every State Government in co-ordination with the Central Government shall prepare a scheme for providing funds for the purpose of compensation to the victim or his dependents who have suffered loss or injury as a result of the crime and who require rehabilitation...". The Legal Services Authorities have been empowered to pass an award for payment of compensation under the Schemes prepared by the States under Section 357A of Cr.P.C.

Pursuant to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. (C) No. 565/2012, a Committee was set up by NALSA to prepare Model Rules for Victim Compensation for sexual offences and acid attacks. The said Committee formulated the NALSA's Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/other crimes-2018.



The details of compensations provided to the victims of the crime with effect from 2017-2018 to 2023-2024 (up to November,2023) are as under:

Years	Applications received directly by Legal Service Institutions (A)	Applications / orders marked / directed by any Court (B)	Applications received including Court Orders (A+B)	Applications decided	Compensation Awarded (in Rs.)
2017-18	9,988	5,867	15,855	8,861	1,23,46,17,773
2018-19	9,426	6,943	16,369	10,755	1,68,43,92,746
2019-20	9,392	7,688	17,080	12,423	2,15,31,48,146
2020-21	8,765	4,050	12,815	9,786	1,45,62,36,012
2021-22	8,715	8,267	16,982	15,173	2,21,87,47,426
2022-23	15,196	14,740	29,936	20,900	3,47,80,37,352
2023-24 (upto Nov.,23)	8,805	9,617	18,422	15,780	2,55,26,52,001

(c) & (d) : National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication "Crime in India". The published reports are available till the year 2022. ([www.ncrb.gov.in](http://www.ncrb.gov.in)). State/UT-wise details of rape cases registered, cases charge-sheeted, cases convicted, cases in which trials were completed, persons arrested, persons charge-sheeted and persons convicted during the year 2010-2022 is at **Annexure-II**.

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**Annexures as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question  
No. 1280 for 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

**Annexure-I**

State/UT-wise number of functional FTSCs and cumulative disposal as of December, 2023

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative disposal since the inception of the Scheme
		FTSCs including e-POCSO	e-POCSO	
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	4083
2	Assam	17	17	4979
3	Bihar	46	46	9939
4	Chandigarh	1	0	244
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	4377
6	Delhi	16	11	1503
7	Goa	1	0	44
8	Gujarat	35	24	10295
9	Haryana	16	12	5342
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	1282
11	J&K	4	2	151
12	Jharkhand	22	16	5822
13	Karnataka	31	17	8897
14	Kerala	54	14	16878
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	23613
16	Maharashtra	19	10	16907
17	Manipur	2	0	127
18	Meghalaya	5	5	382
19	Mizoram	3	1	169
20	Nagaland	1	0	57
21	Odisha	44	23	11960
22	Puducherry	1	1	44
23	Punjab	12	3	3565
24	Rajasthan	45	30	13003
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	6228
26	Telangana	36	0	7799
27	Tripura	3	1	349
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	1355
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	55021
30	West Bengal	3	3	48

**State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Cases in which Trials were Completed (CTC), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Rape (Section 376 IPC) during 2010-2022**

Sl. No.	State/UT	2010							2011							2012						
		CR	CCS	CON	CTC	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	CTC	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	CTC	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	Andhra Pradesh	1362	1210	141	1031	1761	1674	173	1442	1216	111	1007	1758	1783	157	1341	1276	108	961	1664	1608	178
2	Arunachal Pradesh	47	34	4	6	49	40	4	42	38	4	23	47	41	4	46	24	3	30	47	24	3
3	Assam	1721	1110	95	526	1629	1153	117	1700	1012	179	769	1470	1080	165	1716	1110	97	506	1626	1156	153
4	Bihar	795	533	227	873	892	816	280	934	820	210	847	1185	1036	246	927	902	119	609	1327	1398	161
5	Chhattisgarh	1012	942	204	825	1198	1203	270	1053	1027	217	886	1257	1253	240	1034	988	223	977	1214	1201	259
6	Goa	36	44	5	27	50	62	7	29	33	4	14	34	46	4	55	26	1	12	61	35	1
7	Gujarat	408	391	33	187	617	620	40	439	409	31	211	621	616	46	473	438	31	202	647	631	56
8	Haryana	720	590	113	456	866	853	161	733	532	135	578	801	820	175	668	635	133	526	940	997	180
9	Himachal Pradesh	160	139	21	110	197	204	38	168	143	29	130	187	183	46	183	149	29	107	259	240	41
10	Jharkhand	773	705	171	596	836	911	194	784	604	185	474	758	731	220	812	602	161	562	780	706	196
11	Karnataka	586	512	54	350	771	703	82	636	533	74	374	837	812	84	621	587	65	428	842	795	97
12	Kerala	634	644	45	256	659	779	52	1132	706	31	201	1226	798	390	1019	961	57	249	1259	1186	62
13	Madhya Pradesh	3135	3089	777	2751	4387	4407	1230	3406	3223	826	3507	4593	4603	898	3425	3483	547	2801	4822	4842	758
14	Maharashtra	1599	1458	146	1048	2180	2145	202	1701	1565	205	1012	2533	2422	268	1839	1616	164	1018	2591	2479	215
15	Manipur	34	4	1	3	22	5	1	53	5	1	1	24	5	2	63	9	0	1	46	12	0
16	Meghalaya	149	80	4	9	135	73	4	130	81	0	20	128	83	0	164	93	7	15	182	100	7
17	Mizoram	92	94	84	87	112	125	123	77	68	46	57	74	70	40	103	95	61	74	122	96	59
18	Nagaland	16	13	14	19	17	19	12	23	20	16	19	27	19	29	21	15	8	11	26	21	19
19	Odisha	1025	1126	132	666	1363	1369	188	1112	1037	148	639	1224	1219	204	1458	1336	154	724	1666	1631	184
20	Punjab	546	438	166	490	766	654	244	479	426	155	427	598	571	208	680	512	151	456	895	696	201
21	Rajasthan	1571	972	202	656	1343	1355	298	1800	1119	205	785	1642	1634	358	2049	1225	230	766	1807	1778	408
22	Sikkim	18	31	2	3	21	30	1	16	12	11	20	25	12	11	34	24	1	2	29	20	18
23	Tamil Nadu	686	487	105	432	777	682	136	677	478	72	353	837	611	110	737	558	60	299	962	862	104
24	Telangana																					
25	Tripura	238	185	28	112	320	226	32	205	238	24	202	258	248	28	229	206	16	109	202	215	19
26	Uttar Pradesh	1563	1171	705	1392	2580	1842	1304	2042	1580	816	1447	3571	2398	1325	1963	1513	619	1230	3593	2508	809
27	Uttarakhand	121	104	58	111	171	159	86	129	98	48	88	149	143	73	148	128	75	119	184	187	93
28	West Bengal	2311	1866	90	655	2395	2242	128	2363	2004	79	686	1870	2104	121	2046	2165	112	1023	1963	2165	124

