

2025

LOK SABHA REPLIES

MONSOON SESSION, 2025
[5th SESSION OF 18th LOK SABHA]
[21st July, 2025 to 21st August,
2025]

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PERTAIN TO DOJ

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No. *88
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25TH JULY, 2025

E-COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT PHASE III

Jos (SPS)
*88. Shri Arun Bharti:

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved the e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase III to enhance the Indian judiciary's efficiency and accessibility, if so, the funds allocated for this phase;
- (b) whether the project aims to digitise court records and establish paperless courts, if so, the specific measures being implemented to achieve this goal;
- (c) whether there has been an expansion of video conferencing facilities in courts and jails under this initiative, if so, the total number of such facilities established in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether e-Sewa Kendras have been set up across court complexes to assist citizens with e-Courts services, if so, the number of such centres operational, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) whether emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) is part of this project and if so, the manner in which it is expected to improve case management and decision-making processes within the judiciary?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *88 FOR ANSWER ON 25.07.2025 REGARDING 'E-
COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT PHASE III'.**

- (a) Yes. The Union Cabinet has approved eCourts Phase III (2023-2027) on 13.09.2023, with an outlay of ₹7,210 crore, for improved Information & Communication Technology infrastructure in the courts to enhance judicial productivity.
- (b) One of the components of eCourts Project Phase III is the scanning, digitization and digital preservation of case records, for which an amount of Rs. 2038.40 crore has been earmarked. As per information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, 213.29 crore pages in the High Courts and 307.89 crore pages in the District Courts have been digitized till 30.06.2025, as per the details at **Annexure- I**. A software platform has been developed for long term preservation of judicial records of High Courts and District Courts. Further, Digital Courts 2.1 software platform has been developed for aiding courts to function in paperless mode.
- (c) A sum of Rs. 228.48 crore has been earmarked for enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of Video Conferencing in various establishments, including jails, courts and district hospitals. As per information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the details of VC facilities provided to courts and jails are at **Annexure-II**.
- (d) A sum of Rs.394.48 crore has been earmarked for setting up of eSewa Kendras across court complexes, under the eCourts Project Phase III. As per information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, 1814 eSewa Kendras are operational in 24 High Courts and the District Courts under their jurisdiction, as per the details at **Annexure- III**. Additionally, there are 5 functional eSewa Kendras in the Supreme Court.
- (e) Yes. A sum of Rs. 53.57 crore has been earmarked for the implementation of future technological advancements such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, etc. As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) based tools are being used in case management and transcription of oral arguments in Constitutional Bench matters. AI/ML based tools are used by Supreme Court of India in coordination with National Informatics Centre (NIC) to translate English judgments into 18 Indian languages. Prototypes of AI and ML tools are being tested by the Supreme Court of India in collaboration with IIT Madras for curing defects, data, meta data extraction and the same is envisaged to be integrated with the electronic filing module and the Integrated Case Management & Information System (ICMIS).

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 88 for 25/07/2025 regarding e-courts Mission Mode Project Phase III.

Details of digitization are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Number of pages digitized in the High Court in the current month	Total No. of pages digitized in High Court up to current months	District Courts (including Taluka Courts) under the concerned High Court	
				Number of pages digitized in District Courts in the current month	Total No. of pages digitized in District Courts up to current month
1	Allahabad	29,57,532	55,00,37,986	6,99,98,747	1,26,30,50,913
2	Andhra Pradesh	17,50,450	2,02,81,917	30,62,018	6,45,96,742
3	Bombay	48,08,004	5,84,86,329	58,758	18,14,777
4	Calcutta	10,41,766	5,27,75,761	-	-
5	Chhattisgarh	2,70,681	13,49,920	6,94,957	24,04,904
6	Delhi	5,82,532	23,15,93,708	4,02,446	9,11,13,986
7	Gauhati	94,917	3,12,51,154	1,23,696	15,74,91,856
8	Gujarat	91,675	7,43,051	1,21,440	6,02,173
9	Himachal Pradesh	-	71,42,331	-	-
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1,10,278	3,98,69,492	21,46,472	1,24,96,788
11	Jharkhand	17,43,187	1,95,65,535	1,95,655	86,08,416
12	Karnataka	33,08,850	3,63,81,003	7,01,094	3,87,17,734
13	Kerala	19,29,589	6,69,47,293	6,98,440	1,08,70,987
14	Madhya Pradesh	16,49,364	23,12,22,106	1,30,00,000	58,76,95,995
15	Madras	74,39,073	16,67,83,534	53,27,906	10,39,82,590
16	Manipur	51,577	55,93,992	78,527	52,94,272
17	Meghalaya	18,844	9,98,123	9,221	35,63,523
18	Orissa	6,46,588	4,77,94,951	58,36,296	13,75,57,843
19	Panna	1,13,025	2,31,83,083	9,62,483	95,41,218
20	Punjab & Haryana	12,25,655	28,18,05,829	29,36,852	51,27,43,212
21	Rajasthan	31,66,277	11,67,82,238	21,27,017	1,01,79,759
22	Sikkim	2,264	11,67,321	80,785	46,59,148
23	Telangana	12,68,241	11,41,58,358	41,43,556	4,70,29,641
24	Tripura	92,538	73,84,185	-	6,19,005
25	Uttarakhand	7,29,338	1,96,26,919	15,58,660	42,82,851
	Total	3,50,92,245	2,13,29,26,119	1,14,25,026	3,07,89,18,333

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 88 for 25/07/2025 regarding e-courts Mission Mode Project Phase III.

The details of VC facilities provided to courts and jails are as under:

Video Conferencing Facility provided under eCourts Project			
S. No.	High Courts	Number of courts (including High Court)	Number of jails
1	Allahabad	District Court: 2532 court rooms and 147 court complexes High Court: 2 PTZ Camera have been provided	70
2	Andhra Pradesh -	District Court: 652 courtrooms High Court: Four (4) Benches	13
3	Bombay	District Court: 372 court complexes and 964 courts have been provided with complete hybrid video conferencing system. (Phase I and Phase II) Under Phase - III of the eCourts Project, additional court complexes have been provided with 102 video conferencing system. Apart from this, 381 court rooms which were not covered under Phase II, including 129 district judges court establishment at the district and taluka level have been provided with video conferencing system. High Court: 60 Courtrooms	96
4	Chhattisgarh	532	33
5	Calcutta	884	61 Correctional Homes
6	Delhi	District Court: 07 video conferencing However, as on date, video conferencing is functional in all the courts of Delhi from the funds provided by the State Government.	35 VC units have been provided to the District Jails in Delhi under Phase-II of the eCourts Project.
7 (a)	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	District Court: 31 courts High Court: 2 courtrooms	8 Nos. of Jails/ Sub Jails (02 District Jails and 06 Sub Jails)
7 (b)	Gauhati (Assam)	417	31
7 (c)	Gauhati (Mizoram)	39 courts (including High Court)	10
7 (d)	Gauhati (Nagaland)	29	12
8	Gujarat	District Court: 1076 courts High Court: 39 Courts (partially from State Government funds and eCommittee Funds)	27
9	Himachal Pradesh	District Court: 63 VC equipment's provided to district judiciary under Phase-III. In addition, 22 All-in-One (AIO) VC equipment's provided to State hospitals.	Nil

Video Conferencing Facility provided under eCourts Project			
S. No.	High Courts	Number of courts (including High Court)	Number of jails
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	District Court: Out of 246 courts across the UT of J&K and Ladakh, 80 courts have VC facility. Under Phase III, VC hardware has been provided to 153 courts. High Court: Equipped with VC facilities.	14
11	Jharkhand	278	28
12	Karnataka	349	4
13	Kerala	District Courts: The Prisons Department, Govt of Kerala, has provided dedicated VC units in Courts and Jails under the scheme 'VC between Courts and Jails', for remand extension in 370 Courts in the District Judiciary, utilising their own fund as well as fund allotted under eCourts Project Phase II. In addition, 27 District Courts have been provided with VC facilities under Phase II. Further, 106 courts and 94 Court Complexes in the District Judiciary have been provided with dedicated VC units under Phase III.	NIL
14	Madras	1297	119
15	Orissa	803 Courts	53
16	Patna	1293 (District Courts of Bihar)	59
17	Punjab & Haryana	618	44
18	Rajasthan	District Courts: 1376 Courts High Court: 46 Court Rooms In addition, VC Facility is being provided for 45 newly created courts under Phase III.	105
19	Telangana	537	37
20	Madhya Pradesh	1858	405
21	Manipur	45 Courts (including 4 in the HC)	2
22	Meghalaya	Court complexes-19 Court rooms -78	
23	Sikkim	35	
24	Tripura	91	13
25	Uttarakhand	241	11

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 88 for 25/07/2025 regarding e-courts Mission Mode Project Phase III.

Details are as under:

Status of implementation of e-Sewa Kendras as on 30.06.2025						
Sr. No.	High Court	Whether the e-Sewa Kendra is implemented in High Court	Functioning e-Sewa Kendras in High Courts (A)	Whether the e-Sewa Kendra is implemented in District Courts	Functioning e-Sewa Kendras in District Courts (B)	Total (A+B)
1	Allahabad	Yes	2	Yes	74	76
2	Andhra Pradesh	No	0	No	0	0
3	Bombay	Yes	3	Yes	40	43
4	Calcutta	Yes	1	Yes	14	15
5	Chhattisgarh	Yes	1	Yes	23	24
6	Delhi	Yes	1	Yes	13	14
7	Gauhati	Yes	5	Yes	126	131
8	Gujarat	Yes	1	Yes	192	193
9	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	1	Yes	22	23
10	Jammu and Kashmir	Yes	1	Yes	26	27
11	Jharkhand	Yes	2	Yes	62	64
12	Karnataka	Yes	3	Yes	25	28
13	Kerala	Yes	1	Yes	161	162
14	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	1	Yes	185	186
15	Madras	Yes	7	Yes	310	317
16	Manipur	Yes	1	Yes	20	21
17	Meghalaya	Yes	1	Yes	16	17
18	Orissa	Yes	1	Yes	160	161
19	Patna	Yes	1	Yes	37	38
20	Punjab and Haryana	Yes	1	Yes	113	114
21	Rajasthan	Yes	2	Yes	1	3
22	Sikkim	Yes	1	Yes	10	11
23	Telangana	Yes	1	Yes	98	99
24	Tripura	Yes	1	Yes	15	16
25	Uttarakhand	Yes	1	Yes	30	31
	Implemented	24	41	24	1773	1814
	Not Implemented	1		1		

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 944
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 25/07/2025

LEGAL AWARENESS CAMPS

J.S. (CNKw) LAP
944. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI BHOJRAJ NAG:
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI RAMESH AWASTHI:
SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH:
SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP:
MS KANGNA RANAUT:

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

- (a) the key achievements of the Government in strengthening access to justice through Legal Services Authorities during the last three years district and State-wise;
- (b) the number of legal awareness camps conducted across the country during the last three years, particularly in the State of Rajasthan;
- (c) the impact and outreach of legal awareness camps and programmes conducted across the country;
- (d) the scope, implementation status and outcome of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) in providing free criminal defence to eligible beneficiaries;
- (e) whether any performance evaluation or monitoring mechanisms have been put in place to assess the efficiency of legal aid delivery under LADCS and related schemes; and
- (f) whether there are any special initiatives to expand legal aid infrastructure, awareness, or training in underserved regions, especially in semi-urban and rural areas?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the

weaker sections of the society including the beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987, which aims to ensure that the opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. In addition, NALSA has also formulated various schemes for the implementation of preventive and strategic legal service programmes, which are implemented by the Legal Services Authorities at various levels i.e. State, District and Taluka level. The State/UT-wise details of beneficiaries under various activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities during the last three years are at Annexure - A. However, the district-wise information is not maintained by NALSA.

- (b) and (c): The legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities in regard to various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability, etc. The Legal Services Authorities also prepare booklets and pamphlets in simple language on various laws, for distribution amongst the people. The details of legal awareness camps/programs organized by Legal Service Authorities across the country (including Rajasthan) during the last three years are as under:

Year	Legal Awareness programs organised in Rajasthan	No. of Persons attended	Legal Awareness programs organised across the country	No. of Persons attended
2022-23	1,42,253	65,28,772	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24	72,331	56,40,045	4,30,306	4,49,22,092
2024-25	62,011	33,62,084	4,62,988	3,72,32,850
Total	2,76,595	1,55,30,901	13,83,349	14,96,72,607

- (d): The Government of India is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely; Legal Aid-Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme through NALSA since 2023-24, which aims to provide legal aid with regard to criminal cases to the beneficiaries eligible for legal aid under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987. As on 30th June 2025, LADC offices are functional in 662 districts across the country. Since inception, Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) have been assigned with 8,69,243 criminal cases, of which 5,85,255 cases were disposed of.

- (e) The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 provide for a robust framework for monitoring and evaluating legal aid services through the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee (MMC) at all tiers i.e. Supreme Court of India, High Courts, State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)/District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSCs). These committees are responsible for overseeing court-based legal aid delivery, monitoring the progress of assigned cases, and guiding panel lawyers and Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) in providing quality legal services.

MMCs maintain registers to track the day-to-day progress and final outcomes of legal aid cases. They obtain periodic reports from legal aid lawyers, assess their performance, and advise concerned authorities to take corrective steps when progress is unsatisfactory. This continuous follow-up mechanism ensures accountability, transparency, and quality control in legal services. MMCs also evaluate lawyer performance to identify underperformance or misconduct. Moreover, performance of each human resource engaged under LADCs is evaluated every six months by the SLISA under the guidance of the Hon'ble Executive Chairman of the SLISA. Additionally, monthly reporting of casework by the LADCs is done by the SLSAs to NALSA, ensuring real-time oversight and data-driven evaluation at the national level.

- (f) Several steps have been taken to strengthen legal aid infrastructure, enhance legal awareness, and promote training specifically in underserved regions, with a focused thrust on semi-urban and rural areas, including the following:

- (i) NALSA (SAMVAD - Strengthening Access to Justice for Marginalized, Vulnerable Adivasis and Denotified/Nomadic Tribes) Scheme, 2025 which focuses specifically on marginalized tribal and nomadic communities by adopting a community-driven approach rooted in awareness and assistance.
- (ii) NALSA JAGRITI - (Justice Awareness for Grassroots Information and Transparency Initiative) Scheme, 2025 which aims to institutionalize legal awareness across rural India.

Annexure-A

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 944 for answering on
25.07.2025 - Legal Awareness Camps

Statement containing the details of persons benefited through Legal aid and advice under various activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities during the last three years

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	134	220	341
2	Andhra Pradesh	9,473	8,265	11,266
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5,559	5,696	9,236
4	Assam	38,335	63,749	82,694
5	Bihar	2,09,809	1,51,413	84,505
6	Chandigarh	2,653	2,822	2,951
7	Chhattisgarh	44,106	62,164	80,874
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	28	55	45
	Daman and Diu	24	34	119
9	Delhi	96,433	1,21,882	76,526
10	Goa	2,041	1,558	1,889
11	Gujarat	32,422	40,569	50,467
12	Haryana	43,098	76,863	82,194
13	Himachal Pradesh	5,998	7,346	6,222
14	Jammu and Kashmir	7,992	11,396	18,602
15	Jharkhand	1,45,217	2,69,303	3,28,365
16	Karnataka	45,663	53,406	51,245
17	Kerala	23,418	36,498	26,571
18	Ladakh	711	505	324
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,91,921	2,25,510	2,33,009
21	Maharashtra	36,663	53,756	59,454
22	Manipur	26,929	62,635	99,062
23	Meghalaya	2,769	2,371	2,754
24	Mizoram	5,038	4,801	3,713
25	Nagaland	7,390	4,603	5,012
26	Odisha	11,880	19,289	22,134
27	Puducherry	788	621	616
28	Punjab	56,448	60,361	65,513
29	Rajasthan	13,472	20,290	22,216
30	Sikkim	1,127	1,074	901
31	Tamil Nadu	49,570	45,180	52,528
32	Telangana	12,615	13,193	16,021
33	Tripura	5,055	9,964	10,303
34	Uttar Pradesh	24,890	29,079	22,732
35	Uttarakhand	5,386	21,339	34,208
36	West Bengal	49,714	62,354	92,914
Total		12,14,769	15,50,164	16,57,527

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 951

TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025

PROVISION OF FREE LEGAL ADVICE

JSC(NKW)
A2J
951.

SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing the Tele-Law Programme to provide free legal advice through Common Service Centres (CSCs), especially in rural and remote areas of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether the districts of Katni, Panna and the town of Khajuraho in the Khajuraho Lok Sabha Constituency have been covered under this scheme;
- (c) if so, the number of beneficiaries, CSCs involved and types of legal issues addressed; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps being taken to implement Tele-Law services in these areas?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Tele-Law programme is one of programmes under the scheme of "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice India (DISHA)" which is being implemented by the Department of Justice. The scheme of DISHA

aims to fulfil the Constitutional mandate as enunciated under the Preamble and Articles 39A, 14 and 21 of the Constitution. The DISHA scheme provides easy, accessible, affordable and citizen- centric legal services to the citizens through Tele-Law and other components. The Tele-Law connects citizens with the lawyers through video conferencing facilities through Common Services Centres (CSCs) in 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayat (GPs) across the country. The services under Tele-Law are also available through Tele-Law Mobile App and through Toll Free Number, 14454. The Tele-Law programme covers all districts of Madhya Pradesh including the districts of Katni, Panna and town of Khajuraho (Chhatarpur district).

(c) & (d): The number of beneficiaries and associated CSCs in the districts of Katni, Panna and town of Khajuraho (Chhatarpur district) is as under: -

Name of the District/Town	No. of active CSCs	Beneficiaries (as on 30th June, 2025)
Katni	151	6,518
Panna	218	34,998
Khajuraho (Chhatarpur)	558	1,10,320

Further, the types of pre-litigation advice rendered under Tele-Law program inter-alia, include the issues related to Revenue matters, Property disputes, Accidental Claims, Women and Child safety, Rights of Senior Citizen, Family and Matrimonial disputes.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 971
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25th JULY, 2025

J.S (SPS) e-Courts
971. Smt. Roopkumari Choudhary:
POOR DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF JUDICIAL PORTALS

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the delayed or inconsistent uploading of judgments, orders, cause lists and daily proceedings on websites of various courts and tribunals, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether issues such as frequent downtime, outdated user interfaces, non-standardized formats and broken links are affecting public access to judicial information, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any technical audit or performance review of court websites, especially in the lower judiciary and tribunals, has been conducted, if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) the measures taken or proposed to ensure real-time uploading, standardization of content, and improvement of digital infrastructure under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project; and
- (e) whether a centralized monitoring mechanism or dashboard is being developed to track the performance and accessibility of court websites across the Country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As part of the efforts being made under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India is sensitive to the need for timely and consistent uploading of judgments and orders for the benefit of the stakeholders. The Case Information System (CIS) software developed under the e-Courts Project provides facility for publication of judgments, courts orders, cause lists and daily proceedings for information of litigants and citizens, who can access these documents through various service delivery channels of the e-Courts project.

Further, the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), which was launched under the e-Courts Project, hosts data regarding 25.60 crore court cases and 31.78 crore interim orders and judgments. Various facilities such as SMS alerts, mobile applications and dedicated portals have been created to ensure real-time availability of cause lists and court orders. In addition, the details of court cases, for which next date of hearing has not yet been given, are available on NJDG. Further,

the facility for efficient monitoring of the cases has been provided to judges and judicial officers through the JustIs App developed under e-Courts Project.

(b): All e-Courts portals are hosted on cloud facility (Meghraj 2.0) of National Informatics Centre. In order to ensure seamless access to users, these portals are security audited by agency empaneled by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in). Further, the Centre of Excellence of e-Courts Project, National Informatics Centre (NIC), Pune uses an automated monitoring portal for continuous monitoring of the health of network and important applications. In case of any unexpected downtime or outage, the team swiftly takes remedial measures. However, at occasions, planned downtimes are undertaken for important maintenance related activities.

(c) to (e): As part of Phase-III of e-Courts Project, websites of District Courts have been migrated to S3WAAS (Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service) platform. As per S3WAAS protocol, periodic audits of all the websites are carried out in accordance with the guidelines of NIC and CERT-in. Other websites developed under e-Courts project are hosted on National Government Cloud platform. As a result, the websites remain secure and accessible.

Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, several measures have been taken to enhance accessibility and reliability of judicial information. The data including order, judgments and cause lists from the Case Information System is replicated on to the National Data Centre in near real-time. A dedicated team at each court complex monitors these activities. In addition, a standardized National Core Case Information System has been deployed across all courts in the country. As regards the digital infrastructure in the Courts, the same is being upgraded in a phased manner as part of the e-Courts Project. At District and High Court levels, dedicated teams are in place to track performance, uptime and data accuracy of the courts. As on date, digital infrastructure has been provided to 18,735 courts, as per details at Annexure-I.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 971 for 25.07.2025 regarding Poor Digital Infrastructure of Judicial Portals

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

		Punjab	64	541
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	247	1240
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	8	23
23	Telangana	Telangana	129	476
24	Tripura	Tripura	14	84
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	69	271
Total			3452	18735

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 976
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025

Rules Governing Foreign Law Firms and Lawyers

Imp Sec (LA)
976. Shri Selvaganapathi T.M.:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Bar Council of India has come out with a set of rules permitting foreign law firms and lawyers to practice in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the entire legal fraternity in India is against allowing foreign law firms or lawyers to practice in India since the year 2000;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the hon'ble Supreme Court way back in March 2018, had ruled that foreign law firms and foreign lawyers could not practice law in the country either on the litigation or non-litigation side; and
- (e) whether it is also a fact that Indian lawyers were not allowed to practice in many countries such as the U.K., the U.S., Australia etc. without complying with onerous restrictions such as qualifying tests, proof of experience and work permits?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) Yes, the Bar Council of India has framed the "Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022," which were duly published in the Official Gazette on 10th March 2023. These rules were subsequently amended in May 2025 and re-notified vide Notification No. BCI:D:3335/2025. These Rules do not allow foreign lawyers or law firms to "practice in India" in the general sense. Rather, they strictly regulate and restrict their engagement to non-litigious advisory work concerning foreign law, international law, and international arbitration.

(c) A vast majority of Indian Lawyers and Indian Law Firms have happily accepted and welcomed the Regulations of Bar Council of India permitting foreign

lawyers and law firms to practice in limited field and non-litigious matters as Indian Lawyers and Law Firms are also going to be benefited in getting the same benefit in foreign countries.

(d) The Supreme Court in Bar Council of India Vs. A.K. Balaji & Ors. laid down an authoritative and binding interpretation of "practice of law" which covers both litigious and non-litigious services. It required compliance with the Advocates Act for all such activity. The Rules framed by the Bar Council of India in 2022 and amended in 2025 implements this direction by creating a legally sound and narrowly tailored system for regulating foreign legal advisory services, consistent with the statutory mandate and constitutional principles governing the Indian legal profession.

(e) Yes, Indian advocates are not allowed to practice law in U.K., U.S.A., Australia and other foreign nations except on fulfilling onerous restrictions like qualifying tests, experience, work permit, etc.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 984
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25th JULY, 2025

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SUPREME COURT

J.S (SPS)
e-courts
984. Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam:

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has begun using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning tools to assist in case management and decision-making;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the status of deployment of AI-driven tools like SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency); and
- (d) the number of operational e-courts in the State of Gujarat, district-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML) based tools are being deployed in case management. These tools are being used in transcribing oral arguments in Constitutional Bench matters. The AI assisted transcribed arguments can be accessed from the website of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of India is also using AI and ML based tools in close coordination with National Informatics Centre (NIC), in translation of judgments from English language to 18 Indian languages viz., Assamese, Bengali, Garo, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Khasi, Konkani, Malayali, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Santali, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. The judgments can be accessed through the eSCR portal of the Supreme Court of India.

The Supreme Court of India, in close coordination with IIT Madras, has developed and deployed AI and ML based tools integrated with the electronic filing software for identification of defects. Recently, the access of the proto-type has been granted to 200 Advocates-on-Record.

The Supreme Court of India is also testing prototypes of AI and ML tools, for curing defects, data, meta data extraction in collaboration with IIT Madras. This AI and ML based tool will be integrated with the electronic filing module and the case management software, namely Integrated Case Management & Information System (ICMIS).

However, no AI and ML based tools are being used by the Supreme Court of India in decision making process.

(c): The AI based tool, Supreme Court Portal Assistance in Court Efficiency (SUPACE), aimed at developing a module to understand the factual matrix of cases with an intelligent search of the precedents apart from identifying the cases, is in experimental stage of development. SUPACE may be deployed after procurement and deployment of graphic processing unit(s) and other latest technology-based units such as Tensor Processing Unit.

(d): As per information provided by High Court of Gujarat, mandatory e-filing and remote adjudication using video conferencing facilities have been provided for dealing with cases of dishonour of cheques under Negotiable Instruments (N.I.) Act, 1881 being instituted by the Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for jurisdiction of Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts of Ahmadabad City. In addition, Government of Gujarat has extended the jurisdiction of all the Magisterial Courts of the State to try, through Remote Adjudication, all the e-filed cases of Negotiable Instrument Act of the jurisdiction of C. J. M. Courts of Ahmedabad City. Accordingly, the High Court of Gujarat through a notification, nominated 5 Judicial Officers posted in Ahmedabad, Anand, Narmada and Gir Somnath as Presiding Officers of Statewide Access to Remote Adjudication System (SARAS) N. I. Courts for e-filed cases of Ahmedabad City. The place of work of these Judicial Officers would not change for presiding over these Remote Adjudication Courts.

Further, Virtual Traffic Courts under the aegis of the eCourts Project have been implemented in Gujarat, the details of which are as under:

Sr. No.	District	Nos. of Virtual Traffic Courts
1	Navsari	3
2	Panchmahals	1
3	Bhavnagar	1
4	Dahod	2
5	Porbandar	1
6	Tapi	1
7	Amreli	3
8	Gir Somnath	1
9	Surendranagar	1
10	Banaskantha	2
11	Sabarkantha	1
12	Ahmedabad City	1
13	Ahmedabad Rural	1
14	Junagadh	1
15	Patan	1
TOTAL		21

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1020
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25TH JULY, 2025**

PENDENCY IN COURTS

J.S (SPS) NM
1020

SHRI MALVINDER SINGH KANG:

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

- (a) the number of current pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate Courts;
- (b) the measures/initiatives taken by the Government to reduce pendency in courts;
- (c) the number of fast-track courts that are operational across the Country, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of funds that have been allocated and utilized under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for judicial infrastructure in the last two years, particularly in Punjab?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts as on 21.07.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending Cases
1.	Supreme Court	86,742
2.	High Courts	63,30,409
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,65,27,906

(b): The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases and reducing pendency in courts, as under:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of 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 ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 30.06.2025, Rs. 12,101.89 crores have been released since the inception of this Scheme in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 (as on 30.06.2014) to 22,372 (as on 30.06.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 19,851 (as on 30.06.2025), under this Scheme.
- iii. Under Phase I and II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts and 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity was provided to 2977 sites. Video Conferencing facility was enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 778 eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) were established to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 21 virtual courts were set up in 17 States/UTs, which handled more than 2.78 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 384.14 crores in fines up to March 2023.

The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore, which is aimed at ushering a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 506.05 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.65 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1814 across High Courts and District Courts. Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning tools are being used in case management hearing and for transcription of oral judgements in the Supreme Court of India.

