

2025

RAJYA SABHA REPLIES

**WINTER SESSION, 2025 [269th
SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA]
[1th December, 2025 to 19th
December, 2025]**



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U.S.Q.S= 47, 50

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 47
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

VACANCIES IN HIGH COURTS AND SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY

J.S (App'ts)

47. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) the details of sanctioned and vacant posts of judges in the High Courts and subordinate judiciary across the country;
- (b) the sanctioned versus working strength of judges and judicial officers in Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) the impact of these vacancies on the pendency of cases;
- (d) the steps being taken, in coordination with the High Courts, to fill these vacancies expeditiously; and
- (e) the status of 'All India Judicial Service' in the matter of filling up the vacancies?

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) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 47 FOR REPLY ON 04/12/2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN HIGH COURTS AND SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY'

(a) & (b): The information in respect of sanctioned and working strength of High Courts is at *Annexure-I*. As per information available on MIS portal of the Department of Justice, as on 27.11.2025, the sanctioned strength and vacancy in the District and Subordinate Court is 25886 and 4855 respectively. Further, the sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in the State of Uttar Pradesh is 3700 and 2645 respectively.

(c) & (d): Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which *inter alia*, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake-holders viz. Bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and proper application of rules and procedures. Furthermore, pendency of cases and vacancy position of judges in High Courts are not necessarily directly related. 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.

Appointment of Judge 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. Since May 2014 till 27.11.2025, 1156 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts.

Filling up of vacant positions of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. 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 in the respective State Judicial Service. The 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.

(e): Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS), which shall not include any post inferior to that of a District Judge.

A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of an All India Judicial Service.

The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges/judicial officers at all levels was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices' Conference,

which was held on 03rd and 04th April, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously. The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was also included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 05th April, 2015. However, no progress was made in the matter.

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

It was proposed to include the issue of All India Judicial Service in the agenda for Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 30th April, 2022. However, the same could not be included in the agenda of the conference. In view of the existing divergence of opinion amongst the major stakeholders, at present, there is no consensus on the proposal for setting up an All India Judicial Service.

Annexure-I

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts as on 27.11.2025.

	High Courts	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacant Posts
1	Allahabad	160	110	50
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	33	4
3	Bombay	94	82	12
4	Calcutta	72	44	28
5	Chhattisgarh	22	16	6
6	Delhi	60	44	16
7	Gauhati	30	25	5
8	Gujarat	52	36	16
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	13	4
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	15	10
11	Jharkhand	25	15	10
12	Karnataka	62	49	13
13	Kerala	47	41	6
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	43	10
15	Madras	75	55	20
16	Manipur	5	3	2
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	20	13
19	Patna	53	35	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	59	26
21	Rajasthan	50	39	11
22	Sikkim	3	3	0
23	Telangana	42	28	14
24	Tripura	5	4	1
25	Uttarakhand	11	9	2
	Total	1122	825	297

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.50
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

VACANCIES IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY

J.S (NMJL-I)
50 PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) the number of sanctioned posts in the subordinate judiciary across States and Union Territories, as on date;
- (b) the number of judicial vacancies presently existing in such courts, category-wise;
- (c) the number of cases pending before such courts, State-wise; and
- (d) the timeline and mechanism fixed by Government for coordinating with States and High Courts to fill existing vacancies?

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): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 50 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025
REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY'.**

(a) & (b): The total number of sanctioned posts in the subordinate judiciary across States and Union Territories and the number of judicial vacancies presently existing in such courts, category-wise; as on 01.12.2025 is at *Annexure-I*.

(c): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the total number of cases pending before subordinate courts state-wise is at *Annexure-II*.

(d): Filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the 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. The 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) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 50 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING
'VACANCIES IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY'**

**Sanctioned Strength and Vacancy Position of Judicial Officers in District and Sub
Ordinate Courts as on 01.12.2025**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Strength	Vacancies			
			Civil Judge (Junior Division) Vacancy	Civil Judge (Senior Division) Vacancy	District Judge Vacancy	Total Vacancy
1	Andhra Pradesh	642	54	0	14	68
2	Arunachal Pradesh	53	7	4	3	14
3	Assam	485	1	9	14	24
4	Bihar	2025	153	106	98	357
5	Chandigarh	28	0	-2	1	-1
6	Chhattisgarh	663	75	26	97	198
7	D & N Haveli	3	0	0	1	1
8	Daman & Diu	4	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	897	31	12	14	57
10	Goa	50	6	2	2	10
11	Gujarat	1720	205	72	258	535
12	Haryana	781	92	1	38	131
13	Himachal Pradesh	179	12	0	7	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	322	32	12	9	53
15	Jharkhand	707	169	4	37	210
16	Karnataka	1395	166	35	65	266
17	Kerala	619	5	5	30	40
18	Ladakh	17	4	2	1	7
19	Lakshadweep	4	0	0	1	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	2028	306	11	67	384
21	Maharashtra	2190	198	8	44	250
22	Manipur	62	4	7	2	13
23	Meghalaya	99	33	4	5	42
24	Mizoram	74	28	0	1	29
25	Nagaland	34	5	3	2	10
26	Odisha	1043	142	19	50	211
27	Puducherry	38	4	5	3	12
28	Punjab	811	70	0	36	106
29	Rajasthan	1699	-3	58	151	206
30	Sikkim	35	9	2	1	12
31	Tamil Nadu	1383	76	5	67	148
32	Telangana	560	27	50	38	115
33	Tripura	133	10	1	3	14
34	Uttar Pradesh	3700	310	230	515	1055
35	Uttarakhand	298	17	5	17	28
36	West Bengal					
37	Andaman and Nicobar	1105	76	91	63	242
	TOTAL	25,886	2,324	787	1,744	4,855

Source: MIS portal of Department of Justice

Combined vacancy of UT Andaman & Nicobar Island and State of WB shown against State of West Bengal

Annexure-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 50 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY'.