2	A&N Islands	24	20	0	0	39	28	0	13	22	0	0	28	49	0	12	7	3	8	17	15	3
30	Chandigarh	31	29	14	31	44	38	16	27	21	9	21	27	31	10	27	34	9	27	34	41	11
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	4	5	2	4	4	5	2	5	3	0	4	4	3	0	8	10	2	7	15	17	3
32	Delhi	507	449	141	407	602	532	201	572	477	186	448	707	647	243	706	568	297	603	892	862	368
33	Jammu & Kashmir	245	177	3	143	266	259	5	277	231	14	169	349	346	18	303	257	19	253	388	387	28
34	Ladakh																					
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	3	2	1	1	5	2	1	7	4	0	2	29	20	0	13	13	1	2	15	14	3
	<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	<b>22172</b>	<b>18654</b>	<b>3788</b>	<b>14263</b>	<b>27074</b>	<b>25215</b>	<b>5632</b>	<b>24206</b>	<b>19785</b>	<b>4072</b>	<b>15423</b>	<b>28878</b>	<b>26436</b>	<b>5724</b>	<b>24923</b>	<b>21565</b>	<b>3563</b>	<b>14717</b>	<b>31117</b>	<b>28925</b>	<b>4821</b>

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**State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Cases in which Trials were Completed(CTC), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Rape (Section 376 IPC) during 2010-2022**

Sl. No.	State/UT	2013							2014						
		CR	CCS	CON	CTC	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	CTC	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	Andhra Pradesh	1635	1149	105	907	1960	1679	190	961	650	59	469	1237	989	70
2	Arunachal Pradesh	75	62	1	2	106	61	1	83	74	3	7	93	86	4
3	Assam	1937	1366	123	884	1745	1313	123	1980	1368	170	829	3673	1529	176
4	Bihar	1128	840	180	566	1156	1039	271	1127	848	116	432	1226	987	132
5	Chhattisgarh	1380	1366	364	1313	1637	1591	485	1436	1429	304	1225	1708	1847	342
6	Goa	86	60	2	7	103	72	2	95	73	4	14	105	91	4
7	Gujarat	732	662	43	229	1027	998	54	841	762	30	281	1204	1202	35
8	Haryana	971	792	287	899	1398	1386	420	1174	932	205	791	1456	1369	257
9	Himachal Pradesh	250	199	56	228	299	307	81	283	207	36	106	329	267	47
10	Jharkhand	1204	884	264	653	1135	1058	308	1050	1015	245	663	1583	1620	262
11	Karnataka	1030	856	90	425	1263	1156	101	1324	1190	72	415	1950	1720	108
12	Kerala	1221	977	92	361	1358	1151	103	1347	1155	103	401	1442	1332	116
13	Madhya Pradesh	4335	4085	1079	4369	5879	5800	1456	5076	4960	1231	3794	6719	6719	1830
14	Maharashtra	3063	2591	181	1032	4243	3814	249	3438	3024	202	1058	4567	4141	254
15	Manipur	72	15	2	4	37	16	6	75	41	3	7	75	41	3
16	Meghalaya	183	198	7	13	190	215	7	118	139	12	18	162	144	12
17	Mizoram	89	69	39	59	89	83	47	120	106	41	54	143	124	44
18	Nagaland	31	22	18	21	41	26	10	30	26	14	18	42	33	22
19	Odisha	1832	1660	108	675	2080	2047	131	1978	1661	141	761	2192	2005	151
20	Punjab	888	812	382	926	1048	978	464	981	797	276	743	1248	1052	349
21	Rajasthan	3285	1947	270	852	2783	2771	434	3759	2079	362	957	2848	2776	524
22	Sikkim	43	48	59	80	43	44	59	47	43	22	39	107	103	22
23	Tamil Nadu	923	1076	133	507	1193	1247	186	455	574	157	577	764	900	233
24	Telangana								979	841	49	414	1247	1057	67
25	Tripura	233	252	21	121	356	298	21	239	191	30	99	258	415	46
26	Uttar Pradesh	3050	2302	663	1234	5587	3664	939	3467	2850	594	1183	6329	4860	843
27	Uttarakhand	228	179	111	197	289	291	189	270	195	54	134	296	271	84
28	West Bengal	1685	2577	151	1197	2674	2642	181	1466	1453	108	1046	2602	1715	125
	<b>TOTAL STATE(S)</b>	<b>31589</b>	<b>27046</b>	<b>4831</b>	<b>17781</b>	<b>39719</b>	<b>35747</b>	<b>6518</b>	<b>34199</b>	<b>28883</b>	<b>4543</b>	<b>16535</b>	<b>45605</b>	<b>39395</b>	<b>6162</b>

.	A&N Islands	27	35	3	14	36	44	3	32	30	3	23	37	39	3	
30	Chandigarh	45	29	18	43	49	31	21	59	47	12	37	66	62	16	
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	13	12	0	4	19	17	0	7	11	1	6	8	11	1	
32	Delhi	1636	1386	227	636	1851	1608	314	2096	1836	267	774	2105	2047	436	
33	Jammu & Kashmir*	378	241	22	374	404	401	36	331	225	18	272	346	339	19	
34	Ladakh															
35	Lakshadweep	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	
36	Puducherry	17	6	0	1	33	8	0	10	7	0	2	15	8	0	
(S)																
	<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	<b>33707</b>	<b>28755</b>	<b>5101</b>	<b>18833</b>	<b>42115</b>	<b>37856</b>	<b>6892</b>	<b>36735</b>	<b>30840</b>	<b>4944</b>	<b>17649</b>	<b>48183</b>	<b>41904</b>	<b>6637</b>	

Source: Crime in India

Note : '+' Combined data of erstwhile D&N Haveli UT and Daman & Diu UT for 2013, 2014    Telangana State was Created in 2014

\*' Data of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State including Ladakh for 2013, 2014

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State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Cases in which Trials were Completed(CTC), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Rape (Section 376 IPC) during 2010-2022