- iv. The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 21.07.2025, 70 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1058 new Judges were appointed and 794 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date. The sanctioned and working strengths of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts have increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
21.07.2025	25,843	21,122

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT 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 now been set up under District Courts as well.

- vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 30.06.2025, 865 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. With a view to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government had approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 30.06.2025, 725 FTSCs including 392 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs, which have disposed of more than 3,34,000 cases since their inception.
- vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has 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 progressively promoted. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. The amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a 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 facts 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. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, 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 it before any court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

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

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
2025 (up to March)	2,58,28,368	50,82,181	3,09,10,549
Total	22,21,01,916	5,33,91,016	27,54,92,932

- x. 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 Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Till 30th June, 2025	Cases Registered	% wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% wise Break Up
Gender -wise				
Female	44,81,170	39.58%	44,21,450	39.55%
Male	68,39,728	60.42%	67,58,085	60.45%
Caste Category-wise				
General	26,89,371	23.76%	26,48,100	23.69%
OBC	35,64,430	31.49%	35,16,236	31.45%
SC	35,27,303	31.16%	34,90,737	31.22%
ST	15,39,794	13.60%	15,24,462	13.64%
Total	1,13,20,898		1,11,79,535	

- xi. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(c): As per information received from the High Courts, 865 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are functional across 21 State/UT's with pendency of 14,38,198 cases as on 30.06.2025. State/UT-wise details are at *Annexure-I*. In addition to the above, pursuant to the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019, the Central Government has been implementing since October, 2019 a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. As per data provided by the High Courts, 725 FTSCs, including 392 exclusive POCSO Courts, are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 30.06.2025. Since the inception of the Scheme, these courts have collectively disposed of

3,34,213 cases, while 2,00,349 cases are currently pending. The State/UT-wise details are at *Annexure-II*.

(d): The details of funds, allocated and utilized under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for judicial infrastructure in the last two years, particularly in Punjab are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Total funds allocated and utilized in last two years.		
Financial Year	Funds allocated	Funds Utilized
2023-24	1051	1060.17
2024-25	1123.40	1123.40
2025-26	998	50.48 (as on 30.06.2025)
Funds allocated and utilized for Punjab in last two years		
Financial Year	Funds allocated	Funds Utilized
2023-24	47.28	18.42
2024-25*	46.88	0.00
2025-26*	49.25	0.00 (as on 30.06.2025)

* Funds could not be released as State had more than permissible unspent balance of funds in their Single Nodal Agency (SNA) account and was not eligible for fresh grant of central funds.

ANNEXURE-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1020 FOR ANSWER ON 25.07.2025 REGARDING 'PENDENCY IN COURTS'.****State/UT-wise Details of functional Fast Track Court (FTCs) as on 30.06.2025**

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Number of Functional FTCs	Pendency
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	6915
2	Andaman & Nicobar island	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4	Assam	16	13713
5	Bihar	0	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27	5816
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0
9	Delhi	26	6625
10	Goa	4	1349
11	Gujarat	54	5316
12	Haryana	6	774
13	Himachal Pradesh	3	332
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8	1423
15	Jharkhand	41	9110
16	Karnataka	0	0
17	Kerala	0	0
18	Ladakh	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
21	Maharashtra	102	153896
22	Manipur	6	199
23	Meghalaya	0	0
24	Mizoram	2	259
25	Nagaland	0	0
26	Odisha	0	0
27	Puducherry	1	4458
28	Punjab	7	152
29	Rajasthan	0	0
30	Sikkim	2	17
31	Tamil Nadu	72	80244
32	Telangana	0	0
33	Tripura	2	1049
34	Uttar Pradesh	373	1057849
35	Uttarakhand	4	1103
36	West Bengal	88	87599
	TOTAL	865	1438198

ANNEXURE-II

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1020 FOR ANSWER ON 25.07.2025 REGARDING
'PENDENCY IN COURTS'.**

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Functional Courts		Pendency
		FTSCs including Exclusive POCSO Courts	Exclusive POCSO Courts	
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	6303
2	Assam	17	17	6435
3	Bihar	46	46	18459
4	Chandigarh	1	0	214
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	1739
6	Delhi	16	11	3560
7	Goa	1	0	155
8	Gujarat	35	24	5315
9	Haryana	18	14	4420
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	643
11	J&K	4	2	497
12	Karnataka	30	17	5220
13	Kerala	55	14	6292
14	Madhya Pradesh	67	56	10713
15	Maharashtra	2	1	290
16	Manipur	2	0	49
17	Meghalaya	5	5	1097
18	Mizoram	3	1	75
19	Nagaland	1	0	59
20	Odisha	44	23	9065
21	Puducherry	1	1	218
22	Punjab	12	3	1451
23	Rajasthan	45	30	4892
24	Tamil Nadu	14	14	5234
25	Telangana	36	0	8782
26	Tripura	3	1	224
27	Uttarakhand	4	0	1094
28	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	92700
29	West Bengal	8	8	5154
30	Jharkhand *	0	0	0
31	A&N Islands**	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	0	0	0
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0
34	Ladakh	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36	Sikkim	0	0	0
TOTAL		725	392	200349

Note: At the inception of the Scheme, the allocation of FTSCs across the country was based on a criterion of 65 to 165 pending cases per court, meaning one FTSC would be established for every 65 to 165 pending cases. Based on that, only 31 States/UTs were eligible to join the Scheme.

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSCs Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025.

** A&N islands has consented to join the Scheme, but is yet to operationalize any court.

***Arunachal Pradesh has opted out of the Scheme citing a very low number of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1025
ANSWERED ON – 25/07/2025

COURT FOR CASES RELATED TO WOMEN

J.S (SPS)
J-II
1025. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

- (a) the number of women courts set up to dispose the cases related to atrocities on women till date in the Country, State/location-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to establish such courts in several other States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) As per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (2015-2020), Fast Track Courts (FTCs) have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As of 30.06.2025, 865 Fast Track Courts are functional in various States/UTs as per details at Annexure-I.

Further, pursuant to the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019*, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts since October 2019. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. As of 30.06.2025, 725 FTSCs, including 392 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs, which have disposed of 3,34,213 cases since the inception of the Scheme. The State/UT-wise list of FTSCs is at Annexure-II.

The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, at an outlay of Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund. The funds are

released on CSS pattern (Central share : State share :: 60:40, 90:10) to cover the salaries of 1 Judicial Officer along with 7 support Staff and a Flexi Grant for meeting the day-to-day expenses.

Besides, as per information provided by Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Government has launched 'Mission Shakti', an integrated woman empowerment programme, which is designed to touch upon and address concerns and issues of women. 'Nari Adalat', a pilot project and initiative is a component under Sambal sub-scheme of Mission Shakti, which aims at providing women with an alternate Grievance Redressal Mechanism for resolving cases of petty nature (harassment, subversion, curtailment of rights or entitlements) at Gram Panchayat level. The component of 'Nari Adalat', being implemented in a phased manner, comprises group of 7-9 women, who are elected women representatives of the panchayat and are of good social standing, education and repute. The Adalats are mandated to help women in distress at the panchayat level in resolving smaller issues related to domestic violence, and other gender-based violence by negotiation, mediation, and reconciliation with mutual consent. They educate women about their constitutional and legal rights and assist them in availing the services including legal aid, offered by the government. 'Nari Adalat' is being run in 50 Gram Panchayats each in the State of Assam and UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) & (c): The Government approved the establishment of 790 Fast Track Special Courts under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. However, number of FTSCs in certain States/UTs is less than the number earmarked under the Scheme. The Central Government has been coordinating with such State/UT Governments and High Courts for operationalization of the remaining courts. Further, 'Nari Adalat' project is being piloted in 10 Gram Panchayats each of 16 States viz. Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Bihar and Karnataka; and 5 Gram Panchayats each of 2 UTs viz. Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

State/UT-wise Details of functional Fast Track Court (FTCs) as on 30.06.2025

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Number of Functional FTCs	No. of Pending cases
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	6915
2	Andaman & Nicobar island	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4	Assam	16	13713
5	Bihar	0	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27	5816
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	0	0
9	Delhi	26	6625
10	Goa	4	1349
11	Gujarat	54	5316
12	Haryana	6	774
13	Himachal Pradesh	3	332
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8	1423
15	Jharkhand	41	9110
16	Karnataka	0	0
17	Kerala	0	0
18	Ladakh	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
21	Maharashtra	102	153896
22	Manipur	6	199
23	Meghalaya	0	0
24	Mizoram	2	259
25	Nagaland	0	0
26	Odisha	0	0
27	Puducherry	1	4458
28	Punjab	7	152
29	Rajasthan	0	0
30	Sikkim	2	17
31	Tamil Nadu	72	80244
32	Telangana	0	0
33	Tripura	2	1049
34	Uttar Pradesh	373	1057849
35	Uttarakhand	4	1103
36	West Bengal	88	87599
	TOTAL	865	1438198

**State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO Courts
(As on 30.06.2025)**

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Functional Courts		No. of Pending cases
		FTSCs including exclusive POCSO	Exclusive POCSO	
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	6303
2	Assam	17	17	6435
3	Bihar	46	46	18459
4	Chandigarh	1	0	214
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	1739
6	Delhi	16	11	3560
7	Goa	1	0	155
8	Gujarat	35	24	5315
9	Haryana	18	14	4420
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	643
11	J&K	4	2	497
12	Karnataka	30	17	5220
13	Kerala	55	14	6292
14	Madhya Pradesh	67	56	10713
15	Maharashtra	2	1	290
16	Manipur	2	0	49
17	Meghalaya	5	5	1097
18	Mizoram	3	1	75
19	Nagaland	1	0	59
20	Odisha	44	23	9065
21	Puducherry	1	1	218
22	Punjab	12	3	1451
23	Rajasthan	45	30	4892
24	Tamil Nadu	14	14	5234
25	Telangana	36	0	8782
26	Tripura	3	1	224
27	Uttarakhand	4	0	1094
28	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	92700
29	West Bengal	8	8	5154
30	Jharkhand *	0	0	0
31	A&N Islands**	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	0	0	0
TOTAL		725	392	200349

Note: At the inception of the Scheme, the allocation of FTSCs across the country was based on a criterion of 65 to 165 pending cases per court, meaning one FTSC would be established for every 65 to 165 pending cases. Based on that, only 31 States/UTs were eligible to join the Scheme.

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSCs Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025.

** A&N islands has consented to join the Scheme, but is yet to operationalize any court.

*** Arunachal Pradesh has opted out of the Scheme citing a very low number of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1028
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25TH JULY, 2025**

EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

J.S. (SPS) NM
1028. DR. AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Country's judicial system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The Government has taken several initiatives for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Country's judicial system which include the following:

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

The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of 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 ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 30.06.2025, Rs. 12,101.89 crores have been released since the inception of this Scheme in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 (as on 30.06.2014) to 22,372 (as on 30.06.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 19,851 (as on 30.06.2025), under this Scheme.
- iii. Under Phase I and II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts and 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity was provided to 2977 sites. Video Conferencing facility was enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 778 eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) were established to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 21 virtual courts were set up in 17 States/UTs, which handled more than 2.78 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 384.14 crores in fines up to March 2023.

The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) was approved on

13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore, which is aimed at ushering a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 506.05 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.65 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1814 across High Courts and District Courts. Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning tools are being used in case management hearing and for transcription of oral judgements in the Supreme Court of India.

- iv. The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 21.07.2025, 70 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1058 new Judges were appointed and 794 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date. The sanctioned and working strengths of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts have increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
21.07.2025	25,843	21,122

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT 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 now been set up under District Courts as well.

- vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 30.06.2025, 865 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. With a view to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government had approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 30.06.2025, 725 FTSCs including 392 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs, which have disposed of more than 3,34,000 cases since their inception.
- vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has 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 progressively promoted. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. The amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a 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 facts 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. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, 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 it before any court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

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

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
2025 (up to March)	2,58,28,368	50,82,181	3,09,10,549
Total	22,21,01,916	5,33,91,016	27,54,92,932

- x. 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 Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Till 30 th June, 2025	Cases Registered	% wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% wise Break Up
Gender -wise				
Female	44,81,170	39.58%	44,21,450	39.55%
Male	68,39,728	60.42%	67,58,085	60.45%
Caste Category-wise				
General	26,89,371	23.76%	26,48,100	23.69%
OBC	35,64,430	31.49%	35,16,236	31.45%
SC	35,27,303	31.16%	34,90,737	31.22%
ST	15,39,794	13.60%	15,24,462	13.64%
Total	1,13,20,898		1,11,79,535	

- xi. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1031
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25TH JULY 2025

CASES REGISTERED UNDER NIA, 1881

J.S (SPS) NM
†1031. SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) the details of the disposal of the cases registered under the Negotiable Instruments Act (NIA), 1881 over the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the details of the cases registered under NIA, 1881 over the last five years and lying pending for more than two years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the poor and the needy are being manipulated/exploited by the Financial Institutions under the garb of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken to prevent the incidence of atrocities on the poor and the needy ones by the Financial Institutions?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per the information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of State/UT wise registration and disposal of the cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 over the last five years are at *Annexure-I*.

The Details of cases pending as on 23.07.2025 and cases pending for more than two years are at *Annexure-II*.

(c) to (e): The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 is a law enacted to provide a legal framework for the usage of cheques, promissory notes and bills of exchange. The provisions under this Act, including Section 138 that deals with dishonour of cheques, are designed to uphold the credibility of financial transactions and apply uniformly to all sections of the society irrespective of their economic status. Further, Section 143 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 provides for summary trial of offences by Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate First Class. The Section 143 further provides that the trial of a case under this section shall, so far as practicable, consistently with the interests of justice, be continued from day to day until its conclusion, unless the Court finds the adjournment of the trial beyond the following day to be necessary for reasons to be recorded in writing. Furthermore, this Section provides that every trial under this section shall be conducted as expeditiously as possible and an endeavour shall be made to conclude the trial within six months from the date of filing of the complaint.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 11031 FOR ANSWER ON 25.07.2025 REGARDING 'CASES REGISTERED UNDER NIA, 1881'.

Cases Registered and Disposed under Negotiable Instrument (NI) Act													
Sr No.	State/UTs	2024		2023		2022		2021		2020			
		Registered	Disposed	Registered	Disposed	Registered	Disposed	Registered	Disposed	Registered	Disposed		
1	Andhra Pradesh	17063	15755	21060	17885	18741	15551	17077	6158	14038	9340		
2	Arunachal Pradesh	77	72	35	22	7	2	10	0	5	0		
3	Assam	5044	4078	4687	3823	6028	3474	4483	1986	3026	1586		
4	Bihar	13138	6822	12441	6314	13560	4976	10576	2258	6421	1505		
5	Chandigarh	12662	11622	10846	10381	8329	8721	8125	4514	7315	2406		
6	Chhattisgarh	17114	21402	19180	17536	18873	12179	19652	8122	7764	4023		
7	Delhi	126059	101882	118110	109023	103034	96648	81769	54086	67311	39856		
8	Goa	3539	3929	3655	4973	4195	4783	3565	2368	2848	820		
9	Gujarat	176991	169936	158120	168387	159682	132578	145184	92092	87649	30628		
10	Haryana	50397	56585	68562	66131	64089	51557	60133	31635	53303	13210		
11	Himachal Pradesh	15655	16167	16207	14695	16451	12596	11333	7212	10575	2732		
12	Jharkhand	14277	11667	11809	7598	9572	5948	6022	1980	4992	1583		
13	Karnataka	122870	97191	97807	84480	77395	61635	68860	52312	40872	27714		
14	Kerala	39141	26069	41892	25354	34699	16944	12107	6470	9518	4539		
15	Lakshadweep												
16	Madhya Pradesh	41375	49628	45966	44210	47212	36130	38488	22543	22681	8217		
17	Maharashtra	125200	109141	119129	114949	128185	100712	110411	72363	83247	30158		
18	Meghalaya	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		
19	Nagaland	20	5	9	6	17	9	5	3	5	2		
20	Odisha	8720	5345	8405	5388	9445	5700	7353	3491	5387	1878		
21	Puducherry	1047	2104	1795	770	1755	422	1435	183	674	98		
22	Punjab	75746	78387	69570	88515	66466	74685	58446	39786	49972	20147		
23	Rajasthan	123652	100321	140020	80180	145164	64851	106588	38896	81217	19038		
24	Sikkim	21	12	13	8	8	2	1	4	4	2		
25	Tamil Nadu	31337	31364	33549	35367	43433	27414	30692	16475	20502	9533		
26	Telangana	10835	8723	13258	8849	15770	27844	21938	7288	10163	3730		
27	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	335	197	267	217	285	258	275	179	314	73		
28	Tripura	160	82	116	70	169	82	100	47	80	21		
29	Uttar Pradesh	104091	63982	80600	46148	82814	55231	664216	27774	53854	19017		
30	Uttarakhand	14957	10670	12405	10985	11293	9569	9436	7093	7959	2593		
31	West Bengal	59025	38434	58609	39696	49333	52342	69315	24543	25944	16659		
32	Andaman & Nicobar												
	Total	1220548	1041572	1168123	1011960	1136005	882844	967595	531861	678640	271508		

Source: - Report as per statistics available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal dated 21.07.2025.

• The Data for Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Mizoram and Manipur is not available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal.

Annexure-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1031 FOR ANSWER ON 25.07.2025 REGARDING 'CASES REGISTERED UNDER NIA, 1881'.

Pending cases under NI Act			
Sr. No.	State	Cases Pending	Cases Pending for more than 2 years
1	Andhra Pradesh	57607	31351
2	Arunachal Pradesh	79	31
3	Assam	21944	13931
4	Bihar	70758	48221
5	Chandigarh	22377	5251
6	Chhattisgarh	64611	34213
7	Delhi	466163	239829
8	Goa	11004	5868
9	Gujarat	515805	241990
10	Haryana	240024	134655
11	Himachal Pradesh	57430	33617
12	Jharkhand	38475	18971
13	Karnataka	199390	74076
14	Kerala	116917	56168
15	Lakshadweep		
16	Madhya Pradesh	182321	115942
17	Maharashtra	638490	429049
18	Meghalaya	0	0
19	Nagaland	49	18
20	Odisha	67514	51240
21	Puducherry	5950	4139
22	Punjab	154850	46249
23	Rajasthan	629210	436012
24	Sikkim	12	2
25	Tamil Nadu	122277	70689
26	Telangana	55916	34233
27	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	1483	898
28	Tripura	515	137
29	Uttar Pradesh	394802	241441
30	Uttarakhand	47501	25995
31	West Bengal	291102	200285
32	Andaman & Nicobar		
	Total	4474576	2594501

Source: - Report as per statistics available on National Judicial Data grid (NJDG) portal dated 23.07.2025.

• The Data for Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Mizoram and Manipur is not available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1034
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025

Representation of Women, SC, ST advocates in Judiciary

1034. Shri Pushpendra Saroj:
Ms Iqra Choudhary:

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

- (a) the number of women and Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) advocates currently practising in the district courts, subordinate courts, Central Government legal panels, and under NALSA-affiliated schemes, classified across cadre and court level, State-wise;
- (b) the number of women and Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) advocates from the State of Uttar Pradesh currently practising in the district courts, subordinate courts, Central Government legal panels and under NALSA affiliated schemes, classified across cadre and court level, district-wise; and
- (c) whether any centrally supported clerkship/fellowship or mentorship programmes exist to support first-generation SC/ST law graduates from the State, if so, the number of beneficiaries supported thereunder, State-wise and district-wise across Uttar Pradesh?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) As per the Advocates Act, 1961 the Bar Council of India (BCI) is responsible for the regulation of Legal profession in India, and as per the latest consolidated enrolment data compiled by the Bar Council of India from fifteen

State Bar Councils, approximately 2,84,507 women advocates are enrolled across the country, with the State of Uttar Pradesh accounting for 49,545 women advocates as of November 2024. However, with regard to SC/ST advocates, it is stated that caste-wise enrolment data is not centrally maintained by the Bar Council of India.

As regards the empanelment of Central Government Advocates, it is submitted that the process is based entirely on the suitability and merit of the advocates, irrespective of their gender, caste, or community. Further, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) does not maintain data regarding the caste categories, including Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), of empanelled advocates. However, the state-wise number of women lawyers empanelled under NALSA-affiliated schemes is as under:

S.No.	State Legal Service Authorities	Female Lawyers
1	Andhra Pradesh	390
2	Arunachal Pradesh	41
3	Assam	231
4	Bihar	350
5	Chhattisgarh	362
6	Goa	141
7	Gujarat	679
8	Haryana	271
9	Himachal Pradesh	71
10	Jharkhand	246
11	Karnataka	986
12	Kerala	862
13	Madhya Pradesh	342
14	Maharashtra	1137
15	Manipur	83
16	Meghalaya	95
17	Mizoram	25
18	Nagaland	30
19	Odisha	307
20	Punjab	165
21	Rajasthan	148
22	Sikkim	69
23	Tamil Nadu	868
24	Telangana	326

25	Tripura	81
26	Uttar Pradesh	221
27	Uttarakhand	72
28	West Bengal	710
29	A&N Islands	10
30	Chandigarh	20
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
32	Daman & Diu	9
33	Delhi	482
34	Jammu & Kashmir	135
35	Ladakh	5
36	Lakshadweep	0
37	Puducherry	110
	TOTAL	10081

(c) No such centrally supported clerkship, fellowship, or mentorship programme for first-generation Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) law graduates has been formulated. However, some State Bar Councils, including the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh, have initiated limited measures such as induction training programmes, continuing legal education modules, and informal mentorship sessions conducted in association with senior advocates and retired judicial officers. These measures, while commendable, are neither uniformly regulated nor based on centrally funded frameworks and do not include specific tracking of SC/ST or first-generation status.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1044
ANSWERED ON 25/07/2025

J.S (NKH)
J-1
1044

Work Days in High Courts and the Supreme Court

SHRI RAJEEV RAI:

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

- (a) the details of the average number of days for which High Courts and the Supreme Court were functional during the last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court and High Courts in the country go for vacations at stipulated intervals every year and work less than Government departments despite huge number of cases pending for their adjudications;
- (c) whether the Government is considering fixing a minimum number of compulsory working days for courts in a year to reduce the burden of pending cases; 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; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) : Working days/hours and duration of vacations in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts. The Supreme Court Rules 2013, as notified by the Supreme Court in exercise of power conferred by Article 145 of the Constitution, regulate the working days of Supreme Court. These rules provided that the period

of summer vacation shall not exceed seven weeks. These rules further provided that the length of the summer vacation and the number of holidays for the Court and the offices of the Court shall be such as may be fixed by the Chief Justice and notified in the official Gazette so as not to exceed one hundred and three days (excluding Sundays not falling in the vacation and during Court holidays). The Supreme Court Rule 2013 was further amended vide Supreme Court (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024 notified on 05th November 2024, which provides that the length of the partial Court working days and the number of holidays for the Court and the offices of the Court shall be such as may be fixed by the Chief Justice and notified in the Official Gazette so as not to exceed ninety-five days excluding Sundays.

(c) & (d) : Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of Judiciary. Though Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts, the Central Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, through various strategic initiatives like improving the infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges and filling up of vacant positions in High Courts/Supreme Courts, policy and legislative measures in areas prone to excessive litigation, repeal of outdated and archaic laws, initiatives to fast track special type of cases and emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution etc.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1065
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 25/07/2025

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID IN DHUBRI

J.S (NKL)
LAP
1065. MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN:

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

- (a) the steps that are being taken to establish more District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) or mobile legal aid centres in Dhubri to ensure that marginalised and economically disadvantaged communities have access to legal aid and counselling;
- (b) the manner in which the Government is ensuring that the people of Dhubri, especially in rural and flood-prone areas, are made aware of their legal rights and provided with information about free legal services under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) schemes; and
- (c) whether there are any initiatives being implemented to recruit more legal professionals and establish legal literacy programs in Dhubri to promote legal awareness and reduce the gap in access to justice?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, inter-alia lays down the policies, guidelines and formulates schemes for the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) to implement these throughout the country towards making legal aid available to the weaker sections of society. The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Dhubri, operating under the supervision of the Assam SLISA, has taken several initiatives, including the following to strengthen access to justice, particularly for the marginalised, economically disadvantaged, and geographically vulnerable populations such as those residing in flood-prone and remote areas:

(i) To bridge the accessibility gap and enhance the outreach of legal services, DLSA, Dhubri has deployed Mobile Legal Aid Clinics equipped with Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs). These mobile units serve as critical delivery vehicles for providing on-the-spot legal counselling and services in char areas and other remote habitations. In the past year, the mobile legal aid van was deployed on seven occasions across the district.

(ii) Legal aid clinics have been set up in underserved areas in consultation with Gram Panchayats and local authorities to ensure availability of legal services at the grassroots level.

(b): DLSA, Dhubri has undertaken number of legal literacy and outreach initiatives. During the past three years, 69 Legal Awareness Camps were organised in collaboration with the educational institutions, panchayats, police stations, and civil society organisations to disseminate information about the rights and entitlements under various NALSA schemes. Approximately 9,295 beneficiaries as entitled under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, have been reached through these programmes in the same period.

Further, Special Flood Relief Legal Aid Camps were also conducted during disaster seasons at relief centres, coordinated through a district-level Core Group according to the Schemes for Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authorities. In addition, door-to-door awareness campaigns by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), use of IEC materials in local languages, and announcements through the District Information and Public Relations Office (DIPRO) further contributed to awareness-building efforts.

(c): To strengthen institutional capacity and promote early awareness of legal rights, DLSA, Dhubri has undertaken the following:

- (i) Presently, 26 Para Legal Volunteers, 6 Mediators, and 12 Panel Lawyers are engaged under DLSA, Dhubri.
- (ii) Legal Literacy Clubs have been established in 5 educational institutions which conducted 16 legal literacy programmes during the last three years.
- (iii) 30 training and refresher workshops have been conducted, covering 279 PLVs and panel lawyers during the last three years.

- (iv) Legal Aid Clinics have been established at 12 locations, including police stations, panchayats, the law college, District Jail, Dhubri Medical College, the CWC/JJB and the Sakhi One Stop Centre, providing sustained and community-anchored access to legal aid.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1071**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25th JULY, 2025

Reservation for SCs/STs

*Leg-II (LD)
1071*

Smt. Sanjna Jatav

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

- (a) whether there is any provision of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Councils of various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide reservation to the said categories in Rajya Sabha and Legislative Assemblies, and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

- (c) Article 80 of the Constitution *inter-alia*, provides that the representatives of each State in the Council of States shall be elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of the State in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. This implies that votes are first allocated to the most preferred candidate and then to next preferred candidate and so on, so this system can't accommodate the principle of reserving a certain number of seats for a particular group. Further, article 171 of the Constitution which provides for composition of and election of Members to the Legislative Councils in various States, does not provide reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Councils. Moreover, even articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution which provide for reservation of seats for the SCs and STs in the House of People and the State Legislative Assemblies respectively, do not provide for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Council of States or Legislative Councils of various states.
- (d) There is no proposal to provide reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Rajya Sabha. As regards the position of reservation to the said categories in the Legislative Assemblies is concerned, the same is provided under article 332 of the Constitution.
- (e) Does not arise.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1072
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25TH JULY, 2025.