The total number of cases pending before subordinate courts state-wise as on 01.12.2025

Sl. No	States	Pendency of Cases as on 01.12.2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	927899
2	Telangana	970564
3	Andaman & Nicobar	8341
4	Arunachal Pradesh	10978
5	Assam	556704
6	Bihar	3697562
7	Chandigarh	102179
8	Chhattisgarh	467584
9	Delhi	1577791
10	Diu and Daman	8392
11	DNH at Siyassa	
12	Goa	61080
13	Gujarat	1947262
14	Haryana	1520278
15	Himachal Pradesh	626485
16	Jammu & Kashmir	341931
17	Ladakh	1567
18	Jharkhand	563223
19	Karnataka	2369066
20	Kerala	1788166
21	Madhya Pradesh	2075550
22	Maharashtra	5939992
23	Manipur	16278
24	Meghalaya	16166
25	Mizoram	6947
26	Nagaland	3788
27	Orissa	1759257
28	Puducherry	36332
29	Punjab	920876
30	Rajasthan	2527713
31	Sikkim	1934
32	Tamil Nadu	1733556
33	Tripura	72186
34	U.T of Lakshadweep	581
35	Uttar Pradesh	11305841
36	Uttarakhand	316979
37	West Bengal	3762592
Total		48,042,720

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 483
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

MECHANISM FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

T.S (Ans)
483 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of concerns regarding the lack of formal mechanisms for accountability and performance review in the higher judiciary;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to improve transparency in judicial appointments, especially in the functioning of the collegium system;
- (c) whether Government proposes to bring aspects of judicial administration, including collegium deliberations, under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act; 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): The performance assessment of courts in India is within the domain of the Judiciary. The evaluation of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts falls within the exclusive domain of their respective courts, while the administrative control over the District and Subordinate Judiciary is vested in the concerned High Courts, as per Article 235 of the Constitution of India. To enhance judicial efficiency and establish measurable performance standards, the Supreme Court has constituted the National Court Management System (NCMS) Committee. A Sub-Committee under the NCMS Committee has worked on developing the National Framework of Court Excellence

(NFCE), which aims to set objective performance benchmarks and establish a monitoring mechanism for courts. These reports and recommendations serve as guidelines for High Courts to consider and implement, as required.

The Supreme Court of India, in its full Court meeting on 7th May, 1997, adopted two Resolutions namely (i) "The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" which lays down certain judicial standards and principles to be observed and followed by the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and (ii) "In-house procedure" for taking suitable remedial measure against Judges who do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life including those in the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life. A bill titled, "The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010", was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 01.12.2010. The Bill lapsed consequent to the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1993 (Third Judges case). The Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 06.10.1993 in Supreme Court Advocates on Record Vs. Union of India (Second Judges Case) inter-alia, observed that merit selection is the dominant method for judicial selections and the candidates to be selected must possess high integrity, honesty, skill, high order of emotional stability, firmness, serenity, legal soundness, ability and endurance. Besides the above, the hallmarks of the most important personal qualifications required are moral vigour, ethical firmness and imperviousness to corrupting or venal influences, humility and lack of affiliations, judicial temperament, zeal and capacity to work.

Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level. The Government, as an important stakeholder in the process of appointment of Judges in the High Courts and as laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure on appointment of High Court Judges provides inputs which mainly contain information on the

suitability, competence and integrity of the candidates under consideration for appointment to the high constitutional post in the judiciary. The recommendations along with inputs are then referred to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts whose names have been recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium. While it is of utmost importance that the appointments are made expeditiously, at the same time it is also important to ensure that only the most suitable candidates are appointed as Judges of the High Courts under the collaborative process.

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

Subsequently, the Supreme Court vide order dated 16.12.2015 directed the Government to finalize the existing MoP by supplementing it in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium taking into consideration eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of secretariat and mechanism to deal with complaints. The Government of India after due deliberations, proposed changes in the existing MoP and the draft MoPs were sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 22.03.2016. Responses of Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) were received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The comments of Government, in response to the views of SCC were conveyed to the Chief Justice of India on 03.08.2016. The SCC provided their comments on the views of the Government on draft MoP on 13.03.2017. The stand of Government with suggestions to resolve issues involved in appointment of Judges was conveyed to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court vide letter dated 11.07.2017 of Secretary (Justice). In order to ensure transparency in appointment procedure, the government emphasised on the need for a more robust evaluation process by setting up a search-cum-evaluation committee. In its recent communication dated 06.01.2023

to the Chief Justice of India, the Government has emphasized the need to finalize the MoP in view of various judicial pronouncements. In the letter dated 06.01.2023, the Government again requested the Supreme Court to consider various suggestions sent by the Government from time to time for making the system of appointment of judges to the Constitutional Courts more transparent, fair, representative and accountable.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 578
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

(S.S CLAP)
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

578# SHRI BRIJ LAL:

SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

DR. DINESH SHARMA:

SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

SHRI JAGGESH:

SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:

DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) the arrangements currently in place for providing legal aid and specialised legal services to Persons with Disabilities;
- (b) the scope and functioning of the Legal Services Units for persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities established across States/UTs;
- (c) the accessibility related requirements prescribed for judicial infrastructure under Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and
- (d) the measures adopted under the e-Courts Project Phase III to make digital court platforms and websites more accessible to Persons with Disabilities?

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 has undertaken several measures to make available affordable, quality and speedy legal services to the common man, including persons with disabilities. The legal

Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 provides for free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including Persons with Disabilities.

NALSA is also implementing a specific Scheme for Persons with Disabilities named NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024. This Scheme aims to ensure that legal services are responsive to the specific legal and social needs of persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities. Under this Scheme, specialised 'Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness & Persons with Intellectual Disabilities called 'Manonyay' (LSUM)' units have been established in all States/UTs except Ladakh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

(c) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for the District and Subordinate Courts by augmenting the resources of the State Governments/UTs for construction of Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial Officers, Lawyers' Hall, Digital Computer Rooms and Toilet Complexes. As per guidelines of the Scheme, the States/UTs ensures that the proposed infrastructure have disabled-friendly design. The building design are in conformity with the requisite norms/accessibility standards as laid down by Central Public Works Department, Department of Empowerment of persons with disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, from time to time.