1	Andhra Pradesh	1027	846	82	510	1341	1140	108	994	937	79	631	1186	1131	107	988	908	78	834	1550	1252	149
2	Arunachal Pradesh	71	66	0	1	105	79	0	92	63	14	24	102	77	14	59	48	1	4	83	74	1
3	Assam	1733	1405	163	834	1700	1402	161	1779	1276	103	636	1976	1359	104	1772	1214	73	468	2515	2009	76
4	Bihar	1041	904	169	434	1183	1096	181	1008	1157	146	390	997	1216	174	605	648	112	262	1738	791	134
5	Chhattisgarh	1560	1481	757	1569	1787	1814	862	1626	1608	453	1518	1992	1927	565	1908	1865	490	1456	2201	2156	618
6	Goa	86	74	15	57	93	89	18	61	57	11	61	68	61	11	76	88	10	56	91	91	15
7	Gujarat	503	501	21	208	812	815	24	982	874	26	213	1369	1278	27	477	478	22	207	754	732	37
8	Haryana	1070	770	186	752	1146	1152	286	1187	827	123	600	1334	1224	175	1099	693	165	633	987	886	203
9	Himachal Pradesh	244	222	23	113	299	315	43	252	223	42	162	329	311	53	249	197	28	129	280	237	29
10	Jharkhand	1053	925	172	748	1233	1028	219	1109	878	187	565	1270	961	204	914	763	422	583	1323	851	426
11	Karnataka	589	649	72	448	1115	1120	86	1655	1311	91	695	1929	1638	105	546	548	63	476	921	881	71
12	Kerala	1256	1185	122	413	1422	1462	131	1656	1558	81	380	1968	1754	99	2003	1868	150	532	2488	2107	159
13	Madhya Pradesh	4391	4318	805	3244	6250	6337	1167	4882	4771	990	3742	6692	6530	1399	5562	5613	1409	4070	7643	7611	1694
14	Maharashtra	4144	3456	292	1379	5188	4552	393	4189	3825	317	1604	5153	4960	430	1933	1861	138	953	2990	2208	195
15	Manipur	46	32	3	8	33	32	5	55	51	2	6	39	51	5	40	26	6	8	40	28	9
16	Meghalaya	93	78	8	22	104	84	8	190	168	64	85	179	282	103	119	75	9	29	134	119	11
17	Mizoram	58	96	60	85	68	106	77	23	27	21	26	28	32	23	25	24	8	12	31	31	10
18	Nagaland	35	29	8	11	35	40	12	26	28	8	20	25	31	10	10	16	15	18	25	17	16
19	Odisha	2251	2183	161	922	2681	2543	200	1983	1996	142	843	2235	2293	206	2070	2117	154	937	2477	2454	181
20	Punjab	886	717	257	751	991	960	335	838	654	174	565	928	857	219	530	368	110	352	623	535	129
21	Rajasthan	3644	2006	433	1242	2766	2806	574	3656	2084	345	1055	2822	2831	535	3305	1836	661	1645	2471	2430	810
22	Sikkim	5	12	4	9	7	14	6	92	64	5	11	100	72	5	17	23	8	17	30	29	9
23	Tamil Nadu	421	375	143	570	529	558	169	319	386	91	480	544	556	113	283	321	60	471	531	469	101
24	Telangana	1105	1019	56	545	1278	1230	74	1278	942	80	589	1566	1175	93	552	464	44	411	879	632	46
25	Tripura	213	185	33	102	220	205	39	207	168	36	102	235	192	38	95	92	16	60	131	112	19
26	Uttar Pradesh	3025	2347	910	1599	5369	3726	1331	4816	3708	747	1552	8188	5462	1057	4246	3436	1170	1712	5718	5635	1341
27	Uttarakhand	283	217	196	327	282	288	247	336	263	61	114	334	312	78	374	305	79	140	402	408	87
28	West Bengal	1199	1857	114	856	1347	1990	128	1110	1318	115	1037	2268	2385	128	1084	1263	72	708	1784	1825	75
29	A&N Islands	36	28	1	15	32	28	1	30	23	0	7	36	27	0	13	12	0	8	14	14	0

	Chandigarh	72	66	15	36	92	85	24	68	57	17	53	82	78	19	65	65	28	75	81	81	46
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	13	5	2	4	12	5	2	26	26	2	15	26	25	2	8	14	3	15	9	12	3
32	Delhi	2199	1740	215	723	2177	2075	253	2155	2109	156	586	2444	2162	178	1229	1306	202	637	1933	1503	234
33	Jammu & Kashmir	296	203	16	227	329	314	21	256	185	9	183	343	268	9	296	185	16	181	311	308	23
34	Ladakh																					
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	3	4	0	0	10	4	0	6	4	1	2	5	4	1	7	10	0	0	9	6	0
	<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	<b>34651</b>	<b>30001</b>	<b>5514</b>	<b>18764</b>	<b>42036</b>	<b>39494</b>	<b>7185</b>	<b>38947</b>	<b>33628</b>	<b>4739</b>	<b>18552</b>	<b>48797</b>	<b>43525</b>	<b>6289</b>	<b>32559</b>	<b>28750</b>	<b>5822</b>	<b>18099</b>	<b>43197</b>	<b>38534</b>	<b>6957</b>

Source: Crime in India

Note : '+' Combined data of erstwhile D&N Haveli UT and Daman & Diu UT for 2015-17

\*' Data of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State including Ladakh for 2015-17



State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Cases in which Trials were Completed(CTC), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Rape (Section 376 IPC) during 2010-2022

1	Andhra Pradesh	971	898	66	589	1666	1425	113	1086	691	71	686	1597	1237	88
2	Arunachal Pradesh	67	52	3	7	75	60	3	63	42	2	4	78	46	2
3	Assam	1648	1283	45	898	1874	1334	47	1773	1468	48	519	2504	1637	49
4	Bihar	651	721	89	159	1130	1062	123	730	539	62	206	897	770	83
5	Chhattisgarh	2091	1959	412	1274	2422	2292	463	1036	1051	429	1263	1228	1227	539
6	Goa	61	73	3	47	67	98	7	72	72	1	37	89	87	1
7	Gujarat	553	508	18	134	803	793	20	528	485	26	139	753	744	31
8	Haryana	1296	769	148	685	1080	1007	182	1480	843	102	708	1127	1089	128
9	Himachal Pradesh	344	309	27	97	434	424	31	359	323	46	144	436	404	58
10	Jharkhand	1090	823	127	376	999	902	129	1416	929	369	611	939	1042	388
11	Karnataka	492	481	78	420	685	675	84	505	416	31	288	670	613	35
12	Kerala	1945	1657	158	733	2214	1957	218	2023	1675	124	641	2441	1873	125
13	Madhya Pradesh	5433	5353	1016	3821	7074	7018	1235	2485	2424	754	3417	3260	3238	1020
14	Maharashtra	2142	1858	183	1052	3267	2386	217	2299	1994	159	1056	3070	2515	180
15	Manipur	52	26	4	10	58	34	4	36	21	8	17	38	27	8
16	Meghalaya	87	50	8	33	94	50	8	102	71	45	148	105	77	45
17	Mizoram	50	44	3	3	51	44	3	42	40	19	21	47	42	21
18	Nagaland	10	9	9	10	13	10	9	8	7	2	4	17	13	4
19	Odisha	918	1239	143	1036	1403	1452	149	1382	1180	120	753	1567	1589	122
20	Punjab	831	670	161	603	876	847	204	1002	809	194	691	1110	1083	259
21	Rajasthan	4335	2374	521	1285	3131	3134	691	5997	3323	767	1551	4507	4349	987
22	Sikkim	16	14	5	14	15	15	8	11	11	2	6	12	12	2
23	Tamil Nadu	331	319	60	438	501	412	85	362	277	62	372	479	386	77
24	Telangana	606	461	22	224	1201	810	22	873	692	31	393	1112	906	42
25	Tripura	97	99	9	66	134	138	10	88	83	21	81	135	112	21
26	Uttar Pradesh	3946	3252	1064	1925	5748	5232	1517	3065	2509	746	1301	4192	3745	1037
27	Uttarakhand	561	352	35	76	521	505	41	526	445	122	193	532	522	144
28	West Bengal	1069	858	80	497	1148	1066	92	1068	948	67	707	1207	1338	79