J.S (SPS) NM
RESOLUTION TIME OF COURT CASES

1072. ~~SERI~~ GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER:

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

- (a) the data on the average time taken to resolve various types of court cases in the country over the last 10 years, including civil cases (such as property disputes and contract enforcement), criminal cases (categorised by the severity of the offence), family law cases (including divorce, child custody and maintenance), commercial disputes and Public Interest Litigations (PILs);
- (b) the comparative average resolution time across different levels of the Judiciary (District courts, High courts, Supreme Court);
- (c) the key reasons for delays in case resolution and the reforms that have been undertaken to reduce pendency; and
- (d) the current case backlog in each category and the measures that are being implemented to expedite justice delivery?

ANSWER

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

(SERI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) & (b): The Government does not maintain data on average time taken for resolution of court cases. However, as per data available on the National

Judicial Data Grid, the time taken by the courts to dispose of civil and criminal cases is at *Annexure-I*.

(c) & (d): As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the numbers of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate Courts as on 22.07.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
1.	Supreme Court	67,964	18,663
2.	High Courts	44,35,763	18,92,051
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	1,10,51,761	3,54,96,782

As regards the reasons for delays in case resolution, several factors play crucial role including the availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved in a case, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders viz. bar, investigating agencies, witnesses, and litigants. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

The resolution of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem for expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to create an enabling ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which include the following:

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

liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of 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 ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 30.06.2025, Rs. 12,101.89 crores have been released since the inception of this Scheme in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 (as on 30.06.2014) to 22,372 (as on 30.06.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 19,851 (as on 30.06.2025), under this Scheme.
- iii. Under Phase I and II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts and 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity was provided to 2977 sites. Video Conferencing facility was enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 778 eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) were established to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 21 virtual courts were set up in 17 States/UTs, which handled more than 2.78 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 384.14 crores in fines up to March 2023.

The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore, which is aimed at ushering a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and

paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 506.05 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.65 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1814 across High Courts and District Courts. Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning tools are being used in case management hearing and for transcription of oral judgements in the Supreme Court of India.

- iv. The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 21.07.2025, 70 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1058 new Judges were appointed and 794 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date. The sanctioned and working strengths of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts have increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
21.07.2025	25,843	21,122

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT 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 now been set up under District Courts as well.

- vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 30.06.2025, 865 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. With a view to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government had approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 30.06.2025, 725 FTSCs including 392 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs, which have disposed of more than 3,34,000 cases since their inception.
- vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has 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 progressively promoted. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. The amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a 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 facts 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. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, 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 it before any court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

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

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
2025 (up to March)	2,58,28,368	50,82,181	3,09,10,549
Total	22,21,01,916	5,33,91,016	27,54,92,932

- x. 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 Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Till 30 th June, 2025	Cases Registered	% wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% wise Break Up
Gender -wise				
Female	44,81,170	39.58%	44,21,450	39.55%
Male	68,39,728	60.42%	67,58,085	60.45%
Caste Category-wise				
General	26,89,371	23.76%	26,48,100	23.69%
OBC	35,64,430	31.49%	35,16,236	31.45%
SC	35,27,303	31.16%	34,90,737	31.22%
ST	15,39,794	13.60%	15,24,462	13.64%
Total	1,13,20,898		1,11,79,535	

- xi. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1072 FOR ANSWER ON 25.07.2025 REGARDING 'RESOLUTION TIME OF COURT CASES'.

Time taken by the courts to resolve/dispose of the cases (as on 22.07.2025)

Time Taken	Supreme Court		High Courts		District and Subordinate Court	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
Within 1 year	13,675 (67.68%)	8,545 (79.50%)	4,55,893 (64.42%)	4,23,543 (85.26%)	8,21,981 (38.75%)	73,90,610 (70.57%)
1-2 year	2,135 (10.57%)	872 (8.11%)	56,837 (8.03%)	22,699 (4.57%)	351,978 (16.59%)	8,01,406 (7.65%)
2-3 year	1,004 (4.97%)	305 (2.84%)	33,735 (4.77%)	10,553 (2.12%)	249,335 (11.76%)	7,31,028 (6.98%)
3-4 year	460 (2.28%)	152 (1.41%)	21,993 (3.11%)	6,884 (1.39%)	155,430 (7.33%)	3,35,736 (3.21%)
4-5 year	367 (1.82%)	94 (0.87%)	14,461 (2.04%)	3,831 (0.77%)	110,619 (5.22%)	2,16,011 (2.06%)
5-6 year	690 (3.42%)	187 (1.74%)	22,987 (3.25%)	5,397 (1.09%)	98,274 (4.63%)	2,37,649 (2.27%)
6-7 year	421 (2.08%)	99 (0.92%)	19,989 (2.82%)	4,223 (0.85%)	84,635 (3.99%)	1,87,756 (1.79%)
7-8 year	331 (1.64%)	70 (0.65%)	15,599 (2.20%)	3,822 (0.77%)	58,392 (2.75%)	1,37,057 (1.31%)
8-9 year	413 (2.04%)	69 (0.64%)	11,516 (1.64%)	2,604 (0.52%)	40,526 (1.91%)	89,400 (0.85%)
9-10 year	187 (0.93%)	75 (0.70%)	9,242 (1.31%)	1,886 (0.32%)	33,172 (1.56%)	65,616 (0.63%)
10-11 year	138 (0.68%)	69 (0.64%)	7,444 (1.05%)	1,166 (0.23%)	25,545 (1.20%)	50,007 (0.48%)
11-12 year	82 (0.41%)	120 (1.12%)	5,964 (0.84%)	1,279 (0.26%)	19,295 (0.91%)	38,754 (0.37%)
12-13 year	110 (0.54%)	61 (0.57%)	5,044 (0.71%)	989 (0.20%)	14,852 (0.70%)	29,023 (0.28%)
13-14 year	76 (0.38%)	9 (0.08%)	3,710 (0.52%)	682 (0.14%)	10,374 (0.49%)	20,932 (0.20%)
14-15 year	55 (0.27%)	9 (0.08%)	3,250 (0.46%)	734 (0.15%)	7,696 (0.36%)	16,789 (0.16%)
15-16 year	25 (0.12%)	7 (0.07%)	2,569 (0.36%)	890 (0.18%)	6,106 (0.29%)	14,711 (0.14%)
16-17 year	14 (0.07%)	2 (0.02%)	2,498 (0.35%)	932 (0.19%)	5,017 (0.24%)	12,402 (0.12%)
17-18 year	11 (0.05%)	2 (0.02%)	1,884 (0.27%)	1,097 (0.22%)	3,900 (0.18%)	9,379 (0.09%)
18-19 year	2 (0.01%)	-	1,956 (0.28%)	829 (0.17%)	2,971 (0.14%)	8,594 (0.08%)
19-20 year	1 (0.00%)	1 (0.01%)	1,820 (0.26%)	602 (0.12%)	2,728 (0.13%)	8,112 (0.08%)
20-21 year	-	-	1,443 (0.20%)	518 (0.10%)	2,467 (0.12%)	8,429 (0.08%)
More than 21 year	7 (0.03%)	-	7,798 (1.10%)	1,586 (0.32%)	15,713 (0.74%)	63,367 (0.61%)

Source: National Judicial Data Grid.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1075

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25.07.2025

J.S. CAPTAS
Reforms in Supreme Court Procedure

1075. Smt. D K Aruna:

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

- (a) whether legislative reforms are required in the Supreme Court's in-house procedure for addressing judicial misconduct; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this regard in consultation with experts, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): Article 124 (4) provides that "A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity." For Judges of the High Court, Article 217(1)(b) stipulates that "A Judge may be removed from his office by the President in the manner provided for in clause (4) of Article 124 for the removal of a Judge of the Supreme Court."

The procedure for investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court and for the presentation of an address by Parliament to the President and for matters connected therewith" is laid down in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. Section 3 of the Act specifies:

"3. Investigation into misbehaviour or incapacity of Judge by Committee. —

(1) If notice is given of a motion for presenting an address to the President praying for the removal of a Judge signed, —

(a) in the case of a notice given in the House of the People, by not less than one hundred members of that House;

(b) in the case of a notice given in the Council of States, by not less than fifty members of that Council;

then, the Speaker or, as the case may be, the Chairman may, after consulting such persons, if any, as he thinks fit and after considering such materials, if any, as may be available to him, either admit the motion or refuse to admit the same.

(2) If the motion referred to in sub-section (1) is admitted, the Speaker or, as the case may be, the Chairman shall keep the motion pending and constitute, as soon as may be, for the purpose of making an investigation into the grounds on which the removal of a Judge is prayed for, a Committee consisting of three members of whom—

(a) one shall be chosen from among the Chief Justice and other Judges of the Supreme Court;

(b) one shall be chosen from among the Chief Justices of the High Courts, and

(c) one shall be a person who is, in the opinion of, the Speaker or, as the case may be, the Chairman, a distinguished jurist."

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1114
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025**

Mandatory Stipend Framework for Law Interns

Imp Sec (LA)
Shri Praveen Khandelwal:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a regulatory framework mandating a minimum stipend or honorarium for law students interning with advocates, law firms, and corporate legal departments, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has held consultations with the Bar Council of India, Law Firms, and Legal Education Bodies regarding standardising internship conditions and preventing exploitation of interns, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any guidelines are proposed to ensure fair selection, transparent working conditions, and grievance redressal for interns; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, including proposed implementation timeline, regulatory mechanism, and coverage across law institutions?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) & (b) No such framework or guideline is presently under formulation by the Government.
- (c) & (d) Under the Advocates Act, 1961, the Bar Council of India has been given the mandate for the regulation of Legal Profession and to take out legal reforms. In this regard, the Bar Council of India is presently engaged in the drafting of a Model Code of Legal Internships, which aims to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability in the structure and administration of internships offered by legal practitioners, firms, and institutions.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1128

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 25.07.2025

Setting up separate Benches of High Courts

J.S. (APPEALS)
J-II
†1128 SMT. LOVELY ANAND:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to establish separate Benches of High Court in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps towards establishing separate benches of High Courts in view of the fact that lawyers are on strike for this demand; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): 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 consenting to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural facilities along with the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the

day-to-day administration of the High Court. The proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

At present there is no proposal pending with the Government to establish a Bench(es) of any High Court.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1134
ANSWERED ON - 25/07/2025

J.S (SPS)
J-II
INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FAMILY LITIGATION

†1134. SHRI UJJWAL RAMAN SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of family courts functioning in the country to settle family matters;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the number of family cases is increasing day by day in the family courts functioning in the country;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to open new family courts in the country to settle pending family cases expeditiously; 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;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) As per the information received from the High Courts, 927 Family Courts were functional across the country as on 30.06.2025. The State/UT-wise number of functional Family Courts is given at Annexure.

(b) As per data received from the High Courts, the number of cases instituted in family courts in year 2023 was 8,25,502, whereas 9,39,100 cases were instituted in these courts in the year 2024.

(c) and (d) The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for establishment of family courts by the State/UT Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for matters connected therewith.

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 also, the family courts may be set up if the State/UT Governments deem it necessary.

The State/UT- wise details of number of functional Family Courts as on 30.06.2025

Sl.No	Name of the State/UTs	Number of Functional Family Courts
1	Andhra Pradesh	16
2	Andaman & Nicobar island	1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	7
5	Bihar	39
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	29
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0
9	Delhi	31
10	Goa	0
11	Gujarat	123
12	Haryana	33
13	Himachal Pradesh	3
14	Jammu & Kashmir	4
15	Jharkhand	1
16	Karnataka	41
17	Kerala	37
18	Ladakh	2
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	64
21	Maharashtra	51
22	Manipur	3
23	Meghalaya	0
24	Mizoram	0
25	Nagaland	2
26	Odisha	28
27	Puducherry	2
28	Punjab	37
29	Rajasthan	50
30	Sikkim	6
31	Tamil Nadu	40
32	Telangana	23
33	Tripura	9
34	Uttar Pradesh	189
35	Uttarakhand	27
36	West Bengal	6
	TOTAL	927

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *188

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025

Change in name of Madras High Court

J.S. (APPTs)
✓ 188. DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes/has any proposal to change the name of Madras High Court to Chennai High Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *188 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2025
REGARDING "CHANGE IN NAME OF MADRAS HIGH COURT".**

(a) to (c): The name of the city of Madras was changed to Chennai, following the enactment of the City of Madras (Alteration of Name) Act, 1996. Subsequently in 1997, a proposal was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for changing the name of the Madras High Court to Chennai High Court. The Government of Tamil Nadu also conveyed that the Madras High Court has no objection to the proposal.

The High Court (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 19.07.2016 inter-alia, to change the name of High Court of Judicature of Madras to Chennai High Court.

Immediately, after the introduction of the Bill in Lok Sabha, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu informed that Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a Resolution to rename the High Court of Madras as High Court of Tamil Nadu. However, when this was placed before the full Court meeting of the Madras High Court on 07.12.2019, the Court resolved that it would not be appropriate to alter the name of the High Court.

Meanwhile, the High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 lapsed due to dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

In view of difference of opinion between the State Government of Tamil Nadu and Madras High Court on the matter, as on date there is no complete proposal to change the name of the Madras High Court.

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *190
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025

Judl. Sec. (L.A.)

Bilateral Legal Cooperation with Morocco

*190. Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram:

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

- (a) the objective and features of the agreement signed between India and Morocco for Bilateral Legal Cooperation;
- (b) the manner in which the Government is working to improve legal modernisation through Indo-Moroccan collaboration; and
- (c) the details on the wider diplomatic and developmental outcomes achieved through these legal and technological exchanges?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *190 FOR ANSWER ON 01-08-2025 REGARDING
"BILATERAL LEGAL COOPERATION WITH MOROCCO"**

(a) The objective and features of the agreement signed between India and Morocco i.e. Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) for promoting fruitful cooperation in the Judicial and legal spheres, this agreement facilitates the widest measures of mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters in accordance with national laws. Assistance under the agreement applies specifically to:

- The service of summons and other judicial documents or processes;
- The taking of evidence by means of Letters of Request;
- The execution of judicial judgments (in the case of the Kingdom of Morocco), decrees (in the case of the Republic of India), settlements, and arbitral awards.

Aligned with the objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Law & Justice of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco is to enhance mutual cooperation in the legal field. This MoU aims to strengthen institutional linkages, promote the exchange of legal knowledge, experiences, and expertise, and encourage collaborative activities such as training, research, and capacity-building between the two countries.

Key features of the MoU include:

- Exchange of Expertise: Sharing experiences and expertise related to the functioning of the respective Ministries and judicial systems.
- Legislation Exchange: Mutual sharing of legal publications, bulletins, and legislative materials to enhance legal understanding and cooperation.
- Capacity Building: Organising symposiums, conferences, and joint courses on various legal issues and applications.
- Legal Training and Delegation Exchange: Facilitating visits and training opportunities for lawyers and legal experts, including participation in each other's training programs.
- Judicial Information Systems: Cooperation in developing national legal information systems and related technological advancements.

- Implementation Mechanism: Formation of a joint coordination committee responsible for planning annual cooperation programs that are practical and within the financial capabilities of both parties.

This MoU provide opportunity to legal fraternity in India and Morocco to exchange their experience and expertise, in the fields of law and legislation.

(b) Based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Law & Justice of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Government is promoting legal modernization through structured cooperation in several key areas: The MoU facilitates exchange of experiences, legislation, and expertise between the two countries, in civil and criminal justice systems.

Additionally, the MoU promotes the exchange of legal publications, bulletins, and research, MoU provides for mutual visits and delegation exchanges to study each other's legal institutions and administrative frameworks and also the training opportunities for lawyers through mutual exchange of legal experts.

(c) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) facilitates exchange of legal and judicial expertise between the two countries, enhancing diplomatic relations through mutual understanding and capacity building in the legal field. It promotes joint organization of symposiums, conferences, and training programs, allowing both nations to learn from each other's civil and criminal justice systems and legal reforms.

From a technological perspective, the agreement emphasizes exchange of national information systems related to judicial and legal areas, fostering development through shared digital practices and tools in justice delivery. These exchanges contribute to institutional strengthening, capacity development, and modernization of legal frameworks, ultimately promoting rule of law and justice cooperation at a bilateral level.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 197
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01ST AUGUST, 2025

Social diversity in Judiciary

J.S. (Appts)
*197/ SHRI SACHITHANANTHAM R:

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

- (a) the present position regarding social diversity in Judiciary in the background of recent SC decision to implement reservation in the staff appointments;
- (b) whether the Government has taken up the issue of Reservation in the appointments of Judges in SC and HCs in light of the remark by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, if so, the action taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the appointment of 78% of judges to HCs since 2018 from Upper castes warrant an urgent need to overhaul the system of judicial appointments for SC and HCs, if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) IN
RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 197 FOR
REPLY ON 01st AUGUST, 2025 REGARDING 'SOCIAL DIVERSITY
IN JUDICIARY'

(a) to (c): Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts is not centrally available. Since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 753 Judges appointed from 2018 till 28.07.2025, 24 belong to SC category, 17 belong to ST category, 93 belong to OBC category and 42 belong to the minority category. 117 women were appointed as Judges in various High Courts during the same period.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government is committed to enhancing social diversity in judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts. Only those persons who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The staff of the High Courts are to be appointed as per Rules made by the High Courts in accordance with the powers conferred by Article 229(2) of the Constitution, which provides that *"the conditions of service of officers and servants of a High Court shall be such as may be prescribed by rules made by the Chief Justice of the Court or by some other Judge or officer of the Court authorised by the Chief Justice to make rules for the purpose"*.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2073
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025**

Linking of Aadhaar and Voter ID

Leg. II (LD)
2073.

Shri M K Raghavan:

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

- (a) whether the Government has data on the number and percentage of voters who have linked their Aadhaar with Voter ID cards as per the latest available figures, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make the linking of Aadhaar with Voter ID mandatory, in view of rising concerns over voter list; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that 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 ECI has further stated that it has *vide* its instruction dated 4th July, 2022, has launched the programme to collect the Aadhaar number of existing and prospective electors on a voluntary basis from 1st August, 2022 in all States and Union territories.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2079

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 1ST AUGUST, 2025

Misuse of Security Laws

5.5 (Appdts) (Consd.)
2079. SHRI KULDEEP INDORA:

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

- (a) whether it is fact that draconian laws like National Security Act (NSA), Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA) are being used nowadays against students journalists, social activists and peaceful protesters resulting in question about the judicial system of the country;
- (b) whether many people are kept in jail for years without trial under these laws thereby affecting the right to liberty and fair trial guaranteed by the Constitution;
- (c) if so, the number of the persons presently languishing in various jails without conviction under these laws; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any concrete policy or guidelines to review these laws from time to time and use them only in very serious cases?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): As per the information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Security Act (NSA), 1980 provides for preventive detention in certain cases

and empowers the Central Government and the State Governments to make orders for detaining certain persons if satisfied that such detention is necessary for preventing acts prejudicial to the defence of India, the security of India, the security of the State, the maintenance of public order or the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.

The Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978 provides for preventive detention in certain cases. Every detention is required to be based on reasonable and material grounds in accordance with the provisions of the said Act. There are adequate safeguards provided under the said Act for review.

Further, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 is the principal legal regime in the country to deal with cases relating to terrorism and unlawful activities and is primarily required to safeguard the sovereignty, security and integrity of the nation. It empowers law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute individuals and organizations involved in or supporting terrorism and unlawful activities. Under Section 45 of the Act, no court can take cognizance of any offence without the previous sanction of the Central or State Government, as the case may be.

The maximum period of detention under the NSA, 1980 is twelve months from the date of detention. In respect of UAPA cases, conviction is an outcome of

the judicial process which depends on factors such as the duration of the trial, appraisal of evidence and examination of witnesses.

Data relating to the number of persons presently detained under the NSA, 1980 and the Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978 is not centrally maintained. Furthermore, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles data on crime as reported by the States and Union Territories and publishes the same in its annual publication *Crime in India*.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2081
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 1ST AUGUST, 2025

FILLING UP OF VACANT POSTS

2081. SHRI GOVIND MAKTHAPPA KARJOL:

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

- (a) the number of posts lying vacant in Supreme court, High Courts, District Courts and allied offices, including backlog vacancies;
- (b) the details of the posts vacant in High Courts and District Courts in Karnataka including backlog vacancies;
- (c) whether the Government has taken adequate steps to fill up the vacancies including backlog vacancies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The numbers of posts vacant in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts are as under:

S. No.	Name of Court	Vacancy as on 25.07.2025
1.	Supreme Court	01
2.	High Courts	362
3.	District and Subordinate Courts*	4,721(as on 28.07.2025)

*As per MIS Portal of Department of Justice

Further, the details of existing vacancies in the High Courts (High Court wise) and the District & Subordinate Courts (State/UT wise) are at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 21.07.2025, 70 Judges have been

appointed in the Supreme Court. 1058 new Judges were appointed and 794 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts was increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date. The sanctioned and working strengths of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts have increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
28.07.2025	25,843	21,122

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

Filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the State Governments and the concerned 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 appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

ANNEXURE-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2081 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2025 REGARDING 'FILLING UP OF VACANT POSTS.**

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the High Courts (As on 25.07.2025)

	High Courts	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	Allahabad	160	80	80
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	28	9
3	Bombay	94	67	27
4	Calcutta	72	48	24
5	Chhattisgarh	22	16	6
6	Delhi	60	43	17
7	Gauhati	30	21	9
8	Gujarat	52	39	13
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	11	6
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	15	10
11	Jharkhand	25	15	10
12	Karnataka	62	47	15
13	Kerala	47	43	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	33	20
15	Madras	75	57	18
16	Manipur	5	3	2
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	20	13
19	Patna	53	36	17
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	49	36
21	Rajasthan	50	43	7
22	Sikkim	3	3	0
23	Telangana	42	26	16
24	Tripura	5	4	1
25	Uttarakhand	11	9	2
	Total	1122	760	362

ANNEXURE-II**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2081 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2025 REGARDING 'FILLING UP OF VACANT POSTS.****Posts of Judicial Officer in District and Subordinate Courts (As on 28.07.2025)**

Sl. NO.	State/UTs	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	639	574	65
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	39	5
3.	Assam	485	461	24
4.	Bihar	2022	1679	343
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	663	465	198
7.	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	7	6	1
8.	Delhi	897	788	109
9.	Goa	50	40	10
10.	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
11.	Haryana	781	661	120
12.	Himachal Pradesh	179	160	19
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	322	272	50
14.	Jharkhand	707	501	206
15.	Karnataka	1394	1167	227
16.	Kerala	614	579	35
17.	Ladakh	17	10	7
18.	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1669	359
20.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
21.	Manipur	62	49	13
22.	Meghalaya	99	57	42
23.	Mizoram	74	45	29
24.	Nagaland	34	24	10
25.	Odisha	1043	835	208
26.	Puducherry	38	26	12
27.	Punjab	811	716	95
28.	Rajasthan	1683	1506	177
29.	Sikkim	35	23	12
30.	Tamil Nadu	1375	1240	135
31.	Telangana	560	445	115
32.	Tripura	133	106	27
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3700	2675	1025
34.	Uttarakhand	298	270	28
35.	West Bengal	1105	875	230
36.	Andaman and Nicobar			
TOTAL		25,843	21,122	4,721

Source: MIS portal of Department of Justice (DoJ)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2095
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025

Inadequate Infrastructure in Lower Courts of Telangana

2095. Shri Kunduru Raghuveer:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the condition of judicial infrastructure including basic amenities such as parking, waiting areas, washrooms and courtroom capacity in lower courts across Telangana, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that several subordinate courts in Telangana, including in districts like Nalgonda, lack designated parking areas, proper building space and public convenience facilities for litigants, lawyers and staff, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Telangana or High Court seeking Central assistance for upgrading infrastructure in such court complexes; and
- (d) if so, the details of projects approved or pending under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities in District and Subordinate Courts and the timeline for addressing these deficiencies?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities since 1993-94. Through this Scheme, the Government of India supplements the resources of the State Governments, who have the primary responsibility for the development of judicial infrastructure. There are five components covered under the scheme, viz., court halls, residential units, lawyers' halls, digital computer rooms and toilet complexes. The specifications of these infrastructure units have been prepared as per recommendations of the National Court Management System (NCMS) Committee of the Supreme Court of India, existing norms and practices being followed by different State Governments and certain norms followed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD).

A sum of Rs. 60.21 crore has been released to the State of Telangana since 2018-19 (after separation from Andhra Pradesh). During the financial year 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 39.82 crore has been tentatively earmarked to the State. A proposal for eight (08) ongoing projects and one (01) new project costing Rs.26.33 Crore and Rs.9.30 Crore respectively has been received from the State of Telangana for the F.Y. 2025-26. Accordingly, first instalment of 25% of the earmarked

amount has been released to the State. Issuance of next instalments will be contingent upon the pace of expenditure.

As per information provided by the High Court of Telangana, a new court complex comprising five courts has been inaugurated on 27.04.2024 in the premises of the district court complex at Nalgonda. The court complex is equipped with facilities like Bar Association Hall, washroom for litigants, staff and lawyers, and parking space. With the bifurcation of erstwhile 10 judicial districts into 33 judicial districts (co-terminus with revenue districts), certain court complexes are functioning in rented premises for want of permanent accommodation. In order to address the shortage, the High Court has approved the proposal for construction of 12 court complexes (including POSCO Court and Family Court building) in 13 judicial districts of Jangaon, Jayashankar, Bhupalapally, Jogulamba Gadwal, Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar, Mancherial, Mulugu, Nirmal, Peddapally, Sircilla, Vikarabad, Wanaparthy and Yadari-Bhuvanagiri.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2097**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01ST AUGUST, 2025

Elevation and Transfer of High Court Judges

J.S. (Appals)
2097. SHRI MATHESWARAN V S:

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

- (a) the list of names proposed by Supreme Court Collegium for elevation as High Court Judges pending with the Government for more than one year; and
- (b) the list of names proposed by Supreme Court Collegium for transfer of High Court Judges pending with the Government for more than one year?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) : As on 29.07.2025, against the sanctioned strength of 1122 Judges, 779 Judges are working and 343 posts of Judges are vacant in various High Courts. Against these vacancies, 139 proposals for appointment of High Court Judges are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. The recommendations against 204 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums.

Appointment of Judges to High Courts is made under Articles 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 the MoP, the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. As per the MoP, the High Courts are required to make recommendations at least 06 months before the occurrence of a vacancy. However, this time limit is rarely observed. For appointments to the High Courts, the views of concerned State Government are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice.