(d) Under eCourts Project Phase III, there are 24 components that have several significant measures devised to foster the creation of a robust and accessible digital infrastructure for citizens including Persons with Disabilities. Provision has been made for providing enhanced accessible ICT enabled facilities to persons with disabilities, migration of websites of 752 Courts (including High Courts) to S3WaaS platform (Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service) that makes the website friendly for Persons with Disabilities. S3WaaS platform has features for easy visibility of content for partially and completely visually challenged citizens.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 579
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

PENDENCY OF CASES IN SUPREME COURT

J.S (NMJR-I)
579. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether despite implementation of numerous IT related initiatives by the Supreme Court to streamline its day-to-day operations, the pendency of cases continues to be on the rise;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of cases pending in Supreme Court, bench-wise;
- (d) the reasons for accumulation of these cases in Supreme Court; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for speedy disposal of cases in Supreme Court and various other courts of 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) to (e): The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which *inter alia*, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc. As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of cases pending before the Benches of the Supreme Court, as on 01.12.2025, are as under:

S. No.	Bench	No. of pending cases
1	Three-Judge Bench	212
2	Five-Judge Bench	25
3	Seven-Judge Bench	06
4	Nine-Judge Bench	04

5	Eleven-Judge Bench	NIL
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*Rest of the cases are pending before Division Benches, Chamber-Judge and Registrar Court.

The Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts, a sum of Rs. 12,358.15 crore 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 22,606 (as on 31.10.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 20,008 (as on 31.10.2025), under this Scheme.
- iii. The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 579.53 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.81 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of e Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1987 across High Courts and District Courts.
- 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 26.11.2025, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1155 new Judges were appointed and 819 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. Filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.
- v. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- vi. Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. Further, ten Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs.

- vii. As on 30.09.2025, 773 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 400 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.
- viii. The Government has also amended 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 with a view to reduce pendency.
- ix. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- x. 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.
- xi. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App. Pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering have been institutionalized in the country. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been established in 23 High Courts. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instil Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 580
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

RESERVATION IN JUDICIARY

J.S (A.P.P.S)
580. SMT. RAJATHI:

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

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

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; 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 841 Judges appointed from 2018 till 28.11.2025, 32 belong to SC category, 17 belong to ST

category, 103 belong to OBC category and 46 belong to the minority category. 129 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.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 581
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

Admn. IV
(DLA)

VACANCIES IN MINISTRY

✓ 581 SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK:

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

- the number of sanctioned posts, and the number of vacancies, including reserved posts across categories in the Ministry;
- the number of vacancies in the Ministry and its Departments, including reserved posts since 2020, year-wise and category-wise; and
- the number of contractual employees hired since 2020, year-wise and category-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): The number of sanctioned posts, and the number of vacancies, including reserved posts across categories in the Ministry is as under:

Department	Sanctioned	Vacancies	Reserved Posts			
			SC	ST	OBC	EWS
Legal Affairs	546	239	26	9	32	8
Legislative	317	132	14	5	22	6
Justice	102	39	-	-	-	-

There is no direct recruitment in the Department of Justice. The employees in the Department are posted by the respective Cadre Controlling Authorities.

(b): The number of vacancies, including reserved posts, year-wise and category-wise since 2020 is given below:

Year	Vacancies	Reserved Posts			
		SC	ST	OBC	EWS
2020	207	11	5	9	3
2021	215	10	5	9	4
2022	225	13	7	9	4
2023	210	12	8	10	6
2024	223	9	9	16	7
2025	207	8	10	13	8

Legislative Department

Year	Vacancies	Reserved Posts			
		SC	ST	OBC	EWS
2020	17	0	1	1	0
2021	16	0	0	0	2
2022	10	1	0	1	0
2023	36	1	2	2	0
2024	31	3	1	2	0
2025	30	2	0	2	1

Department of Justice

Year	Vacancies	Reserved Posts			
		SC	ST	OBC	EWS
2025	39	-	-	-	-

(c): Most of the contractual engagements are done indirectly through a 3rd party/agency. The category wise information is not available in contractual appointment. The number of contractual employees hired since 2020, year-wise is given below:

Year	Number of contractual employees hired		
	Legal Affairs	Legislative Department	Department of Justice
2020	121	82	-
2021	129	93	-
2022	190	104	-
2023	216	119	-
2024	209	140	-
2025	218	151	139

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 582
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

J.S.(M.J.R.I)
PENDING CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES AT LOWER JUDICIARY LEVEL

582. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the details of pending civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on 1st December, 2025, State-wise;
- (b) the details of increase or decrease in such cases, State-wise during the last one year; and
- (c) the number of civil and criminal cases which are pending at the level of lower judiciary for more than 50 years, 40 years and 30 years, 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): The details of pending civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on 01.12.2025, State-wise is at *Annexure-I*.
- (b): The details of increase or decrease in such cases, State-wise during the last one year is at *Annexure-II*.
- (c): The number of civil and criminal cases which are pending at the level of lower judiciary for more than 50 years, 40 years and 30 years, State-wise is at *Annexure-III*.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 582 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING
'PENDING CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES AT LOWER JUDICIARY LEVEL'.**

Civil and Criminal Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts, State-wise as on 1.12.2025.