.	A&N Islands	30	37	2	5	41	44	2	13	12	4	21	13	13	4
30	Chandigarh	86	52	24	45	70	69	39	112	87	15	36	124	98	16
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	10	6	3	12	13	7	6	4	7	0	6	12	11	0
32	Delhi	1215	1654	159	552	1960	1879	178	1253	1293	163	698	1621	1587	173
33	Jammu & Kashmir*	320	209	23	187	347	332	29	223	164	15	193	234	239	19
34	Ladakh														
35	Lakshadweep	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	0	0	14	14	0
	<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	<b>33356</b>	<b>28469</b>	<b>4708</b>	<b>17313</b>	<b>41117</b>	<b>37513</b>	<b>5969</b>	<b>32032</b>	<b>24938</b>	<b>4627</b>	<b>16911</b>	<b>36167</b>	<b>32685</b>	<b>5787</b>

Source: Crime in India

Note : '+' Combined data of erstwhile D&N Haveli UT and Daman & Diu UT for 2018, 2019

\*' Data of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State including Ladakh for 2018, 2019

**State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Cases in which Trials were Completed(CTC), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Rape (Section 376 IPC) during 2010-2022**

Sl	State/UT	2020							2021							2022						
		CR	CCS	CON	CTC	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	CTC	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	CTC	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	Andhra Pradesh	1095	1134	36	402	1898	1625	40	1188	1320	27	305	1929	1882	34	621	585	27	561	1138	1013	37
2	Arunachal Pradesh	60	63	0	1	77	77	0	83	69	12	23	89	75	13	74	75	16	26	89	86	16
3	Assam	1657	1195	14	462	2174	1222	14	1733	1175	22	348	2317	1622	31	1113	1354	64	710	2142	1420	68
4	Bihar	806	697	41	67	711	750	47	786	684	80	127	833	814	91	881	915	162	251	1258	1042	193
5	Chhattisgarh	1210	1221	124	313	1554	1461	148	1093	1090	155	482	1302	1280	184	1246	1291	458	886	1532	1503	577
6	Goa	60	58	4	21	66	66	4	72	62	1	27	78	86	1	73	72	9	37	77	79	9
7	Gujarat	486	464	6	62	683	673	8	589	550	14	117	771	768	14	610	565	15	256	811	805	24
8	Haryana	1373	784	31	145	1063	1029	38	1716	909	72	443	1178	1159	87	1787	892	60	661	1135	1092	75
9	Himachal Pradesh	331	317	29	85	470	480	36	358	327	42	114	460	456	49	359	334	73	195	415	396	84
10	Jharkhand	1321	966	217	371	1020	1060	220	1425	1036	139	250	1180	1146	159	1298	1246	276	751	1296	1341	296
11	Karnataka	504	436	23	341	691	611	29	555	550	43	367	894	836	50	595	479	34	406	808	719	51
12	Kerala	637	1362	824	1307	1399	2180	828	771	955	137	784	1106	1068	150	814	920	106	1322	1068	1073	196
13	Madhya Pradesh	2339	2311	367	1087	3092	3075	402	2947	2903	610	2585	3824	3767	860	3029	3044	875	3462	3901	3826	1055
14	Maharashtra	2061	1935	88	418	2975	2524	111	2496	2364	98	695	3938	3125	107	2904	2608	166	1319	3940	3239	197
15	Manipur	32	18	1	5	37	20	2	26	18	0	10	24	18	0	42	14	4	10	34	15	4
16	Meghalaya	67	36	9	28	56	37	9	75	61	10	26	76	62	10	75	77	16	58	61	81	16
17	Mizoram	33	32	10	13	36	33	11	26	27	6	8	29	29	6	14	14	8	12	18	18	9
18	Nagaland	4	3	6	7	9	3	6	4	3	0	1	3	3	0	7	7	0	2	7	7	0
19	Odisha	1211	1167	33	201	1298	1475	33	1456	1401	51	503	1625	1643	53	1464	1449	200	1672	1440	1683	202
20	Punjab	502	445	57	206	656	569	79	464	427	75	355	557	557	113	517	358	95	381	592	485	125
21	Rajasthan	5310	2949	686	1512	3834	3753	821	6337	3676	727	1519	4848	4834	888	5399	2695	783	1519	3426	3492	913
22	Sikkim	12	10	0	3	14	11	0	8	6	4	5	8	7	4	13	17	7	29	19	18	8
23	Tamil Nadu	389	324	29	139	513	404	43	422	327	39	237	603	425	43	421	394	55	279	655	567	61
24	Telangana	764	837	32	272	1210	1030	46	823	885	56	427	1120	1029	69	814	946	45	530	1467	1366	46
25	Tripura	79	67	4	29	105	92	4	61	66	6	19	69	74	6	62	55	7	37	75	83	9
26	Uttar Pradesh	2769	2249	975	1375	3735	3236	1308	2845	2219	735	1228	3629	3109	968	3690	2824	1280	1935	4468	4028	1499
27	Uttarakhand	487	418	50	119	488	481	50	534	423	106	212	501	495	118	867	754	70	197	818	820	71
28	West Bengal	1128	983	12	393	1051	1242	14	1123	1108	16	224	1091	1351	22	1111	991	22	378	1172	1488	33
	<b>TOTAL STATE(S)</b>	<b>26727</b>	<b>22481</b>	<b>3708</b>	<b>9384</b>	<b>30915</b>	<b>29219</b>	<b>4351</b>	<b>30016</b>	<b>24641</b>	<b>3283</b>	<b>11441</b>	<b>34082</b>	<b>31720</b>	<b>4130</b>	<b>29900</b>	<b>24975</b>	<b>4933</b>	<b>17882</b>	<b>33862</b>	<b>31785</b>	<b>5874</b>