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. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment and transfer of High Court Judges, the proposal for transfer of High Court Judges is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with four senior most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The MoP further provides that the Chief Justice of India

is also expected to take into account the views of the Chief Justice of High Court from which the judge is to be transferred, as also the Chief Justice of the High Court to which the transfer is to be effected, besides taking into account the views of one or more Supreme Court judges who are in position to offer views. The personal factors relating to the concerned Judge, including the Chief Justice, and his response to the proposal, including his preference of places, should invariably be taken into account by the Chief Justice of India and the first four puisne Judges of the Supreme Court before arriving at conclusion on the proposal. All transfers are to be made in public interest i.e. for promoting better administration of justice throughout the country. No timeline has been prescribed in the MoP for transfer of judges from one High Court to another.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2100
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 01/08/2025

LEGAL AID TO WEAKER SECTIONS

J.S. (NKG)
→ (LAP)

2100. SHRI C N ANNADURAI:

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

- (a) the details of the authorities and institutions established by the Government to provide free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society, particularly members of SC, ST, women, and other marginalized communities, including the current status in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken awareness initiatives to inform the poor and weaker sections, especially SCs and STs, about their entitlement to free legal aid, and if so, the details thereof including outreach activities conducted in Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the number of cases taken up and legal aid provided by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during last three years; and
- (d) whether Government has put in place a mechanism to monitor and assess the performance and functioning of Legal Services Authorities including NALSA, and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to strengthen the delivery of free legal aid across the Country, particularly in Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The following Authorities/Institutions are established to provide free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society including those belonging to SC/ST and women:-
 - i. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at National level

- ii. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) at Supreme Court level
- iii. 38 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs) at High Court level
- iv. 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) at State level
- v. 708 (including 32 in Tamil Nadu) District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at District level
- vi. 2440 (including 193 in Tamil Nadu) Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) at Taluk level

(b): The legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities in regard to entitlement to free legal aid and various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability, etc. The Legal Services Authorities also prepare booklets and pamphlets in simple language on various laws, for distribution amongst the people. The details of legal awareness camps/programs organized by Legal Service Authorities across the country (including Tamil Nadu) during the last three years are as under:

Year	Tamil Nadu		Across the country (including Tamil Nadu)	
	Legal Awareness programs	Persons attended	Legal Awareness programs	Persons attended
2022-23	10,814	13,27,379	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24	4,408	7,12,534	4,30,306	4,49,22,092
2024-25	6,284	10,10,195	4,62,988	3,72,32,850
Total	21,506	30,50,108	13,83,349	14,96,72,607

(c): The details of persons benefited through Legal aid and advice under various activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities during the last three years are as under:

Year	Persons benefited through Legal aid and advice
2022-23	12,14,769
2023-24	15,50,164
2024-25	16,57,527
Total	44,22,460

(d): In order to monitor the performance of the legal services authorities, NALSA receives monthly activity reports from all the SLSAs highlighting all the activities carried out in a particular month. Thereafter, a final activity report on monthly basis is sent by NALSA to the Government which is reviewed and compiled. Apart from monthly activity reports, NALSA also receives Annual Reports from all the SLSAs and prepares its own Annual Report, which is laid before both Houses of the Parliament by the Government.

Periodical reviews on different issues are also carried out by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice to assess the working of Legal Aid under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Further, All India Meets and Regional Meets are frequently organized by NALSA to monitor the performance of Legal Services Authorities. In addition, regular meetings are also held between the representatives of NALSA and Department of Justice on various important matters.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2119
ANSWERED ON 01/08/2025

REGIONAL LANGUAGES IN COURT PROCEEDINGS

2119. SHRI ROBERT BRUCE C :

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

- (a) the details of High Courts in the country that are using regional languages in their proceedings;
- (b) whether the Government has received any request/representation from different High Courts for use of regional languages in their respective High Courts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has held any meeting with the Bar Councils in various States to develop a mechanism to facilitate the people in court proceedings/cases, if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) whether Government has prepared a common legal dictionary for the use of courts in legal system of regional languages, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

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

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

Government of India had received proposals from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. The advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals and it was intimated that the Full Court of the Supreme Court after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

Based on another request from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government requested the Chief Justice of India to review the earlier decisions in this regard and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Justice of India conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations decided not to approve the proposal and reiterated the earlier decisions of the Hon'ble Court.

(d) & (e): Under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Bar Council of India has constituted 'Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti' chaired by former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde for the purpose of translating legal material into regional languages by developing a Common Core Vocabulary close to all Indian Languages. In addition, Legislative Department of Ministry of Law and Justice has prepared a legal glossary of 65,000 words in Hindi for digitization and making available in public domain in searchable format for the usage of all.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2142
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 1ST AUGUST, 2025

BACKLOG OF PENDING CASES

†2142. Shri Gyaneshwar Patil:
Shri Bhumare Sandipanrao Asaram:
Dr. Shivaji Bandappa Kalge:
Shri Nilesh Dnyandev Lanke:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the huge backlog of pending cases from the local courts to the Supreme Court has resulted in erosion of confidence in our judicial system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the number of pending cases in various courts in the country, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate Courts as on 28.07.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending Cases
1.	Supreme Court	86,844
2.	High Courts	63,32,256
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,66,69,624

The State/UT-wise details of cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts and High Courts (including Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) are at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

The Government is cognizant of the issue of case pendency at various levels of the judiciary. While the issue of pendency of cases lies within the purview of the judiciary, the Government remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening the justice delivery system by providing necessary resources, infrastructural support, and policy interventions. Recognizing the need for judicial efficiency, the Government has undertaken several proactive initiatives, as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution, to facilitate faster disposal of cases and enhance the overall functioning of courts. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to create an enabling ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which include the following:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of 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 ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 30.06.2025, Rs. 12,101.89 crores have been released since the inception of this Scheme in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 (as on 30.06.2014) to 22,372

(as on 30.06.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 19,851 (as on 30.06.2025), under this Scheme.

- iii. Under Phase I and II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts and 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity was provided to 2977 sites. Video Conferencing facility was enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 778 eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) were established to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 21 virtual courts were set up in 17 States/UTs, which handled more than 2.78 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 384.14 crores in fines up to March 2023.

The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore, which is aimed at ushering a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 506.05 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.65 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1814 across High Courts and District Courts. Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning tools are being used in case management hearing and for transcription of oral judgements in the Supreme Court of India.

- iv. The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 21.07.2025, 70 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1058 new Judges were appointed and 794 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date. The

sanctioned and working strengths of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts have increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
28.07.2025	25,843	21,122

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT 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 now been set up under District Courts as well.
- vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 30.06.2025, 865 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. With a view to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government had approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 30.06.2025, 725 FTSCs including 392 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs, which have disposed of more than 3,34,000 cases since their inception.
- vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has 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 progressively promoted. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of

commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. The amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a 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 facts 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. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, 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 it before any court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

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

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
2025 (up to March)	2,58,28,368	50,82,181	3,09,10,549
Total	22,21,01,916	5,33,91,016	27,54,92,932

- x. 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 Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Till 30 th June, 2025	Cases Registered	% wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% wise Break Up
Gender -wise				
Female	44,81,170	39.58%	44,21,450	39.55%
Male	68,39,728	60.42%	67,58,085	60.45%
Caste Category-wise				
General	26,89,371	23.76%	26,48,100	23.69%
OBC	35,64,430	31.49%	35,16,236	31.45%
SC	35,27,303	31.16%	34,90,737	31.22%
ST	15,39,794	13.60%	15,24,462	13.64%
Total	1,13,20,898		1,11,79,535	?

- xi. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

ANNEXURE-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2142 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2025 REGARDING 'BACKLOG OF PENDING CASES'.**

Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 28.07.2025

Sl. No	States/UT	Pending Cases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8,99,526
2.	Telangana	9,54,794
3.	Andaman & Nicobar	8,299
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	10,263
5.	Assam	5,46,047
6.	Bihar	36,58,281
7.	Chandigarh	1,03,495
8.	Chhattisgarh	4,33,967
9.	Delhi	15,58,494
10.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	8,298
11.	Goa	59,962
12.	Gujarat	16,48,509
13.	Haryana	15,06,784
14.	Himachal Pradesh	6,73,692
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	3,35,513
16.	Jharkhand	5,54,553
17.	Karnataka	22,10,048
18.	Kerala	17,45,154
19.	Ladakh	1,417
20.	Madhya Pradesh	20,37,995
21.	Maharashtra	58,03,555
22.	Manipur	13,785
23.	Meghalaya	15,632
24.	Mizoram	6,645
25.	Nagaland	3,583
26.	Orissa	16,93,114
27.	Puducherry	35,406
28.	Punjab	8,91,601
29.	Rajasthan	23,24,222
30.	Sikkim	1,797
31.	Tamil Nadu	15,73,944
32.	Tripura	55,999
33.	U.T of Lakshadweep	521
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1,13,94,105
35.	Uttarakhand	3,24,441
36.	West Bengal	35,76,183
Total		4,66,69,624

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2142 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2025 REGARDING 'BACKLOG OF PENDING CASES'.

Cases pending in High Courts as on 28.07.2025

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Pending Cases
1.	Allahabad	11,88,704
2.	Bombay	6,67,629
3.	Calcutta	1,94,800
4.	Gauhati	62,670
5.	Telangana	2,34,823
6.	Andhra Pradesh	2,48,292
7.	Chhattisgarh	80,755
8.	Delhi	1,37,411
9.	Gujarat.	1,74,820
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1,00,268
11.	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	45,296
12.	Jharkhand	73,671
13.	Karnataka	3,18,580
14.	Kerala	2,57,721
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4,86,974
16.	Manipur	5,615
17.	Meghalaya	1,369
18.	Punjab and Haryana	4,34,073
19.	Rajasthan	6,61,083
20.	Sikkim	255
21.	Tripura	1,214
22.	Uttarakhand	57,293
23.	Madras	5,31,992
24.	Orissa	1,53,477
25.	Patna	2,13,471
Total		63,32,256

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2145
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 1ST AUGUST, 2025**

Leg. I (15) **Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**

2145. Dr. Manna Lal Rawat:

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

- (a) the provisions for non-bailable offences in the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;
- (b) whether any new provisions have been added in it after the year 2014 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the provisions for punishment under the said Act in the cases of crime committed against the Scheduled Castes by a Christian/Muslim converted from the Scheduled Caste category;
- (d) whether there is any discrepancy in the provisions for punishment in the said crime committed against Scheduled Tribes by a Christian/Muslim converted from the Scheduled Tribe category; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the solution to this discrepancy?

A N S W E R

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): The provisions for offences and its punishments have been specified in the Chapter II of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The offences which are punishable with imprisonment for less than 3 years or with fine only are bailable and offences punishable with imprisonment for 3 years and upwards or with death, imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for more than 7 years are non-bailable. With an objective to deliver greater justice to members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the

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Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has been amended vide the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015 (No. 1 of 2016) which was enforced on 26.01.2016.

The amendments have been made *inter alia* for establishment of Exclusive Special Courts for speedy trial of the atrocity cases, specifying or appointing Exclusive Special Public Prosecutors to try offences in Exclusive Special Courts, rephrasing and expansion of some earlier offences and addition of several new offences of atrocities, insertion of a new chapter relating to Rights of Victims and Witnesses.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has been further amended by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 27 of 2018), and after section 18, a new section 18A has been inserted which reads as under: -

"18A. (1) For the purposes of this Act, —

(a) preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person; or

(b) the investigating officer shall not require approval for the arrest, if necessary, of any person,

against whom an accusation of having committed an offence under this Act has been made and no procedure other than that provided under this Act or the Code shall apply.

(2) The provisions of section 438 of the Code shall not apply to a case under this Act, notwithstanding any judgment or order or direction of any Court."

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018 was notified in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary on 17.08.2018 and enforced on 20.08.2018.

Presidential orders have been issued under articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution in respect of member of the Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes, respectively. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 (C.O.22) makes a provision for the Scheduled Tribes *inter alia* stipulating that the Tribes or tribal communities, or parts of, or groups within, tribes or tribal communities, specified

in Parts I to XXII of the Schedule to this Order shall, in relation to the States to which those Parts respectively relate, be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes so far as regards members thereof residents in the localities specified in relation to them respectively in those Parts of that Schedule.

Unlike as provided under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 (C.O.19) provides for identification for the Scheduled Castes *inter alia* stipulating that no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu, the Sikh or the Buddhist religion shall be deemed to be a member of Scheduled Caste. Therefore, members of Scheduled Castes who convert to Christianity or Islam cease to be a member of Scheduled Caste. In addition to this, as per section 3 of the Act whoever not being a member of Scheduled Castes or a Scheduled Tribes commits defined atrocities are liable for punishment under this Act. Further, as per clause (c) of section 2 of the said Act, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall have the meaning assigned to them respectively under clause (24) and clause (25) of article 366 of the Constitution.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2159
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN JUDICIARY

2159. Dr. Kirsan Namdeo:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken appropriate measures to evaluate the effectiveness of AI tools in legal research and translation, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of training provided to judicial staff regarding the use of AI technologies;
- (c) the manner in which the Government plans to address concerns regarding data privacy in relation to AI usage;
- (d) whether there is any tool or application for recording the day to day proceedings of courts; and
- (e) if so, the scope and effectiveness of said tool or application?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, under e-Courts Project Phase III, an attempt is being made to integrate modern technologies for smoother user experience. To create an efficient and futuristic system, the latest technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its subsets Machine Learning (ML), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Natural Language Processing (NLP), etc., are being used in the e-Courts software applications. AI is being used in areas such as translation, prediction and forecast, improving administrative efficiency, Natural Language Processing (NLP), automated filing, intelligent scheduling, enhancing the case information system and communicating with the litigants through chatbots.

The AI Translation Committees of the High Courts are monitoring the entire work relating to

translation of the Supreme Court and High Court Judgments into vernacular languages. Digital legal platforms such as e-HCR/e-ILR provide online access to judgments in the various vernacular languages. The Supreme Court judgments are available on the e-SCR portal: (<https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in/pdfsearch/index.php>).

The details of the training programs conducted by the eCommittee, SCI covering various stakeholders, like, courts staff, advocates, Judges, etc., are available in the public domain at eCommittee, SCI web portal link: <https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/document-category/training-and-awareness-programmes/>.

A Sub-Committee consisting of six judges of the various High Courts, assisted by technical working group members consisting of domain experts was constituted by the Chairperson of the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India to suggest/recommend secure connectivity and authentication mechanisms for data protection in order 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 eCourts project for giving solutions for strengthening data security and for protecting the privacy of citizens.

The daily proceedings of each case is entered in Case Information System (CIS) and the litigant is made aware of the same from the eCourts service platforms like website and Mobile Applications. Apart from this, there are Model Rules in place for Live-Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings. These are available at the following portal:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s388ef51f0bf911e452e8dbb1d807a81ab/uploads/2021/06/2022091599.pdf>.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2163
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 1ST AUGUST, 2025

VACANCY IN LOWER JUDICIARY

2163. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a) the total number of sanctioned posts for judicial officers in District and Sub-ordinate Courts across the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the total number of vacancies of judges in District and Sub-ordinate Courts, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the total number of sanctioned posts for grade three and grade four employees separately in District & Sub-ordinate Courts and High courts, respectively, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the total number of vacancies of said employees separately in District & Sub-ordinate Courts and High courts, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the total number of pending cases in District Courts during the last five years, State/UT-wise and year-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The details of sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts, as on 28.07.2025 are at *Annexure-I*.

As regards details of sanctioned strength and vacancies against the posts of grade three and grade four employees in District and Sub-ordinate Courts and High courts, this data is not maintained centrally.

(e): The detail of cases pending in District Courts across the country during the last five years, State/UT-wise and year-wise are at *Annexure-II*.

ANNEXURE-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2163 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCY IN LOWER JUDICIARY.****Posts of Judicial Officer in District and Subordinate Courts as on 28.07.2025**

Sl. NO.	State/UTs	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	639	574	65
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	39	5
3.	Assam	485	461	24
4.	Bihar	2022	1679	343
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	663	465	198
7.	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	7	6	1
8.	Delhi	897	788	109
9.	Goa	50	40	10
10.	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
11.	Haryana	781	661	120
12.	Himachal Pradesh	179	160	19
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	322	272	50
14.	Jharkhand	707	501	206
15.	Karnataka	1394	1167	227
16.	Kerala	614	579	35
17.	Ladakh	17	10	7
18.	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1669	359
20.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
21.	Manipur	62	49	13
22.	Meghalaya	99	57	42
23.	Mizoram	74	45	29
24.	Nagaland	34	24	10
25.	Odisha	1043	835	208
26.	Puducherry	38	26	12
27.	Punjab	811	716	95
28.	Rajasthan	1683	1506	177
29.	Sikkim	35	23	12
30.	Tamil Nadu	1375	1240	135
31.	Telangana	560	445	115
32.	Tripura	133	106	27
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3700	2675	1025
34.	Uttarakhand	298	270	28
35.	West Bengal	1105	875	230
36.	Andaman and Nicobar			
TOTAL		25,843	21,122	4,721

Source: MIS portal of Department of Justice (DoJ)

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2163 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCY IN LOWER JUDICIARY.'

Pending Cases in District and Subordinate Courts

Sl. No	States	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2020	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2021	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2023	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2024	*Pendency of Cases as on 28.07.2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	649157	785379	841998	876689	893993	899526
2	Telangana	691646	790360	841405	873848	907392	954794
3	Andaman & Nicobar	9839	9321	9234	9950	10407	8299
4	Arunachal Pradesh	12651	14318	15923	16556	15335	10263
5	Assam	360753	415024	485455	445759	491720	546047
6	Bihar	3016743	3276696	3464725	3609527	3716100	3658281
7	Chandigarh	70633	72384	89254	104116	120210	103495
8	Chhattisgarh	331849	381984	414839	414463	417325	433967
9	Delhi	1018642	1231373	1440549	1359103	1527969	1558494
10	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	6281	6523	6733	7305	7740	8298
11	Goa	58967	59414	56319	57195	59190	59962
12	Gujarat	1917992	1952262	1725939	1547276	1528794	1648509
13	Haryana	1101330	1313881	1496883	1533521	1489585	1506784
14	Himachal Pradesh	420891	464892	483642	578246	631442	673692
15	Jammu & Kashmir	198771	216245	272543	247244	266146	335513
16	Ladakh						1417
17	Jharkhand	427130	490905	504697	524241	521274	554553
18	Karnataka	1709220	1780802	1864827	1925330	2060206	2210048
19	Kerala	2089289	2089147	1991193	1851414	1750373	1745154
20	Madhya Pradesh	1727293	1920613	2008566	2023950	2052363	2037995
21	Maharashtra	4504573	4800895	4953521	5131895	5510544	5803555
22	Manipur	6957	8183	7590	8125	7615	13785
23	Meghalaya	15830	16010	15014	14136	13227	15632
24	Mizoram	6338	6304	5620	6113	6480	6645
25	Nagaland	4206	4569	4443	3923	3881	3583
26	Orissa	1592250	1789677	1826100	1873312	1920825	1693114
27	Puducherry	33470	32998	31868	32086	33352	35406
28	Punjab	843791	945609	923581	875009	863867	891601
29	Rajasthan	1947688	2162774	2272463	2422125	2455623	2324222
30	Sikkim	1455	1616	1696	1523	1659	1797
31	Tamil Nadu	1263758	1331944	1387919	1375098	1386582	1573944
32	Tripura	44654	43096	40661	43526	43098	55999
33	U.T of Lakshadweep	453	470	540	512	535	521
34	Uttar Pradesh	8781104	9966606	10986875	11147755	11486655	11394105
35	Uttarakhand	249350	287204	308694	331002	328911	324441
36	West Bengal	2170788	2384020	2512418	2698188	2923585	3576183
Total		37285742	41053498	43293727	43970061	45454003	66669624

*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2175
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01ST AUGUST, 2025**

Inclusivity in the Higher Judiciary

J-2 (Appds)
2175. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:

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

- (a) the initiatives that are being taken to promote diversity and inclusivity in the Higher Judiciary;
- (b) the details of SC, ST, OBC, Minorities and Women Judges appointed in the High Courts since 2019;
- (c) whether any proposal to provide reservation in the appointment and promotion of judicial staff in the High Courts is being considered; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts is not centrally available. Since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details

regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 753 Judges appointed from 2018 till 28.07.2025, 24 belong to SC category, 17 belong to ST category, 93 belong to OBC category and 42 belong to the minority category. 117 women were appointed as Judges in various High Courts during the same period.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government is committed to enhancing social diversity in judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts. Only those persons who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

(c) & (d): The staff of the High Courts are to be appointed as per Rules made by the High Courts in accordance with the powers conferred by Article 229(2) of the Constitution, which provides that *"the conditions of service of officers and servants of a High Court shall be such as may be prescribed by rules made by the Chief Justice of the Court or by some other Judge or officer of the Court authorised by the Chief Justice to make rules for the purpose"*.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2188

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR JUDICIARY

2188. Smt. Bharti Pardhi:

Shri Sanjay Uttamrao Deshmukh:

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

- (a) the details of the progress of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary;
- (b) the details of central assistance issued to States/UTs in last three financial years and in current financial year;
- (c) the contribution and impact of the above said assistance in construction of court rooms and residential units for judicial officers in States/UTs particularly in Maharashtra;
- (d) the specific measures being taken by the Government to address the issue of infrastructural shortcomings including insufficient court rooms, staff and digital connectivity in district and subordinate courts particularly in remote and rural areas; and
- (e) the present status of implementation of phase three of e-Courts project?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): The Department of Justice has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary since 1993-94 to augment the resources of the State Governments in a prescribed fund sharing pattern. There are five components under the Scheme namely court halls, residential quarters, lawyers' halls, digital computer rooms and toilet complexes.

A sum of Rs. 12,101.89 crore has been released under the Scheme since its inception, out of which Rs. 8,657.59 crore (71.54%) has been released since 2014-15. The details of Central assistance released to States/UTs in the last three financial years are at Annexure-I. From 15,818 court halls and 10,211 residential units in the year 2014, the numbers of available court halls and residential units have increased to 22372 (41.43% increase) and 19,851 (94.40% increase) respectively. In addition, 3,128 court halls and 2,772 residential units are under construction. The details of State-wise availability of court halls and residential units are at Annexure-II.

Financial assistance amounting to Rs 1,099.83 crore has been extended to the State of Maharashtra under the Scheme since inception. Out of this amount, Rs. 700.17 crore (63.67%) have been released since 2014-15. A sum of Rs. 28.06 crore has been earmarked to the State of Maharashtra for the current financial year. At present, 2503 court halls and 2202 residential units are available in the State of Maharashtra. In addition, 560 court halls and 144 residential units are under construction.

The e-Courts project is being implemented as integrated Mission Mode Project since 2007 for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary as part of the National e-Governance Plan. Phase III of the e-Courts Project (for the period from 2023 to 2027) was approved in September 2023 with an outlay of ₹7,210 crore. Under Phase-III, several steps have been taken to improve the court management processes and digitize the services for the various stakeholders including lawyers, litigants and judges.

One of the components of eCourts Project Phase III is the scanning, digitization and digital preservation of case records, for which an amount of Rs. 2038.40 crore has been earmarked. As per information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, 213.29 crore pages in the High Courts and 307.89 crore pages in the District Courts have been digitized till 30.06.2025. A software has been developed for preservation of judicial records of High Courts and District Courts. Further, Digital Courts 2.1 software has been developed for aiding courts to function in paperless mode.

The e-Filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location. In addition, the e-Payment system has been launched for hassle free transfer of fee etc. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) is significant step towards technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. Besides, a Judgment Search portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name etc. This facility is being provided free of cost to all. In order to facilitate easy and hassle-free access to citizen-centric services, 1814 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) have been established across the country. In addition, 29 Virtual Courts are functioning across 21 States/UTs for trying traffic related offences.

Annexure-I

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO. 2188 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2025**

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Sr.	States/ UTs	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (as on 30.06.2025)
1	A&N Islands	0.00	0.49	0.08	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	22.50	49.82	0.99	5.24
3	Arunachal Pradesh	32.38	0.00	6.24	0.00
4	Assam	25.00	40.00	40.75	0.00
5	Bihar	0.00	67.45	107.81	15.14
6	Chhattisgarh	60.00	6.69	45.35	7.75
7	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Dadar Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Delhi	0.00	0.00	16.50	0.00
10	Goa	25.00	1.53	14.27	0.00
11	Gujarat	6.22	95.62	51.34	0.00
12	Haryana	0.00	20.10	0.00	0.00
13	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	6.00	13.62	0.00
14	Jammu & Kashmir	12.60	12.00	31.50	0.00
15	Jharkhand	16.51	40.81	14.57	3.99
16	Karnataka	82.01	133.16	73.92	0.00
17	Kerala	0.00	7.00	45.89	0.00
18	Ladakh	0.00	1.40	6.93	0.00
19	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Madhya Pradesh	125.00	104.00	42.69	6.14
21	Maharashtra	100.00	119.53	118.36	0.00
22	Manipur	12.85	0.00	3.71	0.00
23	Meghalaya	50.00	33.72	35.79	0.00
24	Mizoram	0.00	8.86	13.57	0.00
25	Nagaland	0.00	4.39	4.00	0.00

Sr.	States/ UTs	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (as on 30.06.2025)
26	Odisha	31.49	30.88	51.48	0.00
27	Puducherry	9.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Punjab	12.50	18.42	0.00	0.00
29	Rajasthan	71.66	80.41	58.35	12.22
30	Sikkim	2.27	2.70	0.00	0.00
31	Tamil Nadu	133.85	0.00	61.27	0.00
32	Telangana	26.61	0.00	1.96	0.00
33	Tripura	0.00	40.49	20.00	0.00
34	Uttarakhand	0.00	13.75	46.14	0.00
35	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	102.96	174.12	0.00
36	West Bengal	0.00	18.00	22.22	0.00
	Total	858.00	1,060.17	1,123.40	50.48

As per PFMS Portal

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO. 2188 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2025**

Sr.	States/UTs	Total Court Halls	Total Court Halls Under Construction*	Total Residential Units	Total Residential Units Under Construction*
1	Andaman & Nicobar	15	0	11	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	661	97	661	13
3	Arunachal Pradesh	34	6	32	3
4	Assam	422	83	381	20
5	Bihar	1667	207	1242	296
6	Chandigarh	31	1	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	495	74	473	776
8	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	8	3	8	0
9	Delhi	739	0	331	70
10	Goa	50	37	20	3
11	Gujarat	1509	106	1360	331
12	Haryana	589	75	599	65
13	Himachal Pradesh	178	11	155	7
14	Jammu and Kashmir	209	45	146	8
15	Jharkhand	652	13	611	24
16	Karnataka	1244	185	1198	45
17	Kerala	575	111	566	20
18	Ladakh	11	4	4	2
19	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1656	262	1781	119
21	Maharashtra	2503	560	2202	144
22	Manipur	42	12	16	33
23	Meghalaya	72	16	140	86
24	Mizoram	47	32	38	8
25	Nagaland	30	8	39	0

Sr.	States/UTs	Total Court Halls	Total Court Halls Under Construction*	Total Residential Units	Total Residential Units Under Construction*
26	Odisha	905	156	769	101
27	Puducherry	34	0	27	0
28	Punjab	643	21	643	33
29	Rajasthan	1402	351	1180	122
30	Sikkim	20	5	15	2
31	Tamil Nadu	1256	45	1386	11
32	Telangana	552	23	472	6
33	Tripura	86	27	74	33
34	Uttar Pradesh	2892	366	2553	361
35	Uttarakhand	253	69	212	4
36	West Bengal	887	117	473	26
TOTAL		22,372	3,128	19,851	2,772

**As per Nyaya Vikas Portal*

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2203**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025

Retention of Election Video Footage and Photographs

Leg. II (LD)
✓ 2203. Shri Sasikanth Senthil:
Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy:

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission has revised its guidelines to reduce the retention period of video footage and photographs of the election process to 45 days after the declaration of results, if so, the reasons therefor and the stakeholder consultations undertaken prior to change;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the concerns raised regarding the impact of this reduced retention period on electoral transparency, verification of procedures and public trust in the election process, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any mechanism exists to preserve such election related video records beyond the 45 day period in cases where election petitions are filed and if so, details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to reassess the recent amendment to Rule 93(2)(a) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, that restricts public access to election footage and if so, details of any proposed review or consultative process;
- (e) whether political parties or candidates were consulted before such instructions were issued; and
- (f) the steps being taken to ensure that all election-related electronic records are preserved and made available for independent verification and legal recourse, if required ?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (f): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that as per Section 81 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 election petition can be preferred within 45 days from the date of election of the returned candidate. Therefore, the video footages related to election processes at various stages need to be preserved till the time any election petition is filed and is pending in the High Court of competent jurisdiction. The ECI has further stated that necessary instructions were issued by the ECI, as video footage is akin to giving Form 17A (Register of Voters) live which is restricted under Rule 93(1) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 and can be given with the order of a competent court only, to prevent misuse. The ECI has also informed that the Government had amended the Rule 93(2)(a) of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961 by adding the words "as specified in these rules". The said amendment merely removes the ambiguity in providing the documents as specified in the statute. No proposal is pending with the Government to reassess the recent amendment to Rule 93 (2) (a).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2215
ANSWERED ON - 01/08/2025

FAST TRACK COURTS

J.S. (J-II) (J-II)
2215. SHRI KESINENI SIVANATH:

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

- (a) the total number of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) set up across the country under the Nirbhaya Fund, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases that have been filed and resolved through the FTSCs since their inception, State-wise;
- (c) the details regarding the average time taken by these FTSCs to dispose of the cases brought before them;
- (d) the amount of funds allocated, approved and disbursed for setting up and operationalizing these FTSCs, State-wise and year-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to strengthen infrastructure, fill vacancies and ensure the timely disposal of cases in these FTSCs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The Department of Justice has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts for expeditious disposal of rape cases and cases under POCSO Act. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, for the establishment of 790 courts, at an outlay of Rs.1952.23 cr. with Rs.1207.24 cr. as Central share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund.