Sr No.	State	Civil	Criminal
1	Andaman and Nicobar	3995	4346
2	Andhra Pradesh	435848	492051
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2343	8635
4	Assam	112698	444006
5	Bihar	538043	3159519
6	Chandigarh	22858	79321
7	Chhattisgarh	84370	383214
8	Delhi	217397	1360394
9	Goa	27646	33434
10	Gujarat	339045	1608217
11	Haryana	424182	1095953
12	Himachal Pradesh	176534	449951
13	Jammu and Kashmir	117302	224710
14	Jharkhand	95028	468194
15	Karnataka	1050372	1317694
16	Kerala	541526	1246732
17	Ladakh	767	800
18	Lakshadweep	159	422
19	Madhya Pradesh	420093	1655457
20	Maharashtra	1764375	4175617
21	Manipur	9857	6421
22	Meghalaya	4685	11481
23	Mizoram	3665	3282
24	Nagaland	1041	2747
25	Odisha	264845	1494412
26	Puducherry	11921	24411
27	Punjab	365234	555640
28	Rajasthan	498606	2029107
29	Sikkim	791	1143
30	Tamil Nadu	705029	1028527
31	Telangana	339016	631548
32	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	3644	4748
33	Tripura	13553	58633
34	Uttar Pradesh	1801130	9505500
35	Uttarakhand	48070	268909
36	West Bengal	639021	3123571
	Total	11084689	36958747

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 582 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING
'PENDING CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES AT LOWER JUDICIARY LEVEL'.**

Increase/Decrease in Civil and Criminal Cases during last one year

Sr No.	State	Civil Cases		Increase/ Decrease	Criminal Cases		Increase/ Decrease
		1.12.2024	1.12.2025		1.12.2024	01.12.2025	
1	Andaman and Nicobar	3865	3995	130	4746	4346	-400
2	Andhra Pradesh	447834	435848	-11986	483290	492051	8761
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1915	2343	428	8081	8635	554
4	Assam	106157	112698	6541	397055	444006	46951
5	Bihar	543438	538043	-5395	3120092	3159519	39427
6	Chandigarh	23443	22858	-585	83792	79321	-4471
7	Chhattisgarh	81620	84370	2750	355500	383214	27714
8	Delhi	223735	217397	-6338	1296757	1360394	63637
9	Goa	27010	27646	636	33504	33434	-70
10	Gujarat	354727	339045	-15682	1263654	1608217	344563
11	Haryana	439950	424182	-15768	1003241	1095953	92712
12	Himachal Pradesh	170313	176534	6221	494429	449951	-44478
13	Jammu and Kashmir	109176	117302	8126	197570	224710	27140
14	Jharkhand	92775	95028	2253	458552	468194	9642
15	Karnataka	1014731	1050372	35641	1176213	1317694	141481
16	Kerala	529116	541526	12410	1254164	1246732	-7432
17	Ladakh	700	767	67	749	800	51
18	Lakshadweep	131	159	28	356	422	66
19	Madhya Pradesh	412887	420093	7206	1627555	1655437	27902
20	Maharashtra	1809976	1764375	-43601	3838316	4175617	337301
21	Manipur	8738	9857	1119	4242	6421	2179
22	Meghalaya	4313	4685	372	10762	11481	719
23	Mizoram	3220	3665	345	3007	3282	275
24	Nagaland	801	1041	240	2549	2747	198
25	Odisha	280593	264845	-15748	1441043	1494412	53369
26	Puducherry	13354	11921	-1433	22259	24411	2152
27	Punjab	381030	365234	-15796	501007	555640	54633
28	Rajasthan	528705	498606	-30099	2007622	2029107	21485
29	Sikkim	845	791	-54	988	1143	155
30	Tamil Nadu	756109	705329	-51080	779171	1028527	249356
31	Telangana	353870	339016	-14854	594506	631548	37042
32	Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	3437	3644	207	4275	4748	473
33	Tripura	12827	13553	726	37179	38633	21454
34	Uttar Pradesh	1847555	1801130	-46425	9788590	9505500	-283090
35	Uttarakhand	46963	48070	1107	316281	268909	-47372
36	West Bengal	616764	639021	22257	2690432	3123571	433139
	Total	11252723	11084689	-168034	35301529	36958747	1657218

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 582 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING
'PENDING CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES AT LOWER JUDICIARY LEVEL'.**

Civil and Criminal Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts for more than 50, 40, 30 and 20 years

Sr. No.	State	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
		More than 50 Years		50-40 years		40-30 Years	
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	1	0	5
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	3	13	29	23
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	23
4	Assam	0	0	10	1	13	6
5	Bihar	100	52	439	342	2752	3656
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	1	0
7	Chhattisgarh	0	0	4	0	3	0
8	Delhi	5	0	13	0	77	16
9	Goa	9	0	48	1	203	18
10	Gujarat	0	0	6	1	156	27
11	Haryana	0	0	1	0	10	2
12	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1	0
13	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	1	0	25	6
14	Jharkhand	5	1	5	9	41	26
15	Karnataka	3	0	17	0	164	11
16	Kerala	5	0	29	1	120	29
17	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	66	5	8	3	48	15
20	Maharashtra	75	77	399	1006	1863	10868
21	Manipur	0	0	0	1	2	8
22	Meghalaya	0	0	4	7	12	28
23	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Odisha	0	0	14	119	192	3613
26	Puducherry	0	0	1	0	1	0
27	Punjab	0	0	1	0	10	0
28	Rajasthan	11	0	73	7	240	19
29	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Tamil Nadu	2	0	25	5	288	80
31	Telangana	2	1	1	10	116	66
32	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	0	0	0	0	0	1
33	Tripura	0	2	1	15	1	41
34	Uttar Pradesh	261	0	2507	623	14297	18750
35	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	3	0
36	West Bengal	142	311	517	3010	2241	10432
	Total	687	449	4127	5175	22909	47769

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 583
ANSWERED ON – 04/12/2025

J.S. MEHWAL ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN JUDICIAL ENVIRONMENTS

583 SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether Government has recently evaluated the availability and quality of disable-friendly legal support across the country;
- (b) whether training programmes are being provided to judicial officers, court staff and legal aid providers to sensitise them about the needs of Persons with Disabilities;
- (c) whether the States/UTs are fully utilising funds allocated for improving accessibility in court buildings and legal institutions;
- (d) whether Government proposes to introduce new guidelines or strengthen existing standards to ensure barrier-free access for Persons with Disabilities in both physical and digital judicial environments; 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) The Government has undertaken several measures to make available affordable, quality and speedy legal services to the common man, including Persons with Disabilities. The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 provides for free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including Persons with Disabilities. In order to assess the quality of legal aid to the citizens including Persons with Disabilities, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) organizes All India Meets and Regional Meets both virtually and

physically from time to time. Further, the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Ministry of Law and Justice also assess the working of Legal Aid under the Legal Services Authorities Act (LSA), 1987.