2	A&N Islands	2	3	0	9	3	4	0	15	14	0	17	14	18	0	12	12	3	18	12	15	3
30	Chandigarh	60	67	7	18	66	85	9	74	78	8	21	72	85	10	78	76	30	70	104	102	32
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	4	4	0	1	3	4	0	3	4	0	3	5	4	0	9	9	3	11	10	9	5
32	Delhi	997	973	86	182	1367	1214	94	1250	1206	62	189	1749	1562	70	1212	1236	87	362	1776	1558	108
33	Jammu & Kashmir	243	154	8	107	242	233	9	315	216	15	111	313	312	17	287	180	11	170	271	258	15
34	Ladakh	2	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	1	0	5	5	0	1	5	5	0
35	Lakshadweep	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	4	3	0	0	0	3	0
36	Puducherry	8	10	5	10	10	10	10	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	9	12	0	3	15	15	0
														1986		1516						
	<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	<b>28046</b>	<b>23693</b>	<b>3814</b>	<b>9713</b>	<b>32610</b>	<b>30770</b>	<b>4473</b>	<b>31677</b>	<b>26164</b>	<b>3368</b>	<b>11783</b>	<b>36241</b>	<b>33706</b>	<b>4227</b>	<b>31516</b>	<b>26508</b>	<b>5067</b>	<b>18517</b>	<b>36055</b>	<b>33750</b>	<b>6037</b>

Source: Crime in India

# Clarifications are pending from Nagaland for the year 2022

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1314

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

Grievance Redressal Mechanism for Voters

*Leg. IT Sec (LD)*

- ✓ 1314. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:  
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:  
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:  
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:  
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:  
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission of India put in place a grievance redressal mechanism for voters whose names have been deleted from the voter list due to the non-linking of Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of the consequences of the deletion of names of citizens from voter lists due to the non-linking of Aadhaar with voter ID;
- (c) whether the ECI has put in place some mechanism for the voter whose Aadhaar has been linked with voter ID and they wish to withdraw the consent for linking, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the ECI has been given the Aadhaar Authentication permission for Voter ID linking, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS  
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**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1315  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9th FEBRUARY, 2024

ADR Cell (CLA)

**Alternative Dispute Redressal Mechanism**

✓1315. SHRI NAYAB SINGH:  
PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:  
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:  
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:  
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

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

- (a) the measures taken by Government in the field of alternative dispute resolution mechanism during the last ten years;
- (b) the main features of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019;
- (c) the expected outcome in ease of doing business and pendency of cases in the regular Courts;
- (d) the manner in which the Ministry has contributed to the digitization of the Indian legal system; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Ministry to reduce the backlog of cases in traditional Indian Courts?

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

(a) During the past decade, the Government of India has taken various initiatives in the realm of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. Various initiatives have been taken to strengthen these mechanisms and make them user friendly, cost effective and expeditious. The major initiatives taken by the Government over the years in this regard include-

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (Act,1996) has been progressively amended in the years 2015, 2019 and 2020. These amendments aim at ensuring timely conclusion of

arbitration proceedings, neutrality of arbitrators, minimizing judicial intervention in the arbitral process and quick enforcement of arbitral awards.

The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, was enacted to provide for the establishment and incorporation of the India International Arbitration Centre (Centre), a centre of national importance for the purpose of creating an independent and autonomous body, for facilitating institutional arbitration.

The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in the year 2018 to provide for Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mechanism.

The Mediation Act, 2023, enacted recently, lays down the legal framework for mediation.

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

(c) The legislative reforms with respect to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have facilitated the minimization of court-intervention in arbitration, and cost effective settlement of commercial disputes thereby enabling ease of conducting business.

To ensure resolution of commercial disputes expeditiously, fairly and at reasonable cost the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, has been enacted.

The Mediation Act, 2023 is also expected to be a pivotal legislative intervention towards providing standalone law on mediation and enabling the growth of a culture of amicable settlement of disputes out of court .

(d) The eCourts Mission Mode project, as part of the National eGovernance Plan, is under implementation since 2007 for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "*National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary*".

(e) The disposal of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. The Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1325**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.02.2024**

**Vacancy in High Courts**

*Appointment*

*DSC Appnts*  
✓ **1325. SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:**

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

- (a) the number of vacancies of judges in High Courts, State-wise;
- (b) the number of SC, ST, OBC and EWS related vacancies of judges in High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts in last five years, year-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that 5,408 positions remained vacant in District and Subordinate Courts, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of pending cases in High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts in 2023, State-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) to (d): A statement showing sanctioned strength, number of working judges and vacancies in High Courts, State-wise may be seen at **Annexure-I**.



Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of OBCs, SCs, STs and Minorities among the Judges of High Courts are not maintained centrally. There are no vacancies earmarked for any caste or class of persons in Higher Judiciary.

However, the data regarding social diversity in High Court Judges has been institutionalized as per the revised Annexure (revised in 2018) wherein the recommendees have to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Hence, data since 2018 has been maintained. Out of 653 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 20 Judges belong to SC category, 12 Judges belong to ST category and 77 Judges belong to OBC category.

As regards the number of SC, ST, OBC and EWS related vacancies of judges in District Courts and Subordinate Courts, the data is not maintained by the Department. The Central Government has no role in the selection, recruitment and appointment of judicial officers in District/Subordinate judiciary level, as per the provisions under the Constitution. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. Thus, the selection and appointment of judicial officers in the Subordinate/District Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions.

As on 05.02.2024, there are 5,342 vacant positions in the District and Subordinate Courts. The State-wise details of vacant positions of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts are at ANNEXURE-II.

The details of pending cases in High Courts and District Courts and Subordinate Courts, as on 31.12.2023, State-wise are at ANNEXURE-III & IV respectively.

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**Annexure-I****Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts.**

A.	Supreme Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		34			34			0		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	75	14	89	44	27	71
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	8	30	6	1	7
3	Bombay	71	23	94	41	28	69	30	-5	25
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	37	14	51	17	4	21
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	6	16	7	-1	6
6	Delhi	46	14	60	37	5	42	9	9	18
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	16	7	23	6	1	7
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	31	0	31	8	13	21
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	13	2	15	0	2	2
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	17	1	18	3	4	7
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	39	12	51	8	3	11
13	Kerala	35	12	47	32	4	36	3	8	11
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	53	39	1	40	0	13	13
15	Madras	56	19	75	54	13	67	2	6	8
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	2	1	3	1	0	1
18	Orissa	24	9	33	20	0	20	4	9	13
19	Patna	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	40	15	55	24	6	30
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	34	0	34	4	12	16
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	21	5	26	11	5	16
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	7	0	7	2	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1114</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>332</b>

**ANNEXURE II****Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers (as on 05.02.2024).**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Vacancy
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	84
3	Arunachal Pradesh	10
4	Assam	46
5	Bihar	467
6	Chandigarh	1
7	Chhattisgarh	139
8	D & N Haveli	1
9	Daman & Diu	0
10	Delhi	89
11	Goa	10
12	Gujarat	535
13	Haryana	208
14	Himachal Pradesh	22
15	Jammu and Kashmir	94
16	Jharkhand	182
17	Karnataka	229
18	Kerala	91
19	Ladakh	7
20	Lakshadweep	1
21	Madhya Pradesh	295
22	Maharashtra	250
23	Manipur	10
24	Meghalaya	42
25	Mizoram	28
26	Nagaland	10
27	Odisha	216
28	Puducherry	19
29	Punjab	112
30	Rajasthan	300
31	Sikkim	12