As per the information received from the High Courts, 725 FTSCs, including 392 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs (as on 30.06.2025). These Courts have disposed of 3,34,213 cases since the inception of the Scheme. The State/UT-wise details of functional FTSCs, including e-POCSO Courts along with the number of cases instituted and disposed of by these Courts since their inception, are at Annexure-I.

(c): As per information received from the High Courts, the State/UT-wise details regarding average time taken by FTSCs to dispose of cases are at Annexure -II. There are several reasons that lead to

delay in disposal of cases in courts which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

(d): Under the Scheme, the funds are released on CSS pattern (Central share: State share :: 60:40, 90:10) to cover the salaries of 1 Judicial Officer along with 7 support Staff per Court and a Flexi Grant for meeting the day-to-day expenses of the Court. The Department has released a sum of Rs.1034.55 Crore to the States/UTs since inception of the Scheme. The year-wise details of budget allocated and funds released by the Central government are as under:

(Rs.in Crore)		
Financial Year	Budget Allocated	Funds released
2019-20	140.00	140.00
2020-21	160.00	160.00
2021-22	180.00	134.55*
2022-23	200.00	200.00
2023-24	200.00	200.00
2024-25	200.00	200.00
2025-26	200.00	-
TOTAL		1034.55
*Less funds were released against budget allocated in 2021-22 due to COVID lockdown and issues related to the implementation of PFMS		

The funds are reimbursed to the States/UTs on the basis of the number of functional courts in the State/UT concerned. The State/UT-wise and year-wise details of Central funds released since the inception of the scheme are at Annexure-III.

(e) and (f): The Central Government has taken several steps to support infrastructure and improve case disposal in FTSCs:

- i. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Judicial Infrastructure supplements efforts of the States in building court halls, residential units, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes, and digital computer rooms for District and Subordinate Courts including FTSCs. From 15,818 court halls and 10,211 residential units in the year 2014, the number of available court halls and residential units have increased to 2,2372 (41.43% increase) and 19,851 (94.40% increase) respectively. In addition, 3,128 court halls and 2,772 residential units are under construction.
- ii. In order to strengthen functioning of FTSCs, regular review meetings are held via Video Conferencing with the States/UTs and the High Courts. The Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice has written to Hon'ble Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts regarding need for timely action and strict compliance with timelines under the POCSSO Act and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. In addition, the performance of FTSCs is a regular agenda item in the Inter-State Zonal Council meetings to improve inter-governmental coordination and expedite justice delivery.

As regards the recruitment of judges and staff in FTSCs, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts (including FTSCs) is the responsibility of the State Governments and the concerned 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 appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO Courts along with the number of cases instituted and disposed since its inception (As on 30.06.2025)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cases Instituted since the inception of the Scheme	Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme
		FTSCs including exclusive POCSO	Exclusive POCSO		
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	13790	7487
2	Assam	17	17	15378	8943
3	Bihar	46	46	35691	17232
4	Chandigarh	1	0	588	374
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	8167	6428
6	Delhi	16	11	6278	2718
7	Goa	1	0	271	116
8	Gujarat	35	24	21931	16616
9	Haryana	18	14	12507	8087
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	2050	1407
11	J&K	4	2	808	311
12	Karnataka	30	17	19251	14031
13	Kerala	55	14	32494	26202
14	Madhya Pradesh	67	56	42826	32113
15	Maharashtra	2	1	21034	20744
16	Manipur	2	0	243	194
17	Meghalaya	5	5	1830	733
18	Mizoram	3	1	344	269
19	Nagaland	1	0	127	68
20	Odisha	44	23	29319	20254
21	Puducherry	1	1	380	162
22	Punjab	12	3	6716	5265
23	Rajasthan	45	30	24324	19432
24	Tamil Nadu	14	14	15433	10199
25	Telangana	36	0	20161	11379
26	Tripura	3	1	713	489
27	Uttarakhand	4	0	3024	1930
28	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	184159	91459
29	West Bengal	8	8	5611	457
30	Jharkhand *	0	0	13324	9114
31	A&N Islands**	0	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	725	392	538772	334213

Note: At the inception of the Scheme, the allocation of FTSCs across the country was based on a criterion of 65 to 165 pending cases per court, meaning one FTSC would be established for every 65 to 165 pending cases. Based on that, only 31 States/UTs were eligible to join the Scheme.

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSC Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025. However, the cumulative disposal of 9,114 cases since the inception of the Scheme up to May 2025 continues to be included in the overall disposal figures reported under the FTSC Scheme.

** A&N islands has consented to join the scheme, but is yet to operationalize any court.

***Arunachal Pradesh has opted out of the Scheme citing a very low number of pending cases of Rape and POC SO Act.

Statement showing the average time taken by Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for disposal of cases related to Rape and the POCSO Act

Sl. No.	State/UT	Average Time taken for Trial in FTSCs (in days)	
		RAPE	POCSO
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	257
2	Assam	-	940
3	Bihar	-	941
4	Chandigarh	760	425
5	Chhattisgarh	365	300
6	Delhi	1562	1717
7	Goa	730	365
8	Gujarat	1716	869
9	Haryana	605	545
10	Himachal Pradesh	407	462
11	Jammu & Kashmir	1095	730
12	Jharkhand	730	545
13	Karnataka	910	724
14	Kerala	999	594
15	Madhya Pradesh	365	395
16	Maharashtra	-	575
17	Manipur	1395	1305
18	Meghalaya	-	910
19	Mizoram	-	1155
20	Nagaland	-	1185
21	Odisha	439	560
22	Puducherry	-	180
23	Punjab	650	530
24	Rajasthan	1028	732
25	Tamil Nadu	-	466
26	Telangana	461	408
27	Tripura	2097	871
28	Uttarakhand	508	517
29	Uttar Pradesh	606.41	1116.27
30	West Bengal	-	910
31	A&N Islands	-	-
32	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-

**Source: As per information received from the High Courts*

Annexure-III

The State/UT-wise details of Central Share of funds released since the inception of the FTSCs Scheme
(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Amount released in 2019-20	Amount released in 2020-21	Amount released in 2021-22	Amount released in 2022-23	Amount released in 2023-24	Amount released in 2024-25
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.8	0	0	0	0	0
2	Assam	2.85625	1.86875	3.375	6.7325	5.528655	10.975085
3	Bihar	2.025	15.26255	20.25	11.895	9.874035	11.35878
4	Chandigarh	0.1875	0	0	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	3.375	3.375	4.259	3.93	3.25215	3.70395
6	Delhi	3.6	0	0	4.2225	3.46896	1.97544
7	Goa	0.225	0	0	0.47255	0.21681	0.49386
8	Gujarat	7.875	7.875	0	9.26	7.58835	8.64255
9	Haryana	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.2225	3.46896	7.90176
10	Himachal Pradesh	1.0125	1.51875	0	2.375	1.95129	2.22237
11	Jammu & Kashmir	0.5625	0	2.635	1.58	2.32086	1.48158
12	Jharkhand	4.95	4.95	0	5.825	4.76982	0
13	Karnataka	6.975	0	6.635	7.3925	7.45091	7.65483
14	Kerala	8.4	0	0	7.405	25.39836	13.58115
15	Madhya Pradesh	15.075	15.075	26.175	17.72	15.37627	16.54431
16	Maharashtra	31.05	0	0	8.72	6.59259	1.23465
17	Manipur	0.675	0.675	0.3375	0.785	0.65043	0.74079
18	Meghalaya	1.6875	0	0	1.977	1.626075	1.851975
19	Mizoram	1.0125	1.0125	2.02625	1.18	0.975645	1.111185
20	Nagaland	0.3375	0.3375	0	0.3875	0.325215	0.370395
21	Odisha	5.4	1.3	16.2	11.64	9.52128	10.86492
22	Puducherry	0	0	0.1125	0	0.195975	0.24693
23	Punjab	2.7	0	0	4.312	3.95972	5.92632
24	Rajasthan	5.85	14.4	19.745	11.895	21.1383	22.2237
25	Tamil Nadu	3.15	3.15	2.59	6.6225	6.496035	6.91404
26	Telangana	8.1	0	0	8.9875	7.60671	4.44474
27	Tripura	1.0125	1.0125	0	1.1725	0.975645	1.111185
28	Uttarakhand	2.7	0	2.092	1.53	1.30086	1.48158
29	Uttar Pradesh	13.80625	84.29375	24.525	57.68	47.26458	53.83074
30	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0.70551	1.111185
31	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	140.00	159.706	134.5573	199.92155	200.00	200.00
	Third Party Evaluation Cost		0.29		0.07788		
	GRAND TOTAL	140.00	160.00	134.55	200.00	200.00	200.00

Note: For the current FY 2025-26, an allocation of ₹200 crore has been made; however, no funds have been released so far.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2217
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01ST AUGUST, 2025**

Strengthening Arbitration and Mediation Infrastructure in India

ADR CELL (LA)
2217 ✓ Smt. Roopkumari Choudhary:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government has undertaken any comprehensive assessment or mapping of arbitration and mediation centres across the country, including their operational status, caseload capacity and regional distribution, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number and location of arbitration and mediation centres established by the Government, including those under institutions such as the India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC), SAMADHAN and other Government sponsored bodies;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to promote institutional arbitration and mediation in Tier-II and Tier-III cities under the Mediation Act, 2023 and related policy frameworks;
- (d) the total budgetary allocation and actual expenditure in the last five years for the development of arbitration and mediation infrastructure, including capacity building, panel development and technology integration; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal to establish regional or sector-specific arbitration and mediation hubs (e.g., for infrastructure, MSMEs or public procurement disputes) and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) No such assessment or mapping has been undertaken by the Central Government.
- (b) The Government of India has enacted the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, to provide for the establishment of the India International Arbitration Centre for the purpose of creating an independent, autonomous and world class body for facilitating institutional arbitration and to declare the Centre to be an institution of national importance. The Centre aims to inspire confidence amongst parties, by providing a dispute resolution

platform for resolution of commercial disputes through arbitration. The Centre is envisaged to become a model arbitral institution in the country, thereby paving the way for enhancing the quality of institutional framework for arbitration. Apart from India International Arbitration Centre, no other arbitration or mediation centre has been established by the Central Government.

(c) The Mediation Act, 2023 has been enacted with a view to promote mediation, especially institutional mediation in the country. Section 31 of the Act provides for the establishment of Mediation Council of India as a national level body *inter-alia* for promoting mediation as a preferred mode of dispute resolution and for recognising mediation service providers in the country. Further, a national level Mediation Conference was organised by Ld. Attorney General for India in association with Department of Legal Affairs and India International Arbitration Centre on 03.05.2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The aim of the conference was to promote mediation as a primary mode of dispute and conflict resolution across the country. Also, a Conference on Institutional Arbitration: An effective framework for Dispute Resolution was organised by the Government of India on 14.06.2025, with a view to promote the advantages of institutional arbitration including in Tier II and Tier III cities.

(d) In terms of Section 24 of the Indian International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, the Central Government has been regularly releasing grants to the India International Arbitration Centre. The total budgetary allocation and actual expenditure for India International Arbitration Centre is as under:

FINANCIAL YEAR	BE/RE (Amount in thousands)	EXPENDITURE (Amount in thousands)
2022-23	30000	1500
2023-24	37500	30000
2024-25	45000	37500
2025-26	35600	-

(e) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government. However, India International Arbitration Centre has framed and notified the India International Arbitration Centre (Conduct of Micro and Small Enterprises Arbitration) Regulations, 2024, for the conduct of arbitrations related to MSME's.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2249
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025

IT INFRASTRUCTURE IN COURTROOMS

2249. Shri Anto Antony:

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

- (a) the percentage of courtrooms in the Country that are currently equipped with fully functional IT infrastructure including electronic display facilities and video conferencing systems;
- (b) the total budget allocated for IT infrastructure development in courts;
- (c) the percentage of District and lower Courts that have been successfully integrated into the e-Courts project; and
- (d) the details including expenditure incurred thereon during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): As per information provided by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the details of High Court wise percentage of courtrooms presently equipped with fully functional IT infrastructure including electronic display facilities and video conferencing systems are at **Annexure I**. Under eCourts Project Phase III (2023-27), a budget of Rs.7210 crore has been earmarked for end-to-end digitization of the court infrastructure. The details of component-wise budget outlay are at **Annexure II**. As per National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal, 23007 District and Subordinate courts have been successfully integrated into the e-Courts project till date. The details of the State-wise and High Court-wise expenditure incurred over the last five years under the eCourts project are at **Annexure III**.

**Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2249 for 01/08/2025
regarding IT Infrastructure in Courtrooms**

Percentage of courtrooms presently equipped with fully functional IT infrastructure

IT Infrastructure in Courtrooms				
S. No.	High Courts	[A] Total number of Courtroom under the jurisdiction of the High Court (including High Court)	[B] Total number of Courtrooms, out of [A] that are currently equipped with fully functional IT infrastructure including electronic display facilities and Video Conferencing Systems.	[C] % of courtrooms that are currently equipped with fully functional IT infrastructure including electronic display facilities and Video Conferencing Systems.(B/A*100)
1	Allahabad	3045	2648	87%
2	Andhra Pradesh	656	Courts with IT infrastructure: 649 Courtrooms with VC facility: 461	70% (461/656*100%)
3	Bombay	2439	2383	97.70 %
4	Calcutta	911	897	98.46%
5	Chhattisgarh	530	504	95.09%
6	Delhi	794	794	100%
7 (a)	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	33	33	100%
7 (b)	Gauhati (Assam)	436	436	100%
7 (c)	Gauhati (Mizoram)	54	34	62.90%
7 (d)	Gauhati (Nagaland)	29	27	93.00%
8	Gujarat	1115	1115	100%
9	Himachal Pradesh	201	201	100%
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	257	248	96.40%
11	Jharkhand	575	512	89.04%
12	Karnataka	1307	349	26.70%

IT Infrastructure in Courtrooms				
S. No.	High Courts	[A] Total number of Courtroom under the jurisdiction of the High Court (including High Court)	[B] Total number of Courtrooms, out of [A] that are currently equipped with fully functional IT infrastructure including electronic display facilities and Video Conferencing Systems.	[C] % of courtrooms that are currently equipped with fully functional IT infrastructure including electronic display facilities and Video Conferencing Systems.(B/A*100)
13	Kerala	609	Court Rooms Equipped With VC Systems = 603 Court Rooms Equipped With Electronic Display facilities = 136	% of Court Rooms Equipped With VC Systems = 99.01 % % of Court Rooms Equipped With Electronic Display facilities = 22.33 %
14	Madhya Pradesh	1706	1706	100%
15	Madras	1405	1372	97.65%
16	Manipur	48	48	100%
17	Meghalaya	81	81	100%
18	Orissa	862	831	96.40%
19	Patna	1712 High Court: 36 District Courts: 1676	High Court with IT infrastructure: 36 District Courts with Video Conferencing Systems: 1413 District Courts with Electronic Display Boards for new Court rooms: 331	High Courts - 100% District Courts: Video Conferencing Systems- (1413/1676*100)= 84% approx. Electronic Display Board for 331 New Court rooms- (331/1676*100)= 20 % approx
20	Punjab & Haryana	1220 High Court: 49 functional courtrooms District Courts: 1171	High Court with IT infrastructure: 49 District Courts with Video Conferencing Systems: 1059 District Courts with Electronic Display Boards for new Court rooms : 1171	High Court: 100% District Courts with Video Conferencing Systems: 90.43% District Courts with Electronic Display Boards for new Court rooms : 100%
21	Rajasthan	1517	1422	93.74%
22	Sikkim	35	35	100%
23	Telangana	550	537	97.63%
24	Tripura	91	91	100%
25	Uttarakhand	291	101	35.00%

**Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2249 for 01/08/2025
regarding IT Infrastructure in Courtrooms**

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

**Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2249 for 01/08/2025
regarding IT Infrastructure in Courtrooms**

Year-wise details of expenditure incurred

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Sr. No.	High Court	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23*	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
1	Allahabad	13.79	0.00	-	95.87	51.78
2	Andhra Pradesh	1.96	0.00	-	25.44	31.74
3	Bombay	8.86	0.00	-	69.54	83.19
4	Calcutta	4.93	0.00	-	16.73	27.65
5	Chhattisgarh	2.34	0.00	-	16.27	24.17
6	Delhi	3.00	0.00	-	17.89	48.19
7 (a)	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	1.52	1.26	-	2.03	9.76
7 (b)	Gauhati (Assam)	6.11	3.49	-	24.97	33.85
7 (c)	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.72	0.30	-	3.12	6.22
7 (d)	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.83	0.84	-	1.79	3.91
8	Gujarat	3.48	0.00	-	27.72	73.21
9	Himachal Pradesh	2.00	0.00	-	6.06	6.89
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1.00	0.00	-	6.52	14.53
11	Jharkhand	2.98	0.00	-	10.59	29.22
12	Karnataka	4.29	0.00	-	32.37	67.40
13	Kerala	2.83	1.58	-	15.40	32.62
14	Madhya Pradesh	6.28	0.00	-	22.90	77.31
15	Madras	4.73	0.00	-	90.69	91.75
16	Manipur	1.30	0.76	-	11.12	7.54
17	Meghalaya	2.32	2.23	-	3.33	8.50
18	Orissa	3.37	0.00	-	6.77	53.24
19	Patna	5.44	0.00	-	32.43	89.55
20	Punjab & Haryana	4.55	0.00	-	14.58	26.01
21	Rajasthan	10.58	1.62	-	19.80	34.72
22	Sikkim	1.01	0.77	-	1.71	8.98
23	Telangana	1.79	0.00	-	22.03	28.57
24	Tripura	4.44	0.96	-	0.53	7.05
25	Uttarakhand	1.28	0.00	-	13.68	19.95
Total		107.73	13.81	-	611.88	997.49

* Funds under Phase-II were released to High Courts only till 31st March, 2022. Though the Phase-II continued till the project targets were achieved (i.e. March 2023), no budget outlay was made for F.Y. 2022-23.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2250
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025

Court Infrastructure in Ladakh

2250. Shri Mohmad Haneefa:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the lack of district court infrastructure in remote sub-divisions of Ladakh;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to upgrade legal Infrastructure in the UT of Ladakh;
- (c) whether it is a fact that more than 30 per cent of the sanctioned judicial posts are lying vacant, leading to an acute shortage of full-time judicial officers in remote areas of Ladakh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies in a time-bound manner;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to set up mobile courts or regular Lok Adalats in far-flung areas of Ladakh to ensure timely access to justice; and
- (f) whether legal aid services, women helpline desks and child welfare courts have been adequately institutionalised under the NALSA framework in Ladakh?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Judicial Infrastructure since 1993-94 to augment the resources of the States/UTs. The CSS covers construction of court halls, residential units, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

As per information provided by the Ladakh Administration, there are 10 sub-divisions in the UT of Ladakh. Court infrastructure is available in 05 sub-divisions namely Zaskar, Sankoo, Khaltsi, Nubra and Drass. A sum of Rs.8.33 Crore has been released to UT of Ladakh under the CSS during last five years. In addition, for the financial year 2025-26, a sum of Rs. 2.00 crore has been earmarked under the CSS for UTs without legislature. The sanctioned and working/posted strengths of judicial officers in Ladakh are 17 and 10 respectively. Presently 11 court halls and 04

residential units are available in Ladakh. However, 04 court halls and 02 residential units are under construction.

(c) & (d): As per the Constitutional mandate, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government / UT Administration, in consultation with their respective High Courts, frame the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of judicial officers. The Supreme Court, vide order passed in January, 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case has, inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines which are to be followed by the States/UTs and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in the district and subordinate courts.

(e) & (f): Lok Adalat is organised across the country as per the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 read with National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009 for the subject matters as prescribed under the said Act and Regulations in the Courts as defined under Section 2 (1) (aaa) of the said Act. Every year, NALSA issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats. The State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per the local conditions and needs. Four National Lok Adalats are held in one calendar year. The details of the number of cases settled by National Lok Adalat and State Lok Adalat in Ladakh during the last three years are as under:

(i) **National Lok Adalat:**

Year	Pre-litigative cases	Pending cases	Total cases
2022	416	1028	1444
2023	383	1398	1781
2024	523	1627	2150
Total	1322	4053	5375

(ii) **State Lok Adalat:**

Year	Pre-litigative cases	Pending cases	Total cases
2022-23	7	233	240
2023-24	0	0	0
2024-25	0	0	0
Total	7	233	240

The National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011 provide for eligibility criteria for free legal services in the legal services clinic, selection of lawyers for manning the clinics, functions of para-legal volunteers in the clinic, etc. In September 2023, Legal Aid Clinic in Tangtse, a remote village in Leh district was established. This clinic is part of the Ladakh Legal Services Authority (LLSA) framework and staffed with Para-Legal Volunteers

(PLVs) to provide legal support locally. The LLSA has established multiple Legal Aid Clinics across Leh and Kargil districts. The Ladakh Administration has informed that they have established Special Mobile Magistrate Courts in both the districts of Leh and Kargil for timely access to justice. In addition, NALSA introduced the National toll free legal aid helpline number 15100 on IVRS technology in August 2024, which connects Indian Citizens (including Ladakh) with legal advice and referral services. The details of persons benefited in Ladakh through Legal aid and advice under various activities/programmes undertaken by LLSA during the last three years are as under:

Year	Women	Children	Others	Total
2022-23	180	12	519	711
2023-24	105	3	397	505
2024-25	192	9	123	324
Total	477	24	1039	1540

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2267
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01st AUGUST, 2025

HAMARA SAMVIDHAN - HAMARA SWABHIMAN CAMPAIGN

2267. Shri Biplab Kumar Deb:

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

- (a) the objectives of the Hamara Samvidhan - Hamara Swabhiman campaign;
- (b) the number of events organised since the inception of the campaign, including sub-campaigns; and
- (c) the details of such campaigns organised in the State of Tripura?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) To mark the completion of 75 years of adoption of Constitution, a year-long commemoration was launched by Ministry of Culture on 26th November 2024 which is celebrated as Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas), under the campaign tagline "Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhimaan". As per the information provided by the Ministry of Culture, the objectives of the campaign include:

- i. To create a visual marker for the Constitution of India in public consciousness.
- ii. To increase awareness about the details of the Constitution of India.
- iii. To bring to public domain tremendous hard work that has gone into the making of the Constitution.
- iv. To imbue a sense of pride about the Constitution in the people of India.

(b) More than 13700 events have been organised across India with a total participation of more than 1 crore citizens.

(c) 51 events have so far been organised in Tripura with more than 5000 participants.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2273
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025

TECHNOLOGY AND CASE BACKLOG

2273. Adv. Chandra Shekhar:

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

- (a) the progress made in implementing uniform case categorization across High Courts since the National Conference held in February 2025; and
- (b) the number of pending cases that have been resolved through technological interventions like the National Judicial Data Grid and e-Courts out of the total 4.5 crore cases pending as of December 2024?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) As per information provided by the Supreme Court of India, case categorization has been implemented in the Supreme Court of India. During the National Conference on Addressing Issues faced by the State Judiciary held on 01st Feb, 2025, it was suggested that the model prepared by the Case Categorization Advisory Committee of the Supreme Court can be replicated by High Courts. However, information in regard to implementation of case categorization by High Courts is not maintained by the Supreme Court of India.

(b) Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges/ judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence and co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants. Introduction of Information and Communication Technology, along with other initiatives, facilitates reduction in the pendency of cases.

As per information provided by the Supreme Court of India, technological interventions, including use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning based tools, have resulted in enhanced efficiency and access to justice. Till date, more than 2.73 crore cases have been heard in the District and Subordinate Courts through Video Conferencing (VC) facility. For providing

citizen centric services to the stakeholders, about 1773 eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) are operational in the District and Subordinate Courts. Approximately 308 crore pages have been digitized in the District Courts till 30.06.2025. The e-filing rules have been rolled out in all the District Courts across the country except in the case of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. The lawyers/litigants across the country have online access to information related to case status, cause lists, judgements etc in multiple languages. The e-Courts Mobile App for lawyers/litigants and the JustIS app for judges have witnessed more than 3.16 crore and 21716 downloads respectively. Information about cases, judgments/orders etc of courts across the country is available online on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). Age-wise pendency details of the cases and their categorization on the NJDG portal help in analysing the reasons for delay. The NJDG through its timely inputs facilitates policy decisions, monitoring of court performance, identification of systemic bottlenecks and effective resource management.

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 287
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025**

TELE-LAW 2.0 SERVICES AND NOTARY PORTAL MODERNISATION

J.S(NKw) A2J
✓ *287. Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai:

Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap:

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

- (a) whether the new Notary Portal enables paperless applications and digital certificate downloads, if so, the details and key objectives of the new portal;
- (b) the total number of notaries onboarded through the new online system till date and the number of citizens who have benefitted from the Tele-Law 2.0 services since its launch under Nyaya Bandhu;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to integrate AI-based support tools in legal aid services, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of Pro Bono lawyers registered and the nature of cases handled through the Nyaya Bandhu platform;
- (e) the challenges encountered in scaling Tele-Law 2.0-particularly in remote and tribal areas along with the measures adopted to overcome them indicating the budget allotted and utilised thereunder till date; and
- (f) the training and quality-assurance frameworks established for Para-Legal Volunteers and lawyers engaged through the platform?

ANSWER

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

(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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*287 FOR ANSWER ON 08.08.2025 REGARDING 'TELE-LAW 2.0 SERVICES AND NOTARY PORTAL MODERNISATION'

(a): The Government has launched the Notary Portal as a dedicated platform for providing online services for the works related to the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. It is intended to provide an online interface between the Notaries and the Government for various services like verification of eligibility for appointment as Notaries and issuance of digitally signed Certificate of Practice as a Notary. The Notary Portal provides a faceless, paperless, transparent and efficient system. Presently, only the module related to verification of documents and eligibility and issuance of digitally signed Certificate of Practice to the newly appointed Notaries is live. The objective of creating the Notary Portal is in line with the Government policy of digitization of functioning of the Government.