(b) National Judicial Academy (NJA), under guidance of the National Judicial Academic Council (NJAC) chaired by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, is regularly conducting programs for judiciary that include specialised sessions focusing on sensitization towards the needs and rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensuring access to justice for them. These programs feature renowned dignitaries and subject experts to guide the participants on relevant legal frameworks, best practices, and the practical implementation of accessibility standards. Understanding the significance of this crucial issue, NJA has been proactively incorporating this sensitization component into its various academic programs for judiciary.

NAJSA has prepared "Module for the Training of Lawyers" which also includes training on Persons with Disability. The inter-alia objective of the said Module is to help participants in understanding disability, their attitude towards the disabled, both socially as well as individually, constitutional rights of the PWD and the laws relating to disabilities.

(c to e) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for the District and Subordinate Courts by augmenting the resources of the State Governments/UTs for construction of Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial Officers, Lawyers' Hall, Digital Computer Rooms and Toilet Complexes. As per guidelines of the scheme, the States/UTs ensures that the proposed infrastructure have disabled-friendly design. The building design are in conformity with the requisite norms/accessibility standards as laid down by Central Public Works Department, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, from time to time. It is ensured that the funds allotted to States/UTs under Central Sponsored Scheme are utilised for the designated purpose.

Under eCourts Project Phase III, there are 24 components that have several significant measures devised to foster the creation of a robust and accessible digital infrastructure for

citizens including Persons with Disabilities. Provision has been made for providing enhanced accessible ICT enabled facilities to Persons with Disabilities, at a budgetary outlay of Rs. 27.54 crore, migration of websites of 752 Courts (including High Courts) to S3WaaS platform (Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service) that makes the website friendly for Persons with Disabilities, at a budgetary outlay of Rs. 6.35 crore. S3WaaS platform has features for easy visibility of content for partially and completely visually challenged citizens.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 585
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

*Admn. II
(DLA)*

EFFECTIVENESS OF TRIBUNALS

✓585. **Shri Vivek K. Tankha:**

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

- (a) whether Government has compiled the statistical data to evaluate the effectiveness of various tribunals after the enforcement of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, particularly with reference to ensuring speedy delivery of justice;
- (b) if so, the tribunal-wise details of cases instituted, disposed of and pending during the last five years preceding the Act and for each year thereafter, along with the comparative disposal rates and the average time taken for adjudication; and
- (c) whether Government has identified any persistent or emerging impediments affecting tribunal efficiency since April 2021 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) to (c): Consequent to the enactment of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, sixteen Tribunals have been placed under First Schedule of the Act which are under the purview of various Ministries/Departments as per **Annexure**. No statistical data has been compiled to evaluate the effectiveness of various tribunals. The administrative Ministry/Department which administer and are concerned with the subject matter of Tribunals under their respective allocation have not reported any persistent or emerging impediments affecting Tribunal efficiency. However, the provisions of Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 has been struck down by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 19.11.2025 in the matter of W.P.(C) No. 1018 of 2021- *Madras Bar Association vs. Union of India and Anr.*

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 585 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING “EFFECTIVENESS
OF TRIBUNALS”**

Sl. No.	Tribunal/Appellate Tribunal/Board/Authority	Ministry/Department
1	Industrial Tribunal	Ministry of Labour & Employment
2	Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal	Department of Legal Affairs
3	Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal	Department of Revenue
4	Appellate Tribunal under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property)	Department of Revenue
5	Central Administrative Tribunal	Department of Personnel and Training
6	State Administrative Tribunals	Department of Personnel and Training
7	Railway Claims Tribunal	Ministry of Railways
8	Securities Appellate Tribunal	Department of Economic Affairs
9	Debts Recovery Tribunal	Department of Financial Services
10	Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal	Department of Financial Services
11	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal	Department of Telecommunication
12	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
13	National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission	Department of Consumer Affairs
14	Appellate Tribunal for Electricity	Ministry of Power
15	Armed Forces Tribunal	Department of Defence
16	National Green Tribunal	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

J.S. (NMJR-1)
VACANCIES IN COURTS

587. DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether District Courts in the country have a total vacancy of over 5,000 judges and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of vacant posts of judges in District Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise, court-wise and district-wise for Punjab;
- (c) by when Government is planning to fill vacant positions of judges in various Courts in the country, especially in the District Courts of Punjab; and
- (d) the details of pending cases in Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts during the last five years, year-wise, court-wise, State-wise and district-wise for 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) to (c): Total number of vacant posts of judges in District Courts in the country as on 01.12.2025 is 4855. The number of vacant posts of judges in District Courts, High Courts and Supreme court during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise, is at *Annexure-I & Annexure-II*. Further, the district-wise vacant position is not centrally maintained.

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

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

Further, filling up of vacant positions of judges in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the 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 in the respective State Judicial Service. The 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, including the State of Punjab, for the recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

(d): The details of pending cases in the Supreme Court of India during the last five years are as under:

S. No.	Name of Court	Pendency in Supreme Court				
		2021	2022	2023	2024	As on 01.12.2025
1.	Supreme Court	70,239	69,768	80,765	82,496	90694

The details of pending cases in High Courts and District Courts during the last five years, year-wise, court-wise, and State-wise are at *Annexure-III* and *Annexure-IV* respectively and district-wise for Punjab is at *Annexure-V*.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN COURTS'.**

Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years state-wise

Sl. No	State/UTs	Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts				
		As on 31.12.2021	As on 31.12.2022	As on 31.12.2023	As on 13.12.2024	As on 01.12.2025
		Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	116	73	83	59	68
2	Telangana	49	150	115	115	115
3	Arunachal Pradesh	9	8	10	11	14
4	Assam	31	60	46	24	24
5	Bihar	560	667	1550	483	357
6	Chandigarh	0	0	1	0	-1
7	Chhattisgarh	73	90	139	198	198
8	D & N Haveli and Daman and Diu	1	1	1	1	1
9	Delhi	192	203	89	94	57
10	Goa	10	10	10	10	10
11	Gujarat	400	431	545	535	535
12	Haryana	290	308	208	229	131
13	Himachal Pradesh	15	16	21	19	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	59	91	94	46	53
15	Ladakh	8	8	7	6	7
16	Jharkhand	152	186	181	199	210
17	Karnataka	276	233	225	219	266
18	Kerala	81	122	91	77	40
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	1	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	469	372	298	337	384
21	Maharashtra	250	250	250	250	250
22	Manipur	17	17	10	13	13
23	Meghalaya	48	48	42	43	42
24	Mizoram	23	33	33	29	29
25	Nagaland	10	10	10	10	10
26	Odisha	191	234	205	200	211
27	Puducherry	15	17	19	10	12
28	Punjab	85	208	212	81	106
29	Rajasthan	275	331	296	328	206
30	Sikkim	8	9	12	12	12
31	Tamil Nadu	234	272	331	346	148
32	Tripura	25	20	20	24	14
33	Uttar Pradesh	1092	1173	1247	996	1055
34	Uttarakhand	28	30	27	28	28
35	West Bengal					
36	A & N Island	83	83	83	230	242
	Total	5175	5764	5428	5262	4,855

*Combined vacancy of UT Andaman & Nicobar Island and State of WB as shown against State of West Bengal.

Annexure-II

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN
COURTS'.**

Vacancies in High Courts for last five years						
Sl. No	High Courts	As on January,2021	As on January,2022	As on January,2023	As on January,2024	As on 01.12.2025
		Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies	Vacancies
1.	Ailahabad	64	67	62	70	50
2.	Bombay	30	34	29	25	12
3.	Calcutta	38	33	18	21	28
4.	Gauhati	04	0	0	07	05
5.	Telangana	10	23	10	16	14
6.	Andhra Pradesh	19	17	07	07	04
7.	Chhattisgarh	08	09	08	07	06
8.	Delhi	30	30	15	18	16
9.	Gujarat	23	20	25	21	16
10.	Himachal Pradesh	04	04	07	05	04
11.	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	06	04	03	02	10
12.	Jharkhand	08	05	05	07	10
13.	Karnataka	16	17	13	10	13
14.	Kerala	10	08	10	11	06
15.	Madhya Pradesh	24	24	22	13	10
16.	Manipur	0	01	02	01	02
17.	Meghalaya	0	01	01	01	0
18.	Punjab and Haryana	32	36	19	28	26
19.	Rajasthan	27	22	24	16	11
20.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Tripura	0	0	03	0	01
22.	Uttarakhand	02	04	04	05	02
23.	Madras	13	15	22	08	20
24.	Orissa	12	09	11	13	13
25.	Patna	31	27	19	18	18
	Total	411	410	339	330	297

Vacancies in the Supreme court for last five years.

Name of the Court	As on 01.01.2021	As on 01.01.2022	As on 01.01.2023	As on 01.01.2024	As on 01.12.2025
Supreme court of India	04	01	06	01	01

Annexure-III

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN COURTS'.

Details of Pending Cases in High Courts for the last five years.

Sl. No	Name of High Court	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 01.12.2025
1	Allahabad	1031587	1033621	1066111	1144553	1166971
2	Bombay	353143	380469	400461	414919	665027
3	Calcutta	234909	220734	206437	208421	199281
4	Gauhati	44356	47516	49236	52341	63539
5	Telangana	240029	233682	231575	229221	233079
6	Andhra Pradesh	223783	243629	251924	250051	249462
7	Chhattisgarh	81001	91184	90240	84305	76681
8	Delhi	101685	105625	112891	116616	122839
9	Gujarat	155006	161922	167825	171948	175092
10	Himachal Pradesh	82354	91210	99465	93942	101475
11	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	48318	47521	49293	50422	45106
12	Jharkhand	88364	87977	86000	74513	72017
13	Karnataka	246413	264234	282039	297609	324974
14	Kerala	226494	240437	253190	247545	258085
15	Madhya Pradesh	408527	429567	445382	464092	472461
16	Manipur	3218	3230	3473	3651	3772
17	Meghalaya	1201	920	841	950	1441
18	Punjab and Haryana	451985	446068	436630	422295	420340
19	Rajasthan	560062	604868	601278	610027	683845
20	Sikkim	179	163	178	208	273
21	Tripura	1736	1602	1269	1038	1438
22	Uttarakhand	40963	44512	49846	55323	58854
23	Madras	259980	234545	212921	198110	557945
24	Orissa	196483	164622	146884	146293	157676
25	Patna	226071	212173	197158	202289	215316
Total		5307847	5392031	5442547	5540682	6,331,129

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

Annexure-IV

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN COURTS'.

Detail of pending cases in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years.