32	Tamil Nadu	334
33	Telangana	115
34	Tripura	21
35	Uttar Pradesh	1250
36	Uttarakhand	29
37	West Bengal	96
TOTAL		5342

## ANNEXURE-III

**Pending Cases in High Courts (as on 31.12.2023).**

Pendency in High Courts		
Sl.No	High Court	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2023 (Total).
1	Allahabad High Court	1076554
2	Bombay High Court	712430
3	Calcutta High Court	195379
4	Gauhati High Court	62441
5	High Court for State of Telangana	248387
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	249643
7	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	90463
8	High Court of Delhi	128122
9	High Court of Gujarat	169048
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	99545
11	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	44243
12	High Court of Jharkhand	85790
13	High Court of Karnataka	288889
14	High Court of Kerala	255278
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	446348
16	High Court of Manipur	4631
17	High Court of Meghalaya	1125
18	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	441070
19	High Court Of Rajasthan	672193
20	High Court of Sikkim	179
21	High Court of Tripura	1275
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	50532

23	Madras High Court	542700
24	Orissa High Court	148447
25	Patna High Court	197663
Total		6212375

Source: NJDG

**ANENXURE-IV**

**State-wise, Pending Cases in District and Subordinate Courts (as on 31.12.2023)**

Pendency in District Courts as on 31.12.2023		
Sl.No	States	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	864945
2	Telangana	917595
3	Andman & Nicobar	8767
4	Auranchal Pradesh	4149
5	Assam	453536
6	Bihar	3588892
7	Chandigarh	148414
8	Chattisgarh	410579
9	Delhi	1224273
10	Diu and Daman	3073
11	DNH at Silvassa	4251
12	Goa	57178
13	Gujarat	1589468
14	Haryana	1433041
15	Himachal Pradesh	573610
16	Jammu & Kashmir	290206
17	Jharkhand	542976
18	Karnataka	1941571
19	Kerala	1830917
20	Ladakh	1328



21	Madhya Pradesh	2004570
22	Maharashtra	5200315
23	Manipur	13070
24	Meghalaya	16214
25	Mizoram	5566
26	Nagaland	2834
27	Orissa	1612195
28	Puducherry	34079
29	Punjab	851182
30	Rajasthan	2310988
31	Sikkim	1664
32	Tamil Nadu	1449005
33	Tripura	45379
34	U.T of Lakshadweep	0
35	Uttar Pradesh	11626796
36	Uttrakhand	358032
37	West Bengal	2988822
Total		44409480

Source : NJDG

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1335  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

NUMBER OF JUDGES PER MILLION POPULATION

JSC(NMJA)  
✓1335. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY: NM

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

- (a) the number of Judges per million of population in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of Judges per million as suggested by the Supreme Court; and
- (c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to comply with the order passed by the Supreme Court including the funds required for the purpose?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): At present, the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population. In order to calculate the judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Ministry of Law and Justice uses the criterion based on the population data as per Census 2011 (1210.19 million) and the sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2023.

However, the State-wise list of Judges per million population is not Centrally maintained.

(b): The Supreme Court of India, in the case of *Imtiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh* [(2017) 3 SCC 658], had observed that its judgement delivered on 21.03.2022 in *All India Judges' Assn.(3)v. Union of India* while endorsing the

views of the Law Commissions 120<sup>th</sup> Report directed that a Judge to Population ratio of fifty Judges per million be achieved. Similar observations were made in cases such as P. Ramachandra Rao vs. State of Karnataka (2002) 4SCC 478 and Brij Mohal Lal vs. Union of India (2002) 5 SCC 1.

(c): In so far as suggested increase in number of Judges per million and funds required for this purpose are concerned, the appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous and collaborative exercise between the Executive and Judiciary. Further, in case of District and Subordinate courts, the need for appropriate number of judges and the consequent requirement for filling up of the vacancies lies in the domain of respective High Courts and the State Governments.

However, due to consistent efforts, there has been a marked increase in the judges' strength with the sanctioned strength of Judges of Supreme Court being increased from 31 in year 2014 to 34 Judges with no vacancy at present. Since May 2014, the Government has appointed 62 Supreme Court Judges which comes to around 6 Judges in a year.

In case of High Courts, the sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has increased from 906 in year 2014 to 1114 Judges, as on 31.12.2023, with a total of 208 new posts of High Court Judges being created since year 2014. A total of 968 High Court Judges have been appointed since year 2014 which comes to around 103 Judges a year.

The District Judiciary's sanctioned strength has increased from 19,518 judicial officers in the year 2014 to 25,439 judicial officers, as on 31.12.2023. Similarly, the working strength of Judges has also increased from 15,115 in year 2014 to 20,011 judicial officers as on 31.12.2023.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1341**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**Linking of Voter I Cards**

*Leg. II Sec (LD)*

✓ 1341. **SHRI ANTO ANTONY:  
SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:  
SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:  
SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:  
KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA:  
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:**

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

- (a) the number of Voter IDs that have been linked with the Aadhaar Card since the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 came into force;
- (b) whether linking is being done voluntarily, if so, the manner in which the consent is being taken;
- (c) whether Aadhaar details will be deleted if a voter takes back consent, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the names of the voters whose Voter IDs have not been linked with Aadhaar have been struck off from the voter list, if so, the number of voters whose names have been so deleted and the deadline for the same; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken measures to protect the voter database from being misused, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): The Election Commission of India has informed that the Representation of the People Act, 1950 as amended by the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, allows Electoral Registration Officers to

require the existing or prospective elector to provide the Aadhaar number for the purpose of establishing identity on a voluntary basis. The Election Commission *vide* its instruction dated 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, has launched the programme to collect the Aadhaar number of existing and prospective electors on a voluntary basis from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022 in all States and Union territories. The linking of Aadhaar with Election Photo Identity Card has not yet started.

- (b) and (c): The Election Commission has informed that it is voluntary to submit Aadhaar number with Voter ID and consent is obtained from the electors for Aadhaar in Form 6B. Currently, there is no provision regarding deletion of Aadhaar details if a voter takes back his consent.
- (d): No such striking of the names from the voters list has been carried out.
- (e): Under article 324 of the Constitution, the Election Commission is responsible for superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral roll and maintains data with multi-layered security, architecture. The electoral data is encrypted in both static and transit mode.