(b) As on 28.07.2025, 34865 digitally signed Certificates of Practice have been issued by the Central Government through the Notary Portal to the newly appointed Notaries of various States and Union Territories. As on 31st July 2025, a total of 14,557 citizens has benefitted from the Tele-Law 2.0 services since its launch under Nyaya Bandhu.

(c) The Department of Justice has developed a model Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Chatbot named Nyaya Setu which is a Virtual Legal Assistant for user, disseminating legal information and pre-litigation services. In order to enhance the accessibility and efficiency, it is envisaged to upscale this facility at all India level.

(d) Till 31st July, 2025, the number of pro bono lawyers registered on Nyaya Bandhu App are 9381 and the nature of cases handled include, but not limited, to civil and criminal laws, including Women and Child safety, Family and

Matrimonial disputes, Domestic Violence, Property Disputes, Workplace Harassment, etc.

(e) Scaling of Tele-Law 2.0 in remote and tribal regions has posed several challenges, including low digital literacy, poor internet connectivity, linguistic diversity, socio-cultural barriers, and limited availability of trained legal professionals in inaccessible areas. To overcome these challenges, Nyaya Sahayaks have been deployed in 500 Aspirational Blocks who are mandated to assist the beneficiaries in remote areas in getting pre-litigation advices and making them aware about their legal rights. Under the DISHA scheme, the total budget allotted for the Tele-Law program, for the period from F.Y. 2023-2024 to F.Y. 2024-2025, is ₹80.82 crore out of which ₹62.21 crore has been utilized as on 31.03.2025.

(f) The Tele-Law program engages services of Nyaya Sahayaks and Panel Lawyers to render free pre-litigation advice to the beneficiary under the program. Both, Nyaya Sahayaks and Panel Lawyers, undergo regular training and orientation once they are onboarded. The training of the Panel Lawyers ensures that they are equipped to provide quality pre-litigation services, well conversant in regional languages, and in central, state and local laws, rules and regulations. Regular capacity-building programs are conducted in both online and offline modes, covering technical, procedural, and legal aspects.

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 291
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08th AUGUST, 2025**

Strengthening Cyber-crime Laws

Publication Section (LD)
***291. Shri G Kumar Naik:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that, as per report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2023, over 52,000 cases of cybercrimes were registered across the Country, with significant rise in cyber fraud cases, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the current legal framework addressing cybercrimes in the country and whether the Government plans to introduce amendments or new legislation to address emerging threats such as phishing, ransomware and cryptocurrency-related frauds;
- (c) whether the Government has received proposals from States/UTs for establishment of specialized cybercrime courts and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;
- (d) the number of cybercrime cases pending in courts as of January 2025 and measures being undertaken to expedite their resolution; and
- (e) the steps being taken to strengthen collaboration between the judiciary, enforcement agencies and cybersecurity experts to improve prosecution of cybercrime cases?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 291 FOR ANSWER ON 08/08/2025
REGARDING 'STRENGTHENING CYBER-CRIME LAWS'**

(a) As per the latest available data in the Report "Crime in India 2022" published by the NCRB, a total 65,893 cases were registered under Cyber Crimes in 2022 and the Table 9A- 1 gives the State/UT wise Data of Cyber Crimes 2020-2022 (Annexure. I).

(b) The Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000) along with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (46 of 2023) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 (47 of 2023) provides a robust legal framework to address the cybercrime laws in the country, for the present.

(c) No.

(d) No separate data is being maintained regarding the cybercrime cases pending in the courts. However, courts generally are taking all the steps at their end for early conclusion of the proceedings.

(e) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The States/UTs are primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes including cybercrime through their Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). The Central Government supplements the initiatives of the States/UTs through advisories and financial assistance under various schemes for capacity building of their LEAs.

To strengthen the mechanism to deal with cyber crimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, the Central Government has taken steps which, *inter alia*, include the following: –

(i) The Ministry of Home Affairs has set up the 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre' (I4C) as an attached office to deal with all types of cybercrimes in the country, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

(ii) The 'National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal' (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>) has been launched, as a part of the I4C, to enable public to report incidents pertaining to all types of cyber crimes, with special focus on cyber crimes against women and children. Cyber crime incidents reported on this portal, their conversion into FIRs and subsequent action thereon are handled by the State/UT Law Enforcement Agencies concerned as per the provisions of the law.

(iii) The 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System'(CFCFRMS), under I4C, has been launched in year 2021 for immediate reporting of financial frauds and to stop siphoning off funds by the fraudsters. As per CFCFRMS operated by I4C, financial amount of more than Rs. 5,489 crore has been saved in more than 17.82 lakh complaints so far. A toll-free Helpline number '1930' has been operationalised to get assistance in lodging online cyber complaints.

(iv) A State of the Art, Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC) has been established at I4C where representatives of major banks, Financial Intermediaries, Payment Aggregators, Telecom Service Providers, IT Intermediaries and representatives of States/UTs Law Enforcement Agency are working together for immediate action and seamless cooperation to tackle cybercrime.

(v) So far, more than 9.42 lakhs SIM cards and 2,63,348 IMEIs as reported by Police authorities have been blocked by the Government of India.

(vi) The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided financial assistance under the 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)' Scheme, to the States/UTs for their capacity building such as setting up of

cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories, hiring of junior cyber consultants and training of LEAs personnel, public prosecutors and judicial officers. Cyber Forensic-cum-Training Laboratories have been commissioned in 33 States/UTs namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Punjab, Tripura, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Manipur, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Delhi. In Tamil Nadu the laboratory is functional partially.

(vii) The state of the art 'National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (Investigation)' has been established, as a part of the I4C, at New Delhi to provide early stage cyber forensic assistance to Investigating Officers (IOs) of State/UT Police. So far, National Cyber Forensics Laboratory (Investigation) has provided its services to State/UT LEAs in around 12,460 cases pertaining to cyber crimes.

(viii) The I4C, MHA is regularly organising 'State Connect', 'Thana Connect' and Peer learning session to share best practices, enhance capacity building, etc.

(ix) The Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform, namely 'CyTrain' portal has been developed under I4C, for capacity building of police officers/judicial officers through online course on critical aspects of cyber crime investigation, forensics, prosecution etc. More than 1,05,796 Police Officers from States/UTs are registered and more than 82,704 Certificates issued through the portal.

(x) *Samanvaya* Platform has been made operational to serve as an Management Information System (MIS) platform, data repository and a coordination platform for LEAs for cybercrime data sharing and analytics.

It provides analytics-based interstate linkages of crimes and criminals, involved in cybercrime complaints in various States/UTs. The module '*Pratibimb*' map's locations of criminals and crime infrastructure on a map to give visibility to jurisdictional officers. The module also facilitates seeking and receiving of techno-legal assistance by LEAs from I4C and other Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). It has led to arrest of 12,987 accused, 1,51,984 linkages and 70,584 Cyber Investigation assistance request so far.

TABLE 9A.1

Cyber Crimes (State/UT-wise) - 2020-2022

SL	State/UT	2020	2021	2022	Mid-Year Projected Population (in Lakhs)	Rate of Total Cyber Crimes (2022)	Chargesheeting Rate (2022)
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
STATES:							
1	Andhra Pradesh	1899	1875	2341	530.3	4.4	16.8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	30	47	14	15.5	0.9	50.0
3	Assam	3530	4846	1733	354.9	4.9	14.0
4	Bihar	1512	1413	1621	1255.3	1.3	69.3
5	Chhattisgarh	297	352	439	299.5	1.5	78.8
6	Goa	40	36	90	15.7	5.7	37.5
7	Gujarat	1283	1536	1417	709.3	2.0	62.9
8	Haryana	656	622	681	299.7	2.3	58.0
9	Himachal Pradesh	98	70	77	74.4	1.0	62.3
10	Jharkhand	1204	953	967	391.4	2.5	63.6
11	Karnataka	10741	8136	12556	674.1	18.6	21.1
12	Kerala	426	626	773	356.8	2.2	58.4
13	Madhya Pradesh	699	589	826	858.9	1.0	85.2
14	Maharashtra	5496	5562	8249	1257.4	6.6	30.5
15	Manipur	79	67	18	32.0	0.6	0.0
16	Meghalaya	142	107	75	33.3	2.3	6.1
17	Mizoram	13	30	1	12.3	0.1	0.0
18	Nagaland	8	8	4	22.2	0.2	10.0
19	Odisha	1931	2037	1983	460.8	4.3	11.4
20	Punjab	378	551	697	306.0	2.3	58.8
21	Rajasthan	1354	1504	1833	804.4	2.3	40.5
22	Sikkim	0	0	26	6.8	3.8	-
23	Tamil Nadu	782	1076	2082	767.1	2.7	69.8
24	Telangana	5024	10303	15297	379.5	40.3	17.1
25	Tripura	34	24	30	41.2	0.7	22.5
26	Uttar Pradesh	11097	8829	10117	2340.9	4.3	45.3
27	Uttarakhand	243	718	559	115.6	4.8	24.3
28	West Bengal	712	513	401	987.6	0.4	73.0
TOTAL STATE(S)		49708	52430	64907	13403.0	4.8	29.3
UNION TERRITORIES:							
29	A&N Islands	5	8	28	4.0	7.0	63.6
30	Chandigarh	17	15	27	12.2	2.2	42.1
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	3	5	5	12.0	0.4	71.4
32	Delhi	168	356	685	211.0	3.2	89.3
33	Jammu & Kashmir	120	154	173	135.4	1.3	43.1
34	Ladakh	1	5	3	3.0	1.0	0.0
35	Lakshadweep	3	1	1	0.7	1.4	0.0
36	Puducherry	10	0	64	16.2	3.9	72.7
TOTAL UT(S)		327	544	986	394.5	2.5	70.0
TOTAL ALL INDIA		50035	52974	65893	13797.5	4.8	29.6

* Crime Rate is calculated as Crime per one lakh of population.

TABLE 9A.1 Page 1 of 1

- Population Source: Report of Technical group on Population Projections (July, 2020) National Commission on Population, MoHFW
- As per data provided by States/UTs
- States/UTs may not be compared purely on the basis of crime figures # Clarifications are pending from Nagaland

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3231
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025

SCHEME OF FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS

3231 (J-II)

3231. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:

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

- (a) the number of Fast Track Special Courts established since the Scheme's inception, and their impact on the disposal rates of rape and POCSO cases compared to regular courts; and
- (b) the funding mechanisms that support the establishment and operation of these courts, and the manner in which the Nirbhaya Fund has been utilised in this context?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts came to be introduced in October, 2019, following the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court [Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019]. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, for establishment of 790 courts. The financial outlay under the scheme is ₹ 1952.23 crore with ₹ 1207.24 crore as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund on the CSS pattern.

As of 30.06.2025, 725 FTSCs, including 392 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs, which have disposed of 3,34,213 cases since the inception of the Scheme. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) along with the number of cases disposed since the inception of the Scheme are at **Annexure-I**.

As per the inputs received from the High Courts, the disposal rate of Rape and POCSO Act cases in Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) appears to be significantly higher than in regular courts. While the average disposal rate of Rape and POCSO Act cases in regular courts is estimated at 3.26 cases per court per month, FTSCs achieve an average of 9.51 cases per court per month. This suggests an enhanced efficiency in case disposal through FTSCs.

(b): Following the Nirbhaya case of 16th December, 2012, the Government has set up a dedicated fund – Nirbhaya Fund – which can be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (M/o WCD) is the nodal Ministry to appraise/recommend proposals and Schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund. M/o WCD further has the responsibility to review and monitor the progress of sanctioned schemes in conjunction with the Line Ministries/Departments.

The FTSCs have been set up and operationalized under the Nirbhaya Fund. The Department has released a sum of ₹ 1034.55 Crore to the States/UTs since its inception to ensure the smooth functioning of the courts. The funds are released on CSS Pattern (Central share: State share :: 60:40, 90:10) to cover the salaries of one Judicial Officer along with 7 support Staff and a Flexi Grant for meeting the day-to-day expenses. The funds are released to the States/UTs on a reimbursement basis, determined by the number of functional Courts in the State/UT concerned. The State/UT-wise details of Central Share of funds released, since the inception of the Scheme are at **Annexure-II**.

**State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO)
Courts along with the cumulative disposal since the inception of the Scheme (as on 30.06.2025)**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme		
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	FTSCs	ePOCSO	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	0	7487	7487
2	Assam	17	17	0	8943	8943
3	Bihar	46	46	0	17232	17232
4	Chandigarh	1	0	374	0	374
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	1289	5139	6428
6	Delhi	16	11	760	1958	2718
7	Goa	1	0	82	34	116
8	Gujarat	35	24	3389	13227	16616
9	Haryana	18	14	2018	6069	8087
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	600	807	1407
11	J&K	4	2	144	167	311
12	Karnataka	30	17	5377	8654	14031
13	Kerala	55	14	18256	7946	26202
14	Madhya Pradesh	67	56	4920	27193	32113
15	Maharashtra	2	1	8727	12017	20744
16	Manipur	2	0	194	0	194
17	Meghalaya	5	5	0	733	733
18	Mizoram	3	1	199	70	269
19	Nagaland	1	0	65	3	68
20	Odisha	44	23	7218	13036	20254
21	Puducherry	1	1	0	162	162
22	Punjab	12	3	2785	2480	5265
23	Rajasthan	45	30	5830	13602	19432
24	Tamil Nadu	14	14	0	10199	10199
25	Telangana	36	0	8648	2731	11379
26	Tripura	3	1	252	237	489
27	Uttarakhand	4	0	1930	0	1930
28	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	43558	47901	91459
29	West Bengal	8	8	0	457	457
30	Jharkhand *	0	0	2777	6337	9114
31	A&N Islands**	0	0	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	725	392	119392	214821	334213

Note: At the inception of the Scheme, the allocation of FTSCs across the country was based on a criterion of 65 to 165 pending cases per court, meaning one FTSC would be established for every 65 to 165 pending cases. Based on that, only 31 States/UTs were eligible to join the Scheme.

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSC Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025. However, the cumulative disposal of 9,114 cases since the inception of the Scheme up to May 2025 continues to be included in the overall disposal figures reported under the FTSC Scheme.

**A&N islands has consented to join the Scheme, but is yet to operationalize any court.

***Arunachal Pradesh has opted out of the Scheme citing a very low number of pending cases of Rape and POC SO Act.

Annexure -II

State/UT-wise details of central share of funds released since the inception of the Scheme till 31.07.2025

Sl. No.	States/ UTs	Central Share of Funds Released (Rs. in crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.80
2.	Assam	31.34
3.	Bihar	70.67
4.	Chandigarh	0.19
5.	Chhattisgarh	21.90
6.	Delhi	13.27
7.	Goa	1.41
8.	Gujarat	41.24
9.	Haryana	26.39
10.	Himachal Pradesh	9.08
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.58
12.	Jharkhand*	20.49
13.	Karnataka	36.11
14.	Kerala	54.78
15.	Madhya Pradesh	105.97
16.	Maharashtra	47.60
17.	Manipur	3.86
18.	Meghalaya	7.14
19.	Mizoram	7.32
20.	Nagaland	1.76
21.	Odisha	54.93
22.	Puducherry	0.56
23.	Punjab	16.90
24.	Rajasthan	95.25
25.	Tamil Nadu	28.92
26.	Telangana	29.14
27.	Tripura	5.28
28.	Uttar Pradesh	281.40
29.	Uttarakhand	9.10
30.	West Bengal	1.82
31.	A&N Islands**	-
32.	Arunachal Pradesh***	-
	Total Amount released to States/ UTs	1034.19
	Third Party Evaluation Cost	0.37
	GRAND TOTAL	1034.56

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSC Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025.

**A&N islands has consented to join the Scheme, but is yet to operationalize any court.

***Arunachal Pradesh has opted out of the Scheme citing a very low number of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3260
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025

Cultivation of Duty-Centred Values

D/o Legal Affairs.
†3260. Dr. Anand Kumar:

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

- (a) whether practical implementation of the Fundamental Duties is essential for strengthening democracy, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the recently launched national initiative called 'Kartavyam' by Delhi University in collaboration and participation of other Law Universities which seeks to make the duty-centric approach and duty jurisprudence a part of the national legislative discourse, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether adopting a duty-centred approach will contribute to positive civic discipline, social harmony, ideological balance and the long-term strengthening of democracy; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government is contemplating upon any policy/legal framework to give equal constitutional priority to fundamental duties as compared to fundamental rights so as to develop duty jurisprudence in the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The implementation of Fundamental duties under article 51A of the Indian Constitution is a vital step toward fostering responsible citizenship within a constitutional democracy. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has emphasized that fulfilling these Fundamental duties is essential for national progress, referring to the present era as '*Kartavya Kaal*'. These duties serve as moral obligations that complement legal rights, helping to balance individual liberty with collective responsibility in a democratic society.

They reflect a constitutional philosophy wherein citizens, endowed with Fundamental Rights (Part III), are also expected to fulfil their Fundamental duties (Part IV-A) for the greater good of the nation. Initiatives such as the Citizen's Duties Awareness Programme (2020), integration of duties into educational curricula, and outreach efforts through Constitution Day observances and media broadcasts among other legal, educational, and public initiatives have been undertaken to promote awareness of Fundamental duties. These efforts recognise that democracy can only truly thrive when citizens uphold both their rights and responsibilities.

(b): The Government is aware of the recently launched initiative titled "Kartavyam" by the Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi. This national initiative, undertaken in collaboration with 21 universities and institutions, aims to promote a duty-centric approach and develop duty jurisprudence within the framework of constitutional and legislative discourse.

In celebration of 75 glorious years of the Constitution of India, the Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi, inaugurated the Kartavyam Lecture Series on April 22. Rooted in the concept of constitutional duty, the series aspires to inspire a profound shift in public consciousness- transitioning from a rights-centric discourse to one that equally honours responsibilities. It represents a meaningful step toward fostering civic awareness and cultivating a culture of accountable citizenship.

"Kartavyam" is not just a lecture series- it is an unprecedented platform where courtroom legends, eminent jurists, and leading legal minds converge to explore and redefine constitutional thought. Seize this opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions, gain invaluable insights, and be part of a transformative dialogue on law, governance, and justice.

(c): The Government is of the view that adopting a duty-centred approach, in line with the Fundamental Duties enshrined under Article 51A of the Constitution, can significantly contribute to fostering civic discipline, promoting social harmony, ensuring ideological balance, and strengthening democratic values in the long term.

Fundamental Duties serve as moral and civic responsibilities for every citizen. A culture that emphasizes these duties alongside fundamental rights encourages law-abiding behaviour, mutual respect among communities, and greater participation in democratic processes. Such an approach complements the rights-based framework of the Constitution by promoting a balanced and responsible citizenship. The Government promotes awareness and understanding of these duties through school curricula, public campaigns, and academic collaborations.

(d): Fundamental duties, included in Part IV-A of the Constitution through article 51A, are moral obligations rather than legally enforceable mandates. Unlike Fundamental Rights, which are justiciable and enforceable through courts, Fundamental duties remain non-justiciable. However, several key legislations in India have been enacted to give legal effect to the values embedded in these duties.

In addition to statutory provisions, many Fundamental duties have been reinforced through judicial interpretation rather than explicit laws, for example, the *M.C. Mehta* series of cases, where the courts interpreted article 51A(g) (mandating duty to protect the environment) as binding on state actions. Over the decades, India has introduced so many laws aimed at protecting national honour, preserving the environment, safeguarding cultural heritage, promoting gender dignity, advancing education, and protecting public property. Such as: -

- (a) The Environment Protection Act 1986 and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- (b) The Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984, The Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Section 325 to 327).
- (c) Right to Education Act, 2009.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3272
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025

FUNCTIONING OF MP/MLA COURTS

3272. SHRI KRISHNA PRASAD TENNETI:

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

- (a) the details of MP/MLA courts across the country presently functioning, under construction and proposed, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the details of cases filed, pending and disposed in MP/MLA courts across the country over the last five years, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the details of vacancies in MP/MLA Courts across the country during the said period, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) the total amount of funding allocated, released and utilised for MP/MLA courts established across the country during the said period, State wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken any steps to increase the speed of case resolution in MP/MLA courts, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated November 1, 2017 and December 14, 2017 in *Writ Petition (Civil) No. 699/2016 (Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay vs Union of India & Anr.)*, the Union Government facilitated the establishment of 12 Special Courts in 11 States (2 in NCT of Delhi and one each in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal) for expeditious trial and disposal of criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs. After discontinuation of the Special Courts of Bihar and Kerala as per the Apex Court's direction dated 04.12.2018, ten (10) such Special Courts were functional in 9 States (As of 30.06.2025). The State/UT-wise details of these 10 special MP/MLA Courts, along with information on cases filed, disposed and pending, are at **Annexure-I**. In addition to these Special MP/MLA Courts, the States are also running additional MP/MLA Courts. As per information received from the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, one (01) Special Court has been established at Vijayawada for trial of criminal cases relating to MPs and MLAs in the State of Andhra Pradesh, having jurisdiction over the entire State. The details of cases instituted, disposed of and pending in the said MP/MLA court in Andhra Pradesh, over the last five years are as follows:

Year	Cases Instituted	Disposed	Pending at the end
2020	30	6	126
2021	27	16	137
2022	23	76	84
2023	38	46	76
2024	8	58	26
2025 (as on 31.07.2025)	2	9	19

(c): The filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts (including MP/MLA Courts) is the responsibility of the State/UT Government and the concerned 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 appointment and recruitment of judicial officers. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

(d): The Central Government funds the 10 MP/MLA Courts established and functioning as per the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court to the extent of Rs.65.00 lakh per court per annum, released on request by the State/UT Government. The State/UT-wise details of funds released for the MP/MLA Courts till date are at **Annexure-II**.

(e): The disposal of pending cases in time bound manner is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem for expeditious disposal of cases. To this end, the Government set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 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 improved infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

The e-Courts project is being implemented as integrated Mission Mode Project for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary as part of the National e-Governance Plan. Under Phase-III of the e-Courts Project (for the period from 2023 to 2027), several steps have been taken to improve the court management processes and digitize the services for the various stakeholders including lawyers, litigants and judges.

State/UT-wise details of the special MP/MLA Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Functional Courts as of 30.06.2025	Cases Registered from 2020 to 30.06.2025	Cases Disposed from 2020 to 30.06.2025	Pendency as on 30.06.2025
1	Andhra Pradesh*	1	128	211	19
2	Delhi	2	401	404	38
3	Karnataka	1	720	658	91
4	Madhya Pradesh	1	427	733	5
5	Maharashtra	1	680	743	11
6	Tamil Nadu	1	223	361	18
7	Telangana	1	365	439	197
8	Uttar Pradesh	1	2077	1934	7
9	West Bengal	1	136	280	9
	TOTAL	10	5157	5763	395

*Data as on 31.07.2025

Source: As provided by the respective High Courts on the Department of Justice Dashboard.

State/UT-wise details of funds released for the special MP/MLA Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Total Fund Released (Rs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,30,00,000
2	Delhi	2,60,00,000
3	Karnataka	3,90,00,000
4	Madhya Pradesh	2,60,00,000
5	Maharashtra	2,58,00,000
6	Tamil Nadu	2,60,00,000
7	Telangana	1,30,00,000
8	Uttar Pradesh	1,30,00,000
9	West Bengal	1,30,00,000
10	Bihar*	65,00,000
11	Kerala*	65,00,000
	TOTAL	20,78,00,000
* Special courts of Bihar and Kerala were discontinued as per the Apex Court's direction dated 04.12.2018		

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3282

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08th AUGUST, 2025

AI IN LEGAL SYSTEM

J. S. Le courtz
†3282. Shri Ramvir Singh Bidhuri:

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

- (a) whether any specific policies or guidelines are being prepared for the use of ethical AI in the legal system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which AI is being used to reduce the pendency of cases and improve efficiency of courts in India; and
- (d) the biggest challenges being faced in implementing AI in India's legal system and the strategy being adopted by the Government to address them?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): As per the information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, use of Artificial intelligence (AI) is strictly within the confines of the areas outlined in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of e-Courts Project Phase III. A Sub-Committee consisting of six judges of the various High Courts, assisted by the technical working group of domain experts has been constituted by the Chairperson of the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India to suggest/recommend secure connectivity and authentication mechanisms for data protection in order 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 eCourts project for giving solutions to strengthen data security and protect the privacy of citizens.

As per the information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) based tools are being deployed in case management. These tools are being used in transcribing oral arguments in Constitutional

Bench matters. The AI assisted transcribed arguments can be accessed on the website of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of India is also using AI and ML based tools in close coordination with National Informatics Centre (NIC), in translation of judgments from English language to 18 Indian languages viz., Assamese, Bengali, Garo, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Khasi, Konkani, Malayali, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Santali, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. The judgments can be accessed through the eSCR portal of the Supreme Court of India.

The Supreme Court of India, in close coordination with IIT Madras, has developed and deployed AI and ML based tools integrated with the electronic filing software for identification of defects. The access of the proto-type has been granted to 200 Advocates-on-Record. Further, the Supreme Court of India is testing the prototypes of AI and ML tools, for curing defects, meta data extraction in collaboration with IIT Madras. This AI and ML based tool is envisaged to be integrated with the electronic filing module and the case management software, namely Integrated Case Management & Information System (ICMIS).

An AI based tool, Supreme Court Portal Assistance in Court Efficiency (SUPACE), aimed at developing a module to understand the factual matrix of cases with an intelligent search of the precedents apart from identifying the cases, is in experimental stage of development. The SUPACE may be deployed after procurement and deployment of graphic processing unit(s) and other latest technology-based units such as Tensor Processing Unit. However, no AI and ML based tool is being used by the Supreme Court of India in decision making process.

As per information provided by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the challenges in integrating AI into Judicial processes, including case management, legal research and translation services include potential biases in AI algorithms, language barriers, translation accuracy, concerns on data privacy and security. Efforts are being made for continuous upgrades in technology, skill upgradation and process re-engineering. Under eCourts Phase III, a sum of Rs. 208.52 crore has been earmarked for capacity building of stakeholders in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) including AI. Additionally, an amount of Rs. 53.57 crore has been earmarked for funding such future technologies and their adoption in streamlining the judicial processes.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3289
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025**

Shifting of Nainital High Court

J.S. (Appellate)
3289. Shri Jai Prakash:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has notified shifting of Uttarakhand High Court from Nainital to a suitable place preferably at Haldwani;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of predicament over shifting of the High Court;
- (d) whether the State Government, in consultation with the High Court, has earmarked adequate land at the said place; and
- (e) if so, the time by which the High Court is likely to be shifted?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (e): Section 26(2) of The Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 states that “The principal seat of the High Court of Uttaranchal shall be at such place as the President may, by notified order, appoint.” Accordingly, the Principal Seat of Uttarakhand High Court was constituted on 09.11.2000 at Nainital. Further notification of shifting of the High Court is done by the Government after receipt of a proposal from the State Government confirming availability of required infrastructure for the functioning of the High Court and concurrence of the High Court alongwith the probable date from which the Principal Seat of the High Court will start functioning. At present no proposal fulfilling the above prerequisites is pending with the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3296

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025

ACCESS TO LEGAL AID AND DIGITAL JUSTICE DELIVERY

J.S. (N.K.W.)
✓ 3296. SHRI P C MOHAN:

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries who have availed free legal aid under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during the last three years, State-wise including Karnataka;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to strengthen digital infrastructure for court proceedings and legal aid delivery in district and taluk-level courts, particularly in Bengaluru and other urban centres; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the budgetary allocation made in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987, which aims to ensure that the opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. In addition, NALSA has also formulated various schemes for the implementation of preventive and strategic legal service programmes, which are implemented by the Legal Services Authorities at various levels i.e. State, District and Taluka level. The State/UT-wise (including Karnataka) details of beneficiaries under various activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities during the last three years are at **Annexure - A**.