Sl.No	States	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 01.12.2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	785379	841998	876689	893993	927899
2	Telangana	790366	841405	873848	907392	970564
3	Andaman & Nicobar	9321	9214	9950	10407	8341
4	Arunachal Pradesh	14318	15923	16556	15335	10978
5	Assam	415624	481455	445759	491720	556704
6	Bihar	3276696	3464725	3609527	3716100	3697562
7	Chandigarh	72184	89254	104116	120210	102179
8	Chhattisgarh	381984	414839	414463	417325	467584
9	Delhi	1231373	1440549	1359103	1527969	1577791
10	Diu and Daman	6523	6733	7305	3255	
11	DNH & Silvassa				4485	8392
12	Goa	59414	56319	57195	59190	61080
13	Gujarat	1952262	1722919	1547276	1528794	1947262
14	Haryana	1313881	1496881	1533521	1489585	1520278
15	Himachal Pradesh	464892	483642	578246	631442	626483
16	Jammu & Kashmir	216245	272549	247244	266146	341931
17	Ladakh					1567
18	Jharkhand	490905	504697	524241	521274	563223
19	Karnataka	1780802	1864827	1925330	2060206	2368968
20	Kerala	2089147	1991193	1851414	1750373	1788266
21	Madhya Pradesh	1920613	2008566	2023950	2052363	2075550
22	Maharashtra	4800895	4953521	5131895	5510544	5939993
23	Manipur	8181	7590	8125	7615	16278
24	Meghalaya	16010	15014	14136	13227	16166
25	Mizoram	6304	5620	6113	6480	6947
26	Nagaland	4569	4443	3923	3881	3768
27	Orissa	1789677	1826100	1873312	1920825	1759257
28	Puducherry	32998	31868	32086	33352	36332
29	Punjab	945609	923581	875009	863867	920876
30	Rajasthan	2162774	2272463	2422125	2455623	2527713
31	Sikkim	1616	1696	1523	1659	1934
32	Tamil Nadu	1331944	1387919	1375098	1386582	1733556
33	Tripura	43096	40661	43526	43098	72186
34	U.T of Lakshadweep	470	540	512	535	581
35	Uttar Pradesh	9966606	10986875	11147755	11486655	11305841
36	Uttarakhand	287204	308694	331002	328911	316979
37	West Bengal	2384020	2512418	2698188	2923585	3762592
	Total	41053498	43293727	43970061	45454003	48,042,728

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 587 FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN
COURTS'.**

District-wise pending cases for the State of Punjab as on 01.12.2025

District	Pending cases
Ludhiana	185311
Jalandhar	82608
Rupnagar	24729
Fatehgarh Sahib	18564
Patiala	72960
Ferozpur	25755
Amritsar	81437
Faridkot	17012
Gurdaspur	35299
Kapurthala	23941
Moga	21772
Mansa	19291
Sri Muktsar Sahib	24203
SBS Nagar	13867
Barnala	15849
Bathinda	49553
Hoshiarpur	38061
Sangrur	48603
Pathankot	20678
Tarn Taran	20146
SAS Nagar	51117
Fazilka	30120
TOTAL	920,876

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 588
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

SYSTEM FOR RECORDING PRO BONO LEGAL WORK

588. SMT. SUDHA MURTY:

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

- (a) whether Government has any system in place to record or track the pro bono legal work undertaken by advocates and law firms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government proposes to create a national registry to formally account for such work; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has carried out any assessment of such work/services currently being provided 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) to (c) The Government launched Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme in the year 2017 with the primary aim of advancing the culture of pro bono and creating a framework for dispensation of offering pro bono legal services across the country. It links the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 with the pro bono lawyers. The programme was integrated to a citizen- centric scheme named **Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India (DISHA)** for the period of 5 years (2021-2026).

One of the key objectives under Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme is to register advocates who voluntarily offer their time and services for case registration and assistance in the court. As on 30th November, 2025, 9776 Pro Bono Advocates have registered on Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Portal.

In order to bolster the culture of Pro Bono among young legal minds, Pro Bono Club sub scheme has been operationalized across 109 law schools in the country. Moreover, to institutionalize the efforts, Panels of Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) at 23 High Courts has been made functional.

In addition, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been set up 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. For this purpose, the legal Services Institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. However, NALSA and Legal Services Institutions under it, are not involved in those cases where Pro bono services are rendered by the advocates on their own.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 591
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT BETWEEN COURT & TRIBUNAL INFRASTRUCTURE

591 Dr. Sasmit Patra:

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

- (a) whether Government acknowledges that while the Ministry has rightly prioritised significant improvements in infrastructure of Supreme Court and various High Courts, several tribunals even with Principal Benches in Delhi remain in severely neglected conditions, stark disparity within country's adjudicatory system;
- (b) whether Centre has taken cognisance of documented fact that the NCLT in Delhi was compelled to conduct hearings only half a day in rotation because its courtrooms were rendered unusable due to rainwater flooding; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is even discussing these with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and other Ministries?

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) Government through Department of Justice deals with improvement in infrastructure of the Supreme Court; whereas infrastructure of the High Courts is looked after by the concerned

State Government. Administrative Tribunals, set up under Article 323A of the Constitution, are governed by the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, while Tribunal for other matters, set up under Article 323B of the Constitution, are regulated by the law made by appropriate legislature.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Corporate Affairs administers the Companies Act, 2013 which regulates and administers corporate affairs in India. NCLT has been constituted under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013. Ministry of Corporate Affairs have informed that the issue of leakage and seepage in the premises of NCLT in CGO complex was taken up with CPWD and the work of carrying out the renovation of ground floor, 1st, 6th, 7th and 8th floor of Block-3, CGO Complex, New Delhi, at an estimated cost of Rs. 18.19 crore, has been entrusted to CPWD by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 592
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

Leg. II
✓592

Irregularities in voter rolls and electoral integrity

✓592 Shri Sanjay Raut:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of recent allegations of large-scale voter roll irregularities, including duplicate, deleted and fake entries reported in States particularly in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Bihar;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Election Commission of India to verify, update and audit electoral rolls to ensure accuracy and prevent manipulation before the upcoming elections;
- (c) whether any independent or third-party verification mechanism is proposed to enhance transparency in the voter list revision process; and
- (d) the measures being implemented to ensure electoral integrity, data security and accountability of officials involved in voter roll management and election preparedness ?

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 article 324 of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the

offices of President and Vice-President vests in the Election Commission. The Election Commission has informed that Commission has noted that during the last 20 years significant change in electoral roll has taken place due to additions and deletions on a large scale over this long period. Rapid urbanisation and frequent migration of population from one place to another on account of education, livelihood and other reasons, have become a regular trend. Some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral roll of the initial place of residence. This has led to increased possibility of repeated entries in the electoral roll. Thus, the situation warranted an intensive verification drive to verify each person before enrolment as an elector. Therefore, the Commission had ordered Special Summary Revision starting from Bihar.