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1346**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.02.2024**

**Vacancy of Judges**

*Appointment*

*DS (APPAS)*  
✓ **1346. SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMHAJIRAO MANE:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:**

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

- (a) the total number of sanctioned posts and actual number of judges in the various High Courts and subordinate courts in the country;
- (b) whether as per a recent report released by the Ministry of Law & Justice 21 percent of sanctioned posts of judges in high courts and various subordinate courts are lying vacant leading to piling up of cases in courts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons for posts being vacant for quite a time;
- (d) whether citizens have to suffer a lot in many cases due to shortage of judges in the courts; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fill the vacant posts of judges in the various High Courts?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

- (a) to (e): The Supreme Court is functioning at full strength of 34 Judges. As regards the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1114 Judges, 783

Judges are working and 331 posts of Judges are vacant in the various High Courts as on 01.02.2024. As far as district and subordinate Courts are concerned, as per information available with the Department, as on 01.02.2024 against a sanctioned strength of 25,348 Judicial Officers, 20,014 are working, with 5,334 vacancies.

No report regarding the vacancies has been released by the Department of Justice recently. However, the Department regularly publishes data regarding judicial strength on its official website.

Judges of the High Courts are appointed under Article 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). 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 and 34 judges have been transferred among various High Courts.

As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the Rules and Regulations regarding the issues of appointment, recruitment etc. of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. Thus, the selection and appointment of judges in the District Courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In so far as recruitment of judicial

officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States. Therefore, the Central Government has no role in filling up vacant positions of Judges in subordinate Courts.

The pendency of cases in courts and suffering of citizens due to the same cannot be solely attributed to the shortage of judges in the courts. Pendency of cases in courts can be contributed by several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved in the case, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed time frame by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. However, the disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1354  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024

SHORTAGE OF JUDGES

1354. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

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

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment on the shortage of judges and vacant posts in the various courts of the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise specially Kerala; and
- (b) whether the process of recruitment has started against the said vacancies during the last five years and if so, the details thereof, 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): The detailed statement of vacant posts in the various courts of the country i.e. Supreme Court and High Courts (including Kerala) is given at *Annexure-I* and State-wise District and Subordinate Courts (including Kerala) is given at *Annexure-II*.

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

The filling up of vacant positions in the District Courts of the country is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. The Central Government has no role in the selection, recruitment and appointment of judicial officers in District/Subordinate judiciary level, as per the provisions under the Constitution. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. In some States, the respective High Courts undertake the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide judicial order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has stipulated certain timelines which are to be followed by the states and the respective High Courts for initiating the recruitment process of judges in subordinate courts. As such the Central Government does not have any role in the matter.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1354 FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2024 REGARDING 'SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'.**

**Vacant Positions of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on 01.02.2024**

	Name of the Courts	No. of Vacancies
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>	0
<b>B.</b>	<b>High Court</b>	
1	Allahabad	70
2	Andhra Pradesh	7
3	Bombay	25
4	Calcutta	21
5	Chhattisgarh	6
6	Delhi	18
7	Gauhati	7
8	Gujarat	21
9	Himachal Pradesh	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	2
11	Jharkhand	7
12	Karnataka	11
13	Kerala	11
14	Madhya Pradesh	13
15	Madras	8
16	Manipur	1
17	Meghalaya	1
18	Orissa	13
19	Patna	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	29
21	Rajasthan	16
22	Sikkim	0
23	Telangana	16
24	Tripura	0
25	Uttarakhand	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>

Source: - MIS portal of Department of Justice.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1354 FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2024  
REGARDING 'SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'.**

**Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Court as on 05.02.2024**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
3.	Assam	46
4.	Bihar	467
5.	Chandigarh	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	139
7.	D & N Haveli	1
8.	Daman & Diu	0
9.	Delhi	89
10.	Goa	10
11.	Gujarat	535
12.	Haryana	208
13.	Himachal Pradesh	22
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	94
15.	Jharkhand	182
16.	Karnataka	229
17.	Kerala	91
18.	Ladakh	7
19.	Lakshadweep	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	295
21.	Maharashtra	250
22.	Manipur	10
23.	Meghalaya	42
24.	Mizoram	28
25.	Nagaland	10
26.	Odisha	216
27.	Puducherry	19
28.	Punjab	112
29.	Rajasthan	300
30.	Sikkim	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	334
32.	Telangana	115
33.	Tripura	21
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1250
35.	Uttarakhand	29
36.	Andaman and Nicobar	0
37.	West Bengal	96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5342</b>

Source: - MIS portal of Department of Justice.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1359  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH FEBRUARY, 2024

SPECIAL COURTS FOR DISPOSAL OF CASES

✓1359. DR. VISHNU PRASAD M.K.:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the pendency of cases across courts, as on 05.02.2024, is as follows:

S. No	Court	No. of Pending Cases
1	Supreme Court	80,302
2	High Court	62,09,926
3	District & Subordinate Courts	4,48,61,459

The detailed statement of pending cases in the respective High Courts and the District Courts, State-wise, is given at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II*.

(b): The detailed Statement of pending cases showing the increase/decrease in such cases during the last four years for the various courts is as follows:

Name of Court	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2020	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2023	Increase/Decrease
Supreme Court	65,086	80,765	(+)15,679
High Court	56,42,567	62,12,375	(+)5,69,808
District Court	3,66,39,436	4,44,09,480	(+)77,70,044

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

The expeditious disposal of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. The Central Government has no role in the said matter.

(c) & (d): Presently, there are no proposals pending with the Government to set up special courts for speedy disposal of pending cases. Over the years, the Ministry of Law and Justice has undertaken several initiatives, to provide for setting up of Special Courts in order to facilitate speedy disposal of pending cases. The highlights of which are as under:-

- i. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes in expeditiously; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 30.11.2023, there were 847 Fast Track Courts functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children.
- ii. Championing the cause of safety and security of women and girl child, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was finalized in August, 2019 and launched for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO Courts across the country to dispose of around 1,67,000 cases of sexual offences pending as on 31.03.2018 in a time-bound manner. As on 30.11.2023, 758 Fast Track Special Courts (including 411 e-POCSO Courts) are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country, which have disposed of more than 1,95,000 cases.

- iii. Special Courts for lawmakers in order to fast track criminal cases involving elected Members of Parliament (MPs) / Member of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs.
- iv. A notable legislative reform undertaken for expeditious commercial dispute resolution, is the enactment of The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, which provides for the establishment of Dedicated and Designated Commercial Courts for adjudication of commercial disputes. Through this specialized dispute resolution machinery it aims to transform the commercial litigation landscape in the country by adopting robust and proactive procedures like Case Management Hearing, Automatic and Random Allocation of Cases and several best practices such as e-filing, e-summons, adherence to 3-adjournment rule in the Commercial Courts.
- v. As a part of the National eGovernance Plan, the Government has launched eCourts Mission Mode Project wherein 25 Virtual Courts in 20 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 4.11 crore cases have been handled by these virtual courts and fine of Rs. 478.69 crores had been realized till 30.11.2023. These courts have enabled litigants to pay their fines or contest to the claims 24X7 from their preferred location. Thus, saving time and resources for both the court system and the litigants.
- vi. The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for the establishment of Family Courts by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs. As per the Act, it is mandatory for the State Government to set up a Family Court for every city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States, the Family Courts may be set up if the State Governments deems it necessary. As on

30.11.2023, there were 776 Family Courts functional in the country which had disposed more than 7,44,700 cases.