(b) and (c): Several steps have been taken under the eCourts Project, to improve the court management processes and digitize the services for the various stakeholders, such as, lawyers, litigants, judges and others, which are as under:

- i. Under the digital case management system, eFiling system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24x7.
- ii. ePayment system has been launched for hassle free transfer of fee, etc.
- iii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons.
- iv. A Judgment Search portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/Respondent Name, etc. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.
- v. To facilitate easy and hassle-free access to citizen-centric services, 1814 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) have been established across India.
- vi. 29 Virtual Courts are functioning across 21 States/UTs for trying traffic related offences.
- vii. Several eCourts services, are available on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/ litigants including SMS Push and Pull, email, multilingual eCourts services Portal, Info Kiosks, eCourts Mobile App for lawyers/litigants (3.16 crore downloads till date) and JustIS App for judges (21,716 downloads till date).
- viii. To bring in greater objectivity, consistency, transparency and speed, Case Information System (CIS) version 4.0 software has been implemented across the district and taluka courts across the country.

In Karnataka, adequate IT infrastructure including computers, printers, scanners, and related hardware have been provided. Kiosks are installed at the court complex level, and eSewa Kendras are established in each court complex to serve as help desks equipped with video conferencing facilities. All courts are equipped with video conferencing under the eCourts project, with additional financial support from the Government of Karnataka. The State Government has also allocated supplementary funds for setting up eSewa Kendras.

Under Phase – III of eCourts Project, the budgetary allocation made for the Karnataka High Court is as under:

Financial Year	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
2023-24	35.86
2024-25	67.65
2025-26	48.06
Total	151.57

To strengthen legal aid delivery at the district and taluk (sub-district) levels in India, the following steps have been taken:

- i. NALSA has created a web portal to file an application for getting legal assistance and track its progress.
- ii. NALSA has launched a Legal Services Mobile App for Android and IOS version which facilitate seeking legal assistance, legal advice, tracking of application, applying for victim compensation, etc.
- iii. Legal Services Authorities are also providing legal advice through NALSA's National Toll-Free Helpline Number 15100 through IVRS Technology.

The Government of India is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely; Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme through NALSA since 2023-24, which aims to provide legal aid with regard to criminal cases to the beneficiaries eligible for legal aid under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987. The following steps have been taken by Karnataka SLSA to strengthen digital infrastructure for legal aid delivery in district and taluk-level courts including Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural and Mysuru which utilized Rs. 15 lakh for both digital and other infrastructure of the office of LADCS:

- i. Wi-Fi facilities provided in LADCS Office for the LADC Counsels to access digital e-General like SCR.
- ii. LADC Counsels are provided computer, monitors and printers for their day-to-day work.
- iii. LADC counsels can appear through Video Conference in the court proceedings.

Annexure-A

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3296 for answer on 08.08.2025 regarding 'Access to Legal Aid and Digital Justice Delivery'

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	134	220	341
2	Andhra Pradesh	9,473	8,265	11,266
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5,559	5,696	9,236
4	Assam	38,335	63,749	82,694
5	Bihar	2,09,809	1,51,413	84,505
6	Chandigarh	2,653	2,822	2,951
7	Chhattisgarh	44,106	62,164	80,874
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	28	55	45
	Daman and Diu	24	34	119
9	Delhi	96,433	1,21,882	76,526
10	Goa	2,041	1,558	1,889
11	Gujarat	32,422	40,569	50,467
12	Haryana	43,098	76,863	82,194
13	Himachal Pradesh	5,998	7,346	6,222
14	Jammu and Kashmir	7,992	11,396	18,602
15	Jharkhand	1,45,217	2,69,303	3,28,365
16	Karnataka	45,663	53,406	51,245
17	Kerala	23,418	36,498	26,571
18	Ladakh	711	505	324
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,91,921	2,25,510	2,33,009
21	Maharashtra	36,663	53,756	59,454
22	Manipur	26,929	62,635	99,062
23	Meghalaya	2,769	2,371	2,754
24	Mizoram	5,038	4,801	3,713
25	Nagaland	7,390	4,603	5,012
26	Odisha	11,880	19,289	22,134
27	Puducherry	788	621	616
28	Punjab	56,448	60,361	65,513
29	Rajasthan	13,472	20,290	22,216
30	Sikkim	1,127	1,074	901
31	Tamil Nadu	49,570	45,180	52,528
32	Telangana	12,615	13,193	16,021
33	Tripura	5,055	9,964	10,303
34	Uttar Pradesh	24,890	29,079	22,732
35	Uttarakhand	5,386	21,339	34,208
36	West Bengal	49,714	62,354	92,914
Total		12,14,769	15,50,164	16,57,527

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3297
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08th AUGUST, 2025

Gram Nyayalayas in Dadra and Nagar Haveli

†3297. Smt. Delkar Kalaben Mohanbhai:

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

- (a) the number of Gram Nyayalayas which have been notified and established in various States and the number amongst said Nyayalayas which are presently functional along with location-wise details thereof;
- (b) the total number of cases filed and presently pending in each functional Gram Nyayalayas of the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the disposal of pending cases in the Gram Nyayalayas;
- (d) whether there is any plan to establish additional Gram Nyayalayas at other places in the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli; and
- (e) if so, the details of the proposed locations and the time limit for their establishment?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The State/UT-wise and location-wise details of notified, established and functional Gram Nyayalayas are at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively.

(b) to (e): No Gram Nyayalaya is notified and operational in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. As per the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Government, after consultation with the High Court, may, by notification, establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats. The Act, therefore, does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. However, the Department of Justice has been encouraging the States/ UTs for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas.

The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 was enacted for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass root level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their

doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. In order to meet these objectives, the Act has several provisions for speedy trial and disposal of cases such as holding of mobile courts by the Nyayadhikaris, summary trial for criminal cases, plea bargaining, efforts for conciliation and settlement in civil cases, legal aid to the accused etc. The State Government and the respective High Courts are empowered to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Gram Nyayalayas Act. Further, the State Government, in consultation with the High Court, appoints Nyayadhikaris for Gram Nyayalayas.

Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3297 FOR ANSWER ON 08.8.2025

Sl. No.	State / UT	Gram Notified	Nyayalayas	Gram Functional	Nyayalayas
1.	Madhya Pradesh		89		89
2.	Rajasthan		45		45
3.	Karnataka		2		2
4.	Odisha		31		21
5.	Maharashtra		39		26
6.	Jharkhand		6		4
7.	Goa		2		2
8.	Punjab		9		2
9.	Haryana		3		2
10.	Uttar Pradesh		113		108
11.	Kerala		30		30
12.	Andhra Pradesh		42		0
13.	Telangana		55		0
14.	Jammu Kashmir		20		0
15.	Ladakh		2		0
Total			488		331

Source : Gram Nyayalaya Portal

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3297 FOR ANSWER ON 08.8.2025

Operational Gram Nyayalayas (District/ Taluka-wise) as on 30.06.2025			
Sl. No.	District	Taluka	Village
Uttar Pradesh - 108			
1	Agra	Bah	Bah
2	Agra	Etmadpur	Etmadpur
3	Agra	Kirawali	Kirawali
4	Agra	Kheragarh	Kheragarh
5	Aligarh	Ghabana	Ghabana
6	Allahabad	Meja	Meja
7	Allahabad	Phoolpur	Phoolpur
8	Allahabad	Koraon	Koraon
9	Allahabad	Karchana	Karchana
10	Allahabad	Handiya	Handiya
11	Ambedkar Nagar	Alapur	Alapur
12	Ambedkar Nagar	Bhiti	Bhiti
13	Ambedkar Nagar	Jalalpur	Jalalpur
14	Azamgarh	Mehnagar	Mehnagar
15	Azamgarh	Lalganj	Lalganj
16	Azamgarh	Phoolpur	Phoolpur
17	Azamgarh	Budhanpur	Budhanpur
18	Amroha	Dhanaura	Dhanaura
19	Bagpat	Baraut	Baraut
20	Bahraich	Nanpara	Nanpara
21	Bahraich	Mahsi	Mahsi
22	Ballia	Sikandarpur	Sikandarpur
23	Ballia	Belthra Road	Belthra Road
24	Ballia	Bairiya	Bairiya
25	Ballia	Rasra	Rasrs
26	Balrampur	Tulsipur	Tulsipur
27	Banda	Naraini	Naraini
28	Barabanki	Ram Nagar	Ram Nagar
29	Barabanki	Sirauli Gauspur	Sirauli Gauspur

30	Barabanki	Fatehpur	Fatehpur
31	Bijnor	Dhampur	Dhampur
32	Badaun	Bilsi	Bilsi
33	Bulandshahr	Siyana	Siyana
34	Bulandshahr	Dilbai	Dilbai
35	Basti	Harraiya	Harraiya
36	Basti	Rudhauri	Rudhauri
37	Basti	Bhanpur	Bhanpur
38	Chitrakoot	Manikpur	Manikpur
39	Chatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Nagar	Amethi	Amethi
40	Chatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Nagar	Gauriganj	Gauriganj
41	Deoria	Salempur	Salempur
42	Deoria	Barhaj	Barhaj
43	Deoria	Bhatparrani	Bhatparrani
44	Etah	Aliganj	Aliganj
45	Etawah	Saifai	Saifai
46	Etawah	Chakranagar	Chakranagar
47	Fatehpur	Bindki	Bindki
48	Faizabad	Radauli	Radauli
49	Faizabad	Bikapur	Bikapur
50	Faizabad	Milkipur	Milkipur
51	Farukhabad	Amritpur	Amritpur
52	Firozabad	Jasrana	Jasrana
53	Firozabad	Tundla	Tundla
54	Farrukhabad	Amritpur	Amritpur
55	Ghaziabad	Modinagar	Modinagar
56	Ghaziipur	Jakhania	Jakhania
57	Gorakhpur	Chauri Chaura	Chauri Chaura
58	Gorakhpur	Campierganj	Campierganj
59	Gorakhpur	Gola	Gola
60	Gonda	Mankapur	Mankapur
61	Gonda	Tarabganj	Tarabganj
62	Gonda	Colonelganj	Colonelganj
63	Hamirpur	Sarila	Sarila

64	Hardoi	Sandila	Sandila
65	Panchsheel Nagar (Hapur)	Dhaulana	Dhaulana
66	Jalaun at Orai	Madhogarh	Madhogarh
67	Jaunpur	Shahganj	Shahganj
68	Jaunpur	Kerakat	Kerakat
69	Jaunpur	Machhlishahr	Machhlishahr
70	Jaunpur	Badlapur	Badlapur
71	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	Dhanaura	Dhanaura
72	Kannauj	Tirwa	Tirwa
73	Kanpur Dehat	Bilhaur	Bilhaur
74	Kanshi Ram Nagar	Patiyali	Patiyali
75	Kaushambi	Chail	Chail
76	Kushinagar	Tamkuhiraj	Tamkuhiraj
77	Kushinagar	Hata	Hata
78	Lalitpur	Talbehat	Talbehat
79	Lakhimpur Kheri	Gola	Gola
80	Maharajganj	Nautanwan	Nautanwan
81	Maharajganj	Nichlaur	Nichlaur
82	Mainpuri	Karhal	Karhal
83	Mathura	Mant	Mant
84	Mau	Madhuban	Madhuban
85	Mirzapur	Marihaan	Marihaan
86	Mirzapur	Lalganj	Lalganj
87	Moradabad	Bilari	Bilari
88	Moradabad	Kanth	Kanth
89	Muzaffer Nagar	Khatauli	Khatauli
90	Pilibhit	Pooranpur	Pooranpur
91	Pratapgarh	Patti	Patti
92	Raebareli	Lalganj	Lalganj
93	Raebareli	Salon	Salon
94	Raebareli	Unchahar	Unchahar
95	Rampur	Bilaspur	Bilaspur
96	Rampur	Shahabad	Shahabad
97	Rampur	Swar	Swar
98	Saharanpur	Behat	Behat

99	Saharanpur	Itwa	Itwa
100	Shravasti at Bhinga	Ikauna	Ikauna
101	Sitapur	Laharpur	Laharpur
102	Sitapur	Sidhauli	Sidhauli
103	Sonabhadra	Ghorawal	Ghorawal
104	Sultanpur	Amethi	Amethi
105	Unnao	Hasangaj	Hasangaj
106	Unnao	Bighapur	Bighapur
107	Varanasi	Pindara	Pindara
108	Sant Kabir Nagar	Meinhdawal	Meinhdawal
Punjab - 02			
109	Rupnagar	Nangal	Nangal
110	Moga	Kot Isse Khan	Kot Isse Khan
Kerala - 30			
111	Kollam	Kottarakkara	Chadaya-mangalam
112	Kollam	Kollam	Perinadu
113	Kollam	Karunagappally	Chavara
114	Idukki	Idukki	Kattappana
115	Idukki	Peermade	Peermade
116	Idukki	Udumbanchola	Kalkoonthal
117	Thiruvananthapuram	Neyyattinkara	Parassala
118	Thiruvananthapuram	Nedumangad	Vellandu
119	Pathanamthitta	Ranni	Ranni
120	Pathanamthitta	Adoor	Pandalam
121	Kottayam	Vaikom	Vadekumari
122	Kottayam	Kottayam	Anicadu
123	Alappuzha	Ambalappuzha	Punnapra
124	Alappuzha	Cherthala	Kanjikuzhy
125	Ernakulam	Kunnathunadu	Aikkaranadu North
126	Ernakulam	North Paravur	Chendamangalam
127	Trissur	Thalappilly	Vadakkethara
128	Trissur	Kodungallur	Eriyad
129	Palakkad	Ottapalam	Sreekrishnapuram
130	Palakkad	Palakkad	Puduppariyaram
131	Palakkad	Alathur	Thenkurissi
132	Kozhikkode	Thamassery	Raroath

133	Kozhikkode	Vatakara	Kuttiady
134	Malappuram	Ponmani	Edappal
135	Malappuram	Perinthalmanna	Pulamanthole
136	Wayanad	Vythiri	Kalpetta
137	Kannur	Taliparamba	Irikkur
138	Kannur	Iritty	Payam
139	Kannur	Thalassery	Chokli
140	Kasaragod	Vellarikund	Bheemanadi
Maharashtra - 26			
141	Ahmednagar	Parner	Ralegan Siddhi
142	Dhule	Sakri (Nijampur)	Nizampur
143	Gondia	Goregaon	Goregaon
144	Gondia	Sakekasa	Sakekasa
145	Gadchiroli	Korchi	Korchi
146	Gadchiroli	Mulchera	Mulchera
147	Latur	Udgir	Jalkot
148	Latur	Nilanga	Shirur Anantpal
149	Nanded	Tamsa, Tal. Hadgaon	Tamsa
150	Nasik	Deola	Deola
151	Nasik	Trimbakeshwar	Trimbakeshwar
152	Nasik	Harsul	Harsul
153	Pune	Kadam Wak Vasti	Kadam Wak Vasti (Loni Kalbhor)
154	Pune	Male (Tal Mulshi)	Male
155	Pune	Velhe	Velha
156	Raigarh	Birwadi (Mahad),	Birwadi (Mahad),
157	Raigad	Tala	Tala
158	Raigad	Poladpur	Poladpur
159	Ratnagiri	Pali	Pali
160	Sangli	Jath	Sankh
161	Sindhudurg	Vaibhavwadi	Vaibhavwadi
162	Thane	Jawahar	Vikramgad and Mokhada
163	Wardha	Wardha	Sewagram
164	Wardha	Wardha	Alipur
165	Wardha	Hinganghat	Deoli
166	Kolhapur	Gaganbawada	Gaganbawada

Rajasthan - 45

167	Ajmer	Pushkar	Pisangan
168	Alwar	Tijara	Tijara
169	Alwar	Neemrana	Neemrana
170	Balotra	Barmer	Barmer
171	Baran	Atru	Atru
172	Banswara	Talwara	Talwara
173	Banswara	Garhi	Garhi
174	Bharatpur	Roopwas	Roopwas
175	Bharatpur	Kaman	Kaman
176	Bhilwara	Mandal	Mandal
177	Bhilwara	Suwana	Suwana
178	Bikaner	Bikaner	Bikaner
179	Bikaner	Kolayat	Kolayat
180	Bundi	Talera	Talera
181	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh
182	Chittorgarh	Bhadesar	Bhadesar
183	Churu	Rajgarh	Rajgarh
184	Dausa	Dausa	Dausa
185	Dholpur	Baseri	Baseri
186	Dungarpur	Aaspur	Aaspur
187	Dungarpur	Bichhiwara	Bichhiwara
188	Ganganagar	Sriganganagar	Sriganganagar
189	Ganganagar	Anoopgarh	Anoopgarh
190	Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh
191	Jaipur	Sambharlake	Sambharlake
192	Jaipur Metro1	Bassi	Bassi
193	Jalore	Sanchore	Sanchore
194	Jaisalmer	Pokaran	Sankda Hq. Pokaran
195	Jhalawar	Jhalrapatan	Jhalrapatan
196	Jhunjhunu	Nawalgarh	Nawalgarh
197	Jodhpur Metro	Jodhpur	Mandore
198	Jodhpur	Osian	Osian
199	Karauli	Hindaun city	Hindaun city
200	Kota	Ramganjmandi	Kherabad
201	Kota	Itawa	Itawa

202	Merta (Nagaur)	Jayal	Jayal
203	Pali	Raipur	Raipur
204	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh
205	Rajsamand	Railmagra	Railmagra
206	S.Madhopur	Gangapurcity	Gangapurcity
207	Sikar	Sikar	Kudli Hq. Sikar
208	Sirohi	Pindwara	Pindwara
209	Tonk	Deoli	Deoli
210	Udaipur	Girwa	Girwa
211	Udaipur	Kherwara	Kherwara
Odisha - 21			
212	Puri	Puri Sadar	Puri
213	Malkangiri	Korukunda	Korukunda
214	Bhadrak	Dhamnagar	Dhamnagar
215	Kalahandi	Junagarh	Junagarh
216	Kendujhar	Ananadpur	Ghasipura
217	Kendrapara	Rajnagar	Rajnagar
218	Koraput	Semilguda	Semilguda
219	Rayagada	Kolnara	Kolnara
220	Jharsuguda	Lakhanpur	Lakhanpur
221	Ganjam	Sanakhemundi	Sanakhemundi
222	Nayagarh	Odagaon	Odagaon
223	Bargarh	Attabira	Attabira
224	Khordha	Tangi	Tangi
225	Nuapada	Komna	Komna
226	Nabarangpur	Raighar	Rajghar
227	Balasore	Bhograi	Jaleswarpur
228	Subarapur	Dunguripali	Dunguripali
229	Gajapati	Kashinagar	Kashinagar
230	Jagatsinghpur	Raghunathpur	Raghunathpur
231	Jajpur	Sukinda	Sukinda
232	Puri	Brahmagiri	Brahmagiri
Jharkhand - 04			
233	East Singhbhum	Baharagora	Baharagora
234	Dumka	Jarmundi	Jarmundi
235	Ranchi	Mandar	Mandar

236	Koderma	Jhumri Talaiya	Jhumri Talaiya
Karnataka - 02			
237	Chikkaballapur	Gowribidaur	Hosru
238	Chikkaballapur	Chikkaballapur	Mandikal
Madhya Pradesh - 89			
239	Alirajpur	Jobat	jobat,udaigardh
240	Anuppur	Kotma	Semra, Nigwani
241	Ashoknagar	Chanderi	Dungasara, Pranpur
242	Barwani	Sendhwa	Sendhwa
243	Betul	Multai	Multai
244	Bhind	Lahar	Bhatpura, Chiroli
245	Bhopal	Berasiya	Berasiya
246	Chhatarpur	Bijawar	Bijawar
247	Chhindwara	Pandhurna	Pandhurna
248	Damoh	Hatta	Hatta
249	Datia	Seodha	Seodha
250	Dewas	Kannod	Kannod
251	Dhar	Manawar	Manawar, Singhana, Umarban
252	Guna	Chachoda	All Village under Chachoda
253	Gwalior	Dabra	Dabra
254	Hoshangabad	Sohagpur	Shobhapur, Semri Harchand
255	Hoshangabad	Hoshangabad	Tigariya, Dolariya, Raipur, Panjra Kalan, Andhyari
256	Jabalpur	Patan	Patan
257	Jhabua	Thandla	Thandla
258	Mandsaur	Garoth	Garoth
259	Morena	Ambah	Ambah
260	Narsinghpur	Gadarwara	Gadarwara
261	Neemuch	Manasa	Manasa
262	Panna	Pawai	Pawai
263	Raisen	Civil Court Bareli	Bareli
264	Raisen	Sanchi	Sanchi
265	Rajgarh	Biora	Biaora
266	Ratlam	Jaora	Jaora
267	Rewa	Sirmaur	Sirmaur, Lal Gaon, Karmai, Shahpur

268	Sagar	Khurai	Khurai
269	Satna	Nagod	Nagod
270	Sehore	Budni	Rehti, Budni, Shahganj
271	Seoni	Lakhnadon	Lakhnadon, Aadegaon, Dhanora
272	Shahdol	Jisinghnagar	Jaisinghnagar, Amjhor, tetka
273	Shajapur	Agar-Malwa	Agar
274	Shivpuri	Karera	Karera
275	Sidhi	Majholi	Majhouli, Tala, Madwas, Pathraula
276	Balaghat	Balaghat	Balaghat
277	Tikamgarh	Niwari	Niwari
278	Ujjain	Mahidpur	Mahidpur
279	Vidisha	Vidisha	Ahmadpur, Khamkheda, Devkhajuri
280	Khargone	Bhikangaon	Bhikangaon
281	Alirajpur	Alirajpur	Alirajpur
282	Anuppur	Anuppur	Foonga, Deohara, Papraudi, Sakara, Paraswar
283	Ashoknagar	Ashoknagar	Shadora, Kachnar
284	Betul	Betul	Betul
285	Bhind	Bhind	Umari, Nayagaon, Manpura, Phoop
286	Bhopal	Bhopal	Bhopal
287	Burhanpur	Burhanpur	Burhanpur
288	Chhatarpur	Chhatarpur	Chhatarpur
289	Chhindwara	Chhindwara	Chhindwara
290	Damoh	Damoh	Damoh
291	Datia	Datia	Datia
292	Dewas	Dewas	Vijayganj Mandi, Barotha, Siya, Khatamba, kshipra,
293	Dhar	Dhar	Tirra
294	Dindori	Dindori	Dindori
295	Khandwa	Khandwa	Khandwa
296	Guna	Guna	All Village under Guna
297	Gwalior	Gwalior	Ghatigaon
298	Harda	Harda	Harda

299	Indore	Indore	Indore
300	Jabalpur	Jabalpur	Jabalpur
301	Jhabua	Jhabua	Jhabua
302	Katni	Katni	Katni
303	Mandla	Mandla	Mandla
304	Mandsaur	Mandsaur	Dlauda
305	Morena	Morena	Morena
306	Narsinghpur	Narsinghpur	Narsinghpur
307	Neemuch	Neemuch	Neemuch
308	Panna	Panna	Panna
309	Raisen	Raisen	
310	Rajgarh	Rajgarh	Rajgarh
311	Ratlam	Ratlam	Ratlam
312	Rewa	Huzur	Bansa, Agdal, Bahuri Bandh, Sagra, Khaur, Padokhar,
313	Sagar	Sagar	Sagar
314	Satna	Satna	Satna
315	Sehore	Sehore	Ahmedpur, Doraha, Shyampur, Bilkisganj, Naplakhedhi
316	Seoni	Seoni	Gopalganj, Bandol, Bhoma, Lakhanwada
317	Shahdol	Sohagpur	Singhpur, Gohparu
318	Shajapur	Shajapur	Shajapur
319	Sheopur	Sheopur	Sheopur
320	Shivpuri	Shivpuri	Shivpuri
321	Sidhi	Sidhi	Gopadbans
322	Tikamgarh	Tikamgarh	Janpad Panchayat Tikamgarh
323	Ujjain	Ujjain	Ujjain
324	Umaria	Nowrozabad	Karkeli
325	Vidisha	Sironj	Sironj, Pathariya Dipnakheda, Mugalsarai
326	Singrauli	Waidhan	mada, waidhan, rajmilan, khutar
327	Khargone	Mandleshwar	Mandleshwar
Haryana - 02			

328	Kurukshetra	Ladwa	Ladwa
329	Sirsa	Rania	Rania
Goa - 02			
330	Panji	Sattari	Sattari
331	Goa	Sanguem	Sanguem

Source : Gram Nyayalaya Portal

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3360
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025

FAST-TRACK COURTS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

J.S.(J-II)
3360. SHRI DHAVAL LAXMANBHAI PATEL:

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

- (a) the number of fast-track special courts operational for cases under POCSO and SC/ST Acts as of July 2025;
- (b) whether the Government is working to improve digital case management and reduce pendency; and
- (c) the capacity-building measures for judges and legal aid personnel working in tribal and rural courts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts was launched in October, 2019, following the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court [Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019]. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, for establishment of 790 courts. The financial outlay under the scheme is ₹1952.23 crore with ₹1207.24 crore as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund on the CSS pattern.

As of 30.06.2025, 725 FTSCs, including 392 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs, which have disposed of 3,34,213 cases since the inception of the Scheme. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) are at Annexure-I.

As per information received from the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, two central Acts have been enacted namely, The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, which prescribes punishment for enforcement of any disability arising from practice of untouchability and The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The responsibility of implementation of these Acts lies upon the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 as amended in 2015 specifies that for the purpose of providing for speedy trial, the State Government shall, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, establish an Exclusive Special Court for one or more districts, provided that in Districts where less number of cases under this Act is recorded, the State Government shall, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, specify for such Districts, the Court of sessions to be a Special Court to try the offences under the Act.

As per information received from States/UTs and available with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, 211 Exclusive Special Courts have been established across the country to deal with offences registered under the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989.

(b): The resolution of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government is committed towards facilitating expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to create an enabling ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which include the following:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of 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 ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 30.06.2025, Rs. 12,101.89 crores have been released since the inception of this Scheme in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818

(as on 30.06.2014) to 22,372 (as on 30.06.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 19,851 (as on 30.06.2025), under this Scheme.

- iii. Under Phase I and II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts and 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity was provided to 2977 sites. Video Conferencing facility was enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 778 eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) were established to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 21 virtual courts were set up in 17 States/UTs, which handled more than 2.78 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 384.14 crores in fines up to March 2023.

The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore, which is aimed at ushering a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Under the digital Case Management System, eFiling system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from anywhere 24X7. The ePayment system has been launched for hassle-free payment of fee etc. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology-enabled process for serving and issuance of summons. Till date, 506.05 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. A judgment search portal has started with features such as search by bench, case type, case number, year, petitioner/respondent name, etc. This facility is being provided free of cost to all. Several eCourts services are available on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/litigants through SMS push and pull, email, multilingual eCourts services portal, info kiosks, eCourts Mobile App for lawyers/litigants (3.16 crore downloads till date) and JustIS App for judges (21,716 downloads till date). More than 3.65 crore hearings have taken place through Video Conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1814 across High Courts and District Courts. To bring in greater objectivity, consistency, transparency and speed, Case Information System (CIS) version 4.0 software has been implemented across the district and taluka courts in the country. Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning tools are being used in case management hearing and for transcription of oral judgements in the Supreme Court of India.

- iv. The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 21.07.2025, 70 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1058 new Judges were appointed and 794 Additional Judges were made permanent in

the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date. The sanctioned and working strengths of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts have increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
05.08.2025	25,848	21,113

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT 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 now been set up under District Courts as well.
- vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 30.06.2025, 865 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. With a view to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government had approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 30.06.2025, 725 FTSCs including 392 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs, which have disposed of more than 3,34,000 cases since their inception.
- vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has 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 progressively promoted. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. The amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a 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 facts

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. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, 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 it before any court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

The details of the cases disposed of in National Lok Adalats during the last four years are as under:

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
2025(up to March)	2,58,28,368	50,82,181	3,09,10,549
Total	22,21,01,916	5,33,91,016	27,54,92,932

- x. 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 Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Till 30 th June, 2025	Cases Registered	% wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% wise Break Up
Gender -wise				
Female	44,81,170	39.58%	44,21,450	39.55%
Male	68,39,728	60.42%	67,58,085	60.45%
Caste Category-wise				
General	26,89,371	23.76%	26,48,100	23.69%
OBC	35,64,430	31.49%	35,16,236	31.45%

SC	35,27,303	31.16%	34,90,737	31.22%
ST	15,39,794	13.60%	15,24,462	13.64%
Total	1,13,20,898		1,11,79,535	

- xi. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.
- xii. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987, which aims to ensure that the opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. The details of beneficiaries under various activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities during the last three years are as under:

Year	Persons benefited through Legal aid and advice
2022-23	12,14,769
2023-24	15,50,164
2024-25	16,57,527
Total	44,22,460

The legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities in regard to various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability, etc. The Legal Services Authorities also prepare booklets and pamphlets in simple language on various laws which are distributed amongst the people. The details of legal awareness programs organized by Legal Service Authorities during the last three years are as under:

Year	Legal Awareness programmes organised	Persons attended
2022-23	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24	4,30,306	4,49,22,092
2024-25	4,62,988	3,72,32,850
Total	13,83,349	14,96,72,607

(c): The National Judicial Academy regularly conducts academic programmes for judges and legal-aid functionaries, equipping them with the latest legal knowledge, practical skills, and a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the vulnerable groups, so that legal assistance is provided to those who otherwise cannot afford for effective legal representation, thereby significantly advancing the goal of equal access to justice.

Capacity-building measures for legal aid personnel working in the Legal Services Institutions focus on strengthening their skills, knowledge and resources to effectively serve marginalized and often underserved communities. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has developed 4 Training Modules for training of Legal Services Lawyers and for Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs). The Legal Services Institutions conduct training programmes for the panel lawyers and PLVs from time to time.

**State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts including
exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) (as on 30.06.2025)**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts	
		FTSCs including exclusive POCSO	Exclusive POCSO
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	18	14
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3
11	J&K	4	2
12	Karnataka	30	17
13	Kerala	55	14
14	Madhya Pradesh	67	56
15	Maharashtra	2	1
16	Manipur	2	0
17	Meghalaya	5	5
18	Mizoram	3	1
19	Nagaland	1	0
20	Odisha	44	23
21	Puducherry	1	1
22	Punjab	12	3
23	Rajasthan	45	30
24	Tamil Nadu	14	14
25	Telangana	36	0
26	Tripura	3	1
27	Uttarakhand	4	0
28	Uttar Pradesh	218	74
29	West Bengal	8	8
30	Jharkhand *	0	0
31	A&N Islands**	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	0	0
TOTAL		725	392

Note: At the inception of the Scheme, the allocation of FTSCs across the country was based on a criterion of 65 to 165 pending cases per court, meaning one FTSC would be established for every 65 to 165 pending cases. Based on that, only 31 States/UTs were eligible to join the Scheme.

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSC Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025. However, the cumulative disposal of 9,114 cases since the inception of the Scheme up to May 2025 continues to be included in the overall disposal figures reported under the FTSC Scheme.

** A&N islands has consented to join the Scheme, but is yet to operationalize any court.

*** Arunachal Pradesh has opted out of the Scheme citing a very low number of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3375

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY IN TAMIL NADU

3375. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:

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

- (a) the details of the various schemes implemented by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) across the country, with specific emphasis on Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries provided free legal aid and assistance under these schemes in Tamil Nadu during the last three years, district-wise, especially in Kallakurichi Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the effectiveness and outreach of these schemes in rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the number of Lok Adalats organized in Tamil Nadu in the last three years and the number of cases disposed through them; and
- (e) the steps taken to increase legal awareness and access to justice among marginalized communities, women and children in Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) and (b): The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987, which aims to ensure that the opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. In addition, NALSA has also formulated various schemes for the implementation of preventive and strategic legal service programmes, which are implemented by the Legal Services Authorities at various levels

i.e. State, District and Taluka level. The State/UT-wise details of beneficiaries under various activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities during the last three years are at **Annexure - A**. However, the district-wise information is not maintained by NALSA.

The Government of India is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely; Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme through NALSA since 2023-24, which aims to provide legal aid with regard to criminal cases to the beneficiaries eligible for legal aid under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987. As on 30th June 2025, LADC offices are functional in 662 districts across the country. Since inception, Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) have been assigned with 8,69,243 criminal cases, of which 5,85,255 cases were disposed of.

(c): The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 provide for a robust framework for monitoring and evaluating legal aid services through the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee (MMC) at all tiers i.e. Supreme Court of India, High Courts, State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)/District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSCs). These committees are responsible for overseeing court-based legal aid delivery, monitoring the progress of assigned cases, and guiding panel lawyers and Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) in providing quality legal services.

The MMCs maintain registers to track the day-to-day progress and final outcomes of legal aid cases. They obtain periodic reports from legal aid lawyers, assess their performance, and advise concerned authorities to take corrective steps when progress is unsatisfactory. This continuous follow-up mechanism ensures accountability, transparency, and quality control in legal services. The MMCs also evaluate lawyer performance to identify underperformance or misconduct. Moreover, performance of each human resource engaged under LADCS is evaluated every six months by the SLSA under the guidance of the Hon'ble Executive Chairman of the SLSA. Additionally, monthly reporting of casework by the LADCs is done by the SLSAs to NALSA, ensuring real-time oversight and data-driven evaluation at the national level.

(d): The details of Lok Adalats organized in Tamil Nadu in the last three years and the number of cases/issues settled through them are as under:

(i) State Lok Adalat

Year	State Lok Adalats held	Cases settled
2022-23	1295	16369
2023-24	1336	34744
2024-25	565	6943
Total	3196	58056

(ii) Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services)

Year	Permanent Lok Adalats functioning	Sittings held	Cases settled
2022-23	32	1121	528
2023-24	32	1119	427
2024-25	32	1067	409
Total		3307	1364

(iii) National Lok Adalat

Year	Total Cases settled
2022	447536
2023	355762
2024	338520
Total	1141818

(e): The legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities in regard to entitlement to free legal aid and various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability, etc. The Legal Services Authorities also prepare booklets and pamphlets in simple language on various laws, for distribution amongst the people. The details of legal awareness camps/programs organized by Legal Service Authorities across the country (including Tamil Nadu) during the last three years are as under:

Year	Tamil Nadu		Across the country (including Tamil Nadu)	
	Legal Awareness programs	Persons attended	Legal Awareness programs	Persons attended
2022-23	10,814	13,27,379	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24	4,408	7,12,534	4,30,306	4,49,22,092
2024-25	6,284	10,10,195	4,62,988	3,72,32,850
Total	21,506	30,50,108	13,83,349	14,96,72,607

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3375 for answer on 08.08.2025 regarding 'National Legal Services Authority in Tamil Nadu'

Statement containing the details of persons benefited through Legal aid and advice under various activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities during the last three years				
S. No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	134	220	341
2	Andhra Pradesh	9,473	8,265	11,266
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5,559	5,696	9,236
4	Assam	38,335	63,749	82,694
5	Bihar	2,09,809	1,51,413	84,505
6	Chandigarh	2,653	2,822	2,951
7	Chhattisgarh	44,106	62,164	80,874
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	28	55	45
	Daman and Diu	24	34	119
9	Delhi	96,433	1,21,882	76,526
10	Goa	2,041	1,558	1,889
11	Gujarat	32,422	40,569	50,467
12	Haryana	43,098	76,863	82,194
13	Himachal Pradesh	5,998	7,346	6,222
14	Jammu and Kashmir	7,992	11,396	18,602
15	Jharkhand	1,45,217	2,69,303	3,28,365
16	Karnataka	45,663	53,406	51,245
17	Kerala	23,418	36,498	26,571
18	Ladakh	711	505	324
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,91,921	2,25,510	2,33,009
21	Maharashtra	36,663	53,756	59,454
22	Manipur	26,929	62,635	99,062
23	Meghalaya	2,769	2,371	2,754
24	Mizoram	5,038	4,801	3,713
25	Nagaland	7,390	4,603	5,012
26	Odisha	11,880	19,289	22,134
27	Puducherry	788	621	616
28	Punjab	56,448	60,361	65,513
29	Rajasthan	13,472	20,290	22,216
30	Sikkim	1,127	1,074	901
31	Tamil Nadu	49,570	45,180	52,528
32	Telangana	12,615	13,193	16,021
33	Tripura	5,055	9,964	10,303
34	Uttar Pradesh	24,890	29,079	22,732
35	Uttarakhand	5,386	21,339	34,208
36	West Bengal	49,714	62,354	92,914
Total		12,14,769	15,50,164	16,57,527

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3386
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08th AUGUST, 2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COURTS INITIATIVE IN ANDHRA PRADESH

3386: Shri Putta Mahesh Kumar:
Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy:

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any survey/study regarding the implementation of e-Courts initiative in Andhra Pradesh over the last five years;
- (b) if so, details regarding the status of implementation of e-Courts initiative, phase-wise across all courts of Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;
- (c) the total amount of funding allocated, released and utilised regarding the implementation of e-Courts initiative, phase-wise across all courts of Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;
- (d) the details of the total number of court staff/judges/lawyers and administrative authorities provided training under the e-Courts initiative, phase-wise, across all courts of Andhra Pradesh, district-wise; and
- (e) the details regarding the list of courts in Andhra Pradesh that have completely integrated their systems as per the e-Courts initiative, district-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Under the eCourts project, the Government of India, in close coordination with the eCommittee, Supreme Court, holds regular meetings with the Central Project Coordinators (CPCs), who are the nodal officers stationed in High Courts for implementing eCourts project across the States/UTs including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c): Various initiatives under the eCourts project have been taken in the State of Andhra Pradesh during last five years. 188 court complexes have been provided with WAN connectivity

with 10 to 100 Mbps bandwidth. Video conferencing facility has been used for hearing in 18.57 lakh cases. For easy access and uploading facility 24*7 from anywhere in the State, the e-Filing system version 3.0 has been rolled out with upgraded features. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched to facilitate technology enabled process serving and issuance of summons. Further, 8.4 crore court records have been digitized in the State. Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) has also been implemented. As per the information provided by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, the Phase-I and Phase-II of the eCourts project covered the High Court and 598 district & subordinate courts. Further, 51 courts have been covered under Phase III of the project. The details of phase-wise allocation, release and utilization of funds are as under:

(Amount in Rs)

S. N.	Phases	Funds allocated	Funds released	Funds utilized
1.	Phase-I	4,94,53,883/-	4,94,53,883/-	4,94,53,883/-
2.	Phase-II	13,29,61,466/-	13,29,61,466/-	13,29,61,466/-
3.	Phase-III (2023-24)	45,27,70,900/-	45,27,70,900/-	25,43,73,492/-
	Phase-III (2024-25)	35,10,20,851/-	35,10,20,851/-	31,73,79,599/-
	Phase-III (2025-26)	15,81,45,996/-	15,81,45,996/-	-----

(d): As informed by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, the details of training are given below:

S. No.	Phase	Wings	Total trainings	No. of participants
1.	Phase-I	N.A.	-	-
2.	Phase-II	Nil	-	Nil
3.	Phase-III	Judicial Officers (including all categories)	7	1,320
		Court Staff (including High Court and District Judiciary)	8	8,268
		Technical staffs & NIC Coordinators at High Court	4	149
		Advocates/Advocate Clerks	5	3,831

(e): District-wise details of the courts fully integrated with eCourts project are as under:

S.No.	Name of the District	Total Number of Courts computerized
1	Anantapur	41
2	Chittoor	63
3	East Godavari	64
4	Guntur	62
5	Kadapa	38
6	Krishna	83
7	Kurnool	42
8	Nellore	40
9	Prakasham	36
10	Srikakulam	30
11	Visakhapatnam	77
12	Vizianagaram	25
13	West Godavari	48
	Total	649

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3388
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 8TH AUGUST, 2025

Establishment of Gram Nyayalayas in Assam

J.S. Unstarred
3388. Shri Pradyut Bordoloi:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending before district courts in Assam and the Guwahati High Court;
- (b) whether any Gram Nyayalayas have been notified, established, or made functional in Assam under the provisions of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has observed any measurable benefits or positive outcomes from the functioning of Gram Nyayalayas in States where they have been established, particularly in terms of speedy and accessible rural justice;
- (d) if so, the reasons for the continued delay in bringing the initiative to the North Eastern region; and
- (e) whether any steps are being undertaken to support and encourage its implementation in the North Eastern region, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal, the details of cases pending in district courts of Assam and the Guwahati High Court are as under: -

Court	Civil	Criminal	Total
District Courts in Assam	1,08,997	4,38,266	5,47,263
Guwahati High Court	46,526	16,362	62,888

- (b) to (e) The Government of Assam has not notified or made operational any Gram Nyayalaya in the State of Assam. As per the Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008, the State Government, after consultation with the High Court, may, by notification, establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas

for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats. The Act, therefore, does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory. However, the Department of Justice has been encouraging the States/ UTs and the High Courts for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas. In order to support the establishment and effective functioning of the Gram Nyayalayas, the Department has been implementing the Gram Nyayalaya Scheme, which is a Sub-scheme of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Judicial Infrastructure. As per the extant guidelines, the Central Government provides one time assistance to States/UTs for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. Further, the Central Government provides assistance for operation of the Gram Nyayalayas for the first three years, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per Gram Nyayalayas per year.

The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 was enacted for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass root level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. In order to meet these objectives, the Act has several provisions for speedy trial and disposal of cases such as holding of mobile courts by the Nyayadhikaris, summary trial for criminal cases, plea bargaining, efforts for conciliation and settlement in civil cases, legal aid to the accused etc. A recent third-party evaluation of the Gram Nyayalayas Scheme has, in its findings, brought out that the Gram Nyayalayas have been successful in achieving social justice by providing accessible legal recourse to the marginalized communities in the rural areas. As per the details available on the Gram Nyayalayas portal, 331 Gram Nyayalayas operational in 10 states have disposed of 4,11,071 cases till 30.06.2025.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3396**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08th AUGUST, 2025

Appointment of Lawyers as Standing Counsels

Just. Sec (LA)
3396. Adv Dean Kuriakose:

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

- (a) whether there is any basic minimum criteria for appointment of lawyers as standing counsels of various Government Departments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been any evaluation of the performance of these counsels, if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (d) the total number of cases pertaining to various Central Government Ministries pending before the Kochi High Court; and
- (e) the number and details of such cases that have received a negative verdict at the High Court level due to lapses in contesting the cases?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): Department of Legal Affairs empanels suitable Advocates as 'Panel Counsel' court-wise with the approval of Hon'ble Minister for Law & Justice on the basis of Advocate's interest, qualification, experience, reputation, expertise, professional competence and standing at Bar, to represent Central Government's Ministries and Departments before various courts. As such, the minimum criteria in this regard is that the person must be a lawyer duly enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council concerned.

(c): There is a system of In-charge litigations for all the Courts/Tribunals in the country, who not only allocate cases to Panel Counsel but also send report to Department of Legal Affairs on conduct and performance of the Panel Counsel. Besides, the feedback/complaints are also received from Ministries/Departments regarding panel counsel which are duly examined and on proved allegations / mis-conduct, such Panel Counsel are removed from the panel.

(d): As per latest information, a total 13476 cases against various Ministries/Departments of Central Government are pending before High Court of Kerala at Kochi (Ernakulam).

(e): Court cases are decided by the courts on merits of the case presented by the counsel under supervision and in coordination with the administrative Ministry / Department concerned. As such, outcome of a court case cannot be attributed to performance of the counsel solely.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3417
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08th AUGUST, 2025**

Appointment of Judges in Courts

JS (Appts)
3417

SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH OLA:

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

- (a) the details of Judges in High Court, Subordinate Courts, District Courts belonging to General category, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Categories, State-wise and Category-wise;
- (b) the details of the appointment of Judicial Officers from General Category, OBC, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Category during the last ten years, State-wise, Category-wise and Year-wise;
- (c) whether rules/guidelines are being followed to ensure the representation of all the categories in the appointment of judges in the High Court; 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; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Appointment of Judges to 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 any caste or class of

persons among the Judges of the High Courts is not centrally available. Since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 753 Judges appointed from 2018 till 28.07.2025, 24 belong to SC category, 17 belong to ST category, 93 belong to OBC category and 42 belong to the minority category.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government is committed to enhancing social diversity in judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts. Only those persons who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

As far as appointment of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts is concerned, under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court. In exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Governments, in consultation with the High Court, frame the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service.

The details of the appointments of Judicial Officers are not centrally maintained. As per information available on the MIS (Management Information System) portal of the Department of Justice, the working strength of Judicial Officers from various categories in District Courts as on 04.08.2025 is at *Annexure*.

ANNEXURE

Working strength of SC/ST/OBC/Other Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts as on 04.08.2025

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Civil Judge(Junior Division)				Civil Judge(Senior Division)				District Judge/DJ			
		SC	ST	OBC	OTHERS	SC	ST	OBC	OTHERS	SC	ST	OBC	OTHERS
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
2	Andhra Pradesh	52	19	122	83	19	10	46	63	36	5	58	61
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	13	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	10	1	0
4	Assam	16	23	0	166	12	21	0	106	6	7	0	104
5	Bihar	134	5	301	296	66	5	105	139	53	4	75	496
6	Chandigarh	9	0	2	7	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	8
7	Chhattisgarh	26	57	27	54	17	45	26	44	30	26	37	76
8	D & N Haveli and daman and Diu	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
9	Delhi	35	20	0	224	22	2	0	97	10	1	0	377
10	Goa	0	2	0	17	0	0	1	11	0	0	1	8
11	Gujarat	59	1	34	347	50	4	151	277	8	0	33	221
12	Haryana	42	0	57	206	41	0	18	73	21	0	21	182
13	Himachal Pradesh	8	2	6	47	8	4	6	30	6	1	1	41
14	Jammu and Kashmir	13	11	3	83	6	7	1	66	9	5	2	66
15	Jharkhand	15	31	16	80	0	0	0	154	0	0	0	205
16	Karnataka	77	19	273	26	90	20	262	34	67	9	207	83
17	Kerala	22	3	121	119	11	1	48	33	10	1	125	85
18	Ladakh	1	2	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	0
19	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	101	29	114	218	81	114	81	232	84	91	114	410
21	Maharashtra	140	2	266	512	43	3	128	336	44	2	106	358
22	Manipur	0	6	3	9	0	4	2	7	0	4	0	14
23	Meghalaya	0	15	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	18	0	3
24	Mizoram	0	13	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	15	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	12
26	Odisha	30	4	68	247	0	0	5	264	0	0	0	217
27	Puducherry	3	0	12	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	4	2
28	Punjab	100	0	53	212	50	0	25	63	37	0	22	154
29	Rajasthan	99	69	129	277	60	52	87	181	58	24	92	378
30	Sikkim	0	1	3	0	0	2	3	0	0	5	9	0
31	Tamil Nadu	140	9	443	7	72	5	259	5	42	1	239	18
32	Telangana	38	20	96	64	15	7	48	22	15	13	55	52
33	Tripura	4	4	0	22	5	10	0	24	5	6	0	26
34	Uttar Pradesh	214	17	309	354	134	15	189	238	191	7	360	647
35	Uttarakhand	16	3	13	59	12	4	15	52	18	5	9	64
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	350	0	0	0	243	0	0	0	270
TOTAL		1,395	400	2,472	4,099	814	393	1,513	2,806	751	261	1,575	4,643

Source: MIS Portal of Department of Justice.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3424
ANSWERED ON – 08/08/2025

FAST TRACK COURTS AND GRAM NYAYALAYAS

J.S. (J-II)
†3424. SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB:

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

- (a) whether a large number of cases are pending in various courts despite initiatives such as the setting up of Fast Track Courts and Gram Nyayalayas across the country;
- (b) if so, the number of cases disposed of as well as those pending to date since the establishment of Fast Track Courts and Gram Nyayalayas;
- (c) the number of cases disposed of by Fast Track Courts and Gram Nyayalayas in the State of Tripura in the last five years; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish more courts and appoint additional judges to expedite the clearance of pending cases, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate Courts as on 28.07.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending Cases
1.	Supreme Court	86,844
2.	High Courts	63,32,256
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,66,69,624

(b) and (c): The Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for providing speedy justice are set up by the States/UTs, as per their need and resources, in consultation with their respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during the period 2015-2020 for speedy trial of cases of heinous crime, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizens, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. As per data uploaded by the High Courts on MIS portal, **865 FTCs are functional**

across 21 States/UTs with a pendency of 14,38,198 cases as on 30.06.2025. These courts have disposed of 33,92,281 cases during the period from January 2023 to June 2025, including 579 cases in the State of Tripura.

Further, pursuant to the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019*, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts since October 2019. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. As of 30.06.2025, **725 FTSCs, including 392 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts** are functional in 29 States/UTs with a pendency of 2,00,349 cases. These courts have disposed of 3,34,213 cases since the inception of the Scheme till 30.06.2025, including 489 cases in the State of Tripura.

Gram Nyayalayas have been established under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 with the objective of providing accessible, affordable, and expeditious justice to the citizens at the grassroots level, particularly in rural areas. As per available information, **488** Gram Nyayalayas have been notified across 15 States, out of which **331** are currently operational in 11 States. As per data available on the Gram Nyayalaya Portal, 4,11,071 cases have been disposed of by the Gram Nyayalayas during the period from December, 2020 to June, 2025. However, no Gram Nyayalaya is notified or functional in the State of Tripura.

(d): At present there is no complete proposal pending with the Government to establish any High Court. 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. Appointments of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts are governed by Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution. The procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India and initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Only those persons are appointed as Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.

The primary responsibility of setting up of District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the State/UT in consultation with the respective High Courts, as per its need and availability of resources. As regards the recruitment of judges and staff in courts, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the State Governments and the concerned 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 appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the *Malik Mazhar Sultan* case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3432
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025**

EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM

J.S. (N.M.R.) II
3432. SMT. MALVIKA DEVI:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the judicial system is more efficient and has higher effectiveness in the Country;**
- (b) the steps taken to ensure that pending cases are sorted on priority basis; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to educate normal public about their legal rights and the manner in which the Government is promoting Legal aid services?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The resolution of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government is committed towards facilitating expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to create an enabling ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which include the following:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of 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 ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 30.06.2025, Rs. 12,101.89 crores have been released since the inception of this Scheme in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 (as on 30.06.2014) to 22,372 (as on 30.06.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 19,851 (as on 30.06.2025), under this Scheme.
- iii. Under Phase I and II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts and 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity was provided to 2977 sites. Video Conferencing facility was enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 778 eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) were established to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 21 virtual courts were set up in 17 States/UTs, which handled more than 2.78 crore cases and realized

more than Rs. 384.14 crores in fines up to March 2023.

The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore, which is aimed at ushering a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 506.05 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.65 crore hearings have taken place through Video Conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1814 across High Courts and District Courts. Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning tools are being used in case management hearing and for transcription of oral judgements in the Supreme Court of India.

- iv. The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 21.07.2025, 70 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1058 new Judges were appointed and 794 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date. The sanctioned and working strengths of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts have increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
05.08.2025	25,848	21,113

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT 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 now been set up under District Courts as well.
- vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 30.06.2025, 865 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. With a view to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government had approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 30.06.2025, 725 FTSCs including 392 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs, which have disposed of more than 3,34,000 cases since their inception.
- vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has 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 progressively promoted. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. The amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been

made in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a 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 facts 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. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, 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 it before any court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

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

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
2025(up to March)	2,58,28,368	50,82,181	3,09,10,549
Total	22,21,01,916	5,33,91,016	27,54,92,932

- x. 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 Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Till 30th June, 2025	Cases Registered	% wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% wise Break Up
Gender -wise				
Female	44,81,170	39.58%	44,21,450	39.55%
Male	68,39,728	60.42%	67,58,085	60.45%
Caste Category-wise				
General	26,89,371	23.76%	26,48,100	23.69%
OBC	35,64,430	31.49%	35,16,236	31.45%
SC	35,27,303	31.16%	34,90,737	31.22%
ST	15,39,794	13.60%	15,24,462	13.64%
Total	1,13,20,898		1,11,79,535	

- xi. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(c): To educate normal public about their legal rights and to promote Legal aid services. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987, which aims to

ensure that the opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. The details of beneficiaries under various activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities during the last three years are as under:

Year	Persons benefited through Legal aid and advice
2022-23	12,14,769
2023-24	15,50,164
2024-25	16,57,527
Total	44,22,460

The legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities in regard to various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability, etc. The Legal Services Authorities also prepare booklets and pamphlets in simple language on various laws which are distributed amongst the people. The details of legal awareness programs organized by Legal Service Authorities during the last three years are as under:

Year	Legal Awareness programmes organised	Persons attended
2022-23	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24	4,30,306	4,49,22,092
2024-25	4,62,988	3,72,32,850
Total	13,83,349	14,96,72,607

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3440**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 08TH AUGUST, 2025

Appointment of Arbitrator

ADR cell (LA)
†3440. Shri Devesh Shakya:

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

- (a) whether preference is given to retired judges than advocates in the matter of appointment of arbitrator;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of retired judges appointed as arbitrators in all the High Courts of the Country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) the number of advocates appointed as arbitrators during the same period; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to make a balanced policy in this regard so that qualified advocates also get adequate opportunities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b) The Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 does not prescribe any qualification for appointment of persons as arbitrator or any preference to appointment of retired judges or advocates as arbitrator. The parties are free to appoint any person as an arbitrator in terms of their agreement since the arbitration mechanism is party autonomy driven.

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

(e) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government. However, the India International Arbitration Centre which has been established under the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 as an institution of national importance, has notified the India International Arbitration Centre (Criteria for Admission to the panel of arbitrators) Regulations, 2023, which allows any person as eligible under the said regulations, to apply for consideration of empanelment by Chamber of Arbitration, constituted by the India International Arbitration Centre under Section 28 of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019.