- vii. The Gram Nyayalayas were established with the enactment of Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 wherein Gram Nyayalayas were established in every Panchayat at an intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at the intermediate level or for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats. Gram Nyayalayas have the solemn aim of providing inexpensive justice to people in rural areas at their doorstep. They try criminal cases, civil suits, claims or disputes which are specified in the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Act. Additionally, the disputes are to be settled, as far as possible, by bringing about conciliation between the parties. There are 287 Gram Nyayalayas functional as against 477 Gram Nyayalayas notified.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1359 FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2024 REGARDING 'SPECIAL COURTS FOR DISPOSAL OF CASES'.**

**Pending Cases in High Courts as on 05.02.2024**

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Pendency
1	Allahabad High Court	1073778
2	Bombay High Court	723671
3	High Court Of Rajasthan	667451
4	Madras High Court	541226
5	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	447266
6	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	440853
7	High Court of Karnataka	288478
8	High Court of Kerala	255543
9	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	249022
10	High Court for State of Telangana	248042
11	Patna High Court	198285
12	Calcutta High Court	195073
13	High Court of Gujarat	170671
14	Orissa High Court	146131
15	High Court of Delhi	123561
16	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	100640
17	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	90807
18	High Court of Jharkhand	83566
19	Gauhati High Court	62792
20	High Court of Uttarakhand	50983
21	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	44761
22	High Court of Manipur	4715
23	High Court of Tripura	1276
24	High Court of Meghalaya	1151
25	High Court of Sikkim	184
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62,09,926</b>

Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1359 FOR ANSWER ON 09.02.2024  
REGARDING 'SPECIAL COURTS FOR DISPOSAL OF CASES'.**

**Pending Cases in District and Subordinate Courts as on 05.02.2024**

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Pendency
1	Uttar Pradesh	11711349
2	Maharashtra	5245503
3	Bihar	3614171
4	West Bengal	3012709
5	Rajasthan	2338759
6	Madhya Pradesh	2013105
7	Karnataka	1978462
8	Kerala	1852293
9	Gujarat	1641149
10	Odisha	1621785
11	Haryana	1463088
12	Tamil Nadu	1452359
13	Delhi	1254506
14	Telangana	919391
15	Andhra Pradesh	869368
16	Punjab	857618
17	Himachal Pradesh	593051
18	Jharkhand	549524
19	Assam	459832
20	Chhattisgarh	415374
21	Uttarakhand	366242
22	Jammu and Kashmir	290098
23	Chandigarh	133970
24	Goa	57670
25	Tripura	52236
26	Puducherry	34291
27	Meghalaya	16173
28	Manipur	13332
29	Andaman and Nicobar	8766
30	Arunachal Pradesh	6187
31	Mizoram	5636
32	DNH at Silvassa	4322
33	Diu and Daman	3095
34	Nagaland	2893
35	Sikkim	1719
36	Ladakh	1433
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44861459</b>

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1364  
ANSWERED ON – 09/02/2024

ADDITIONAL FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS

✓ 1364. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

J-II

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to establish additional fast-track courts to address the rising number of cases related to sexual offences;
- (b) the current status of fast-track courts dedicated to handling cases of crimes such as rapes in the country;
- (c) the number of operational fast-track courts specifically focusing on sexual offences, State-wise;
- (d) the number of pending cases related to sexual crimes in these fast-track courts and the measures being taken to expedite the resolution of pending cases; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of fast-track courts in delivering justice for victims of crimes like rape?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The establishment of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for providing speedy justice in the country lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. The 14<sup>th</sup> 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, 851 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.12.2023. State-wise details are given in **Annexure-I**.

Additionally, pursuant to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) 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 per the data submitted by High Courts, 757 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts are functional in 30 States/UTs, as on 31.12.2023. These courts have disposed of more than 2,14,000 cases as on 31.12.2023. State-wise functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts along with cumulative disposal and pendency as on 31.12.2023 are given at **Annexure-II**.

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.

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**Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question  
No.1364 for 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

State/UT-wise functional FTCs as on 31.12.2023

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs	No. of Functional Fast Track Court
1	Andhra Pradesh	22
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	15
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Delhi	27
10	Diu & Daman	0
11	Goa	6
12	Gujarat	54
13	Haryana	6
14	Himachal Pradesh	3
15	Jammu & Kashmir	8
16	Jharkhand	36
17	Karnataka	0
18	Kerala	0
19	Ladakh	0
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	0
22	Maharashtra	95
23	Manipur *	6
24	Meghalaya	0
25	Mizoram	2
26	Nagaland	0
27	Odisha	0
28	Puducherry	0
29	Punjab	7
30	Rajasthan	0
31	Sikkim	2
32	Tamil Nadu	72
33	Telangana	0
34	Tripura	3
35	Uttar Pradesh	372
36	Uttarakhand	4
37	West Bengal	88
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>851</b>

\* data upto 30.11.2023

**State/UT-wise functional FTSCs including e-POCSO courts along with cumulative disposal and pendency of FTSCs as on 31.12.2023**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme	Cumulative Pendency
		FTSCs including e-POCSO	e-POCSO		
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	4083	7231
2	Assam	17	17	4979	5207
3	Bihar	46	46	9939	17716
4	Chandigarh	1	0	244	203
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	4377	2264
6	Delhi	16	11	1503	3810
7	Goa	1	0	44	156
8	Gujarat	35	24	10295	6338
9	Haryana	16	12	5342	4199
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	1282	834
11	J&K	4	2	151	453
12	Jharkhand	22	16	5822	4486
13	Karnataka	31	17	8897	5414
14	Kerala	54	14	16878	7401
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	23613	10193
16	Maharashtra	19	10	16907	4355
17	Manipur	2	0	127	94
18	Meghalaya	5	5	382	1061
19	Mizoram	3	1	169	89
20	Nagaland	1	0	57	51
21	Odisha	44	23	11960	11060
22	Puducherry	1	1	44	221
23	Punjab	12	3	3565	1438
24	Rajasthan	45	30	13003	6122
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	6228	4440
26	Telangana	36	0	7799	8463
27	Tripura	3	1	349	242
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	1355	908
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	55021	84778
30	West Bengal	3	3	48	2948
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>214463</b>	<b>202175</b>