(b) to (d): The Election Commission of India has informed that the Special Intensive Revision process of Electoral Roll has started in poll coming States/Union territory. The guideline provides the following mechanism for quality of electoral roll:

- (i) Engagement with Political Parties and sharing of electoral roll in hard and soft copy at the draft publication and final publication stage.
- (ii) Inviting claims and objections from public.
- (iii) Provision for supervision and checks for quality assessment.
- (iv) Display of claims and objections on Electoral Registration Officer's (ERO) notice board and Chief Electoral Officer's website.
- (v) A detailed schedule of Press Note/Advertisement during Revision process for public awareness.
- (vi) Provision for Appeals: First Appeal against any decision of the ERO to the District Magistrate; and the second appeal to the Chief Electoral Officer.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 593
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

VACANCIES OF JUDGES IN HIGH COURTS

593. SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

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

- (a) the details of existing vacancies of judges in High Courts and the details of recommendations of Supreme Court collegium pending before Government and the reasons for their pendency;
- (b) whether Government has evaluated the impact of vacancies on pending cases in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to fill these vacancies in various 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) to (d): As on 27.11.2025, against the sanctioned strength of 1122 Judges, 825 Judges are working and 297 posts of Judges are vacant in various High Courts. Against these vacancies, 97 proposals for appointment of High Court Judges are at various stages of processing between the Government and the Supreme Court Collegium. The recommendations against 200 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. Since May 2014 till 01.12.2025, 1156 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts.

Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which *inter alia*, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake-holders viz. Bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and proper application of rules and procedures to monitor, track and bunch hearing of cases. Furthermore, pendency of cases and vacancy position of judges in High Courts are not necessarily directly related.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 594
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

(e-Court)
E-COURTS PROJECT IN BELAGAVI DISTRICT

594 Shri Iranna Kadadi:

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

- (a) the status of implementation of 'E-Courts Project' in subordinate judiciary of Belagavi district;
- (b) the percentage of cases which have been digitised and the status of video conferencing facilities there; and
- (c) the steps being taken to address the shortage of judicial officers and support staff there?

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 provided by the eCommittee Supreme Court of India, following initiatives have been undertaken for implementation of E-Courts Project in subordinate judiciary of Belagavi district: -

- i. Migration of Belagavi District Court website to the new S3WAAS (Secure, Scalable & Sugamya Website) platform.
- ii. An online facility in the form of District Judiciary Online Services has been developed for the Belagavi District Judiciary to provide easy access to certified copies of orders and judgments.
- iii. The High Court of Karnataka has enabled transmission of e-Summons through email where parties have provided email IDs, in High Court as well as District Courts, including Belagavi District Court. Further, the Karnataka Courts – Service of Summons/ Notices/ Processes/ Documents (Civil Proceedings) by Electronic Mail Rules, 2024 have also been notified.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 595
ANSWERED ON- 04/12/2025

55 (e-Court)
DIGITALIZATION OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECORDS

595 Shri Kartikeya Sharma:

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

- (a) the steps taken to digitize and make public the available records, judgements, orders of the High Courts and Supreme Court;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Ministry to promote the use of AI, NLP, blockchain and other cutting edge technologies;
- (c) whether a central repository of data from various courts is being maintained in an integrated manner to facilitate any analysis, conversion of data in AI ready format; and
- (d) whether the Ministry is planning to rollout projects such as AI chatbot, Legal AI LLM, AI agents, etc. in the near future?

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 part of the National eGovernance Plan, Phase-III of the eCourts Mission Mode project with an outlay of Rs 7210 crore is under implementation for ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in the Indian Judiciary. Its vision is to transform the judicial system with Information and Communication Technology enablement of courts and to enhance the judicial productivity, both qualitatively & quantitatively, making the justice delivery system accessible, cost effective, reliable, and transparent.

Budgetary outlay of Rs. 2038.40 crore has been made under the eCourts Project Phase III for digitisation of the entire court record - both legacy records and fresh filing of cases as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) approved by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India for scanning, storage, retrieval, digitization of court records and preservation of legacy data. As per the details provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, over 224 crore and 354 crore pages have been digitized till 30.09.25 in the High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts respectively.

Various initiatives under the eCourts Project have made the records, judgements and orders of the courts digitally available for the public. The Case Information System (CIS) software under the eCourts Project provides facility for publication of cause lists, daily proceedings, including judgments and orders for information of litigants and citizens. These documents can be accessed through various service delivery channels of the eCourts project like www.hcservices.ecourts.gov.in, official websites of the respective high court and mobile apps. For the Supreme Court of India, the same is available on its official website <http://www.sci.gov.in>.

The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) provides the public information on the pending and disposed cases by Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts. Its interactive dashboard—featuring drill-down visual analytics and granular tabular reports is capable of supporting trend analysis, identification of high-pendency jurisdictions, workload assessment, and evidence-based policy making. Further, Judgment Search Portal, which is a repository of final orders and judgments from the High Courts and Supreme Court of India, provides free text search facility using various search parameters to search judgments/orders free of cost. Besides, initiatives such as SMS alerts, emails, and mobile applications, have been introduced to ensure real-time availability of cause lists and court orders.

Besides, efforts are being made for continuous upgrades in technology, skill and process re-engineering under the head of capacity building of stakeholders in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) including AI.

An AI based software tool called Legal Research Analysis Assistant [LegRAA] has been developed to aid judges in legal research and document analysis. Another AI based tool called Digital Courts 2.1 has been designed to assist Hon'ble Judges and Judicial Officers by providing a single window for managing all case-related information and tasks. Digital Courts 2.1 includes a number of advanced features to streamline judicial processes, such as:

- Anytime, anywhere secure access by Judicial Officer,
- Judges can search High Court and Supreme Court judgments.
- Judges can access e-filed documents, charge sheets, and orders from the CIS, as well as make and save annotations directly on case files using the Digi Note tool.
- AI-Powered voice-to-text (ASR - SHRUTI) and translation (PANINI) functionalities to assist the judges with order and judgment dictation,
- Auto-populated templates for drafting orders and judgments,

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 596
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2025

Admn. III
(DLA)

Cases pending in tribunals

✓596. Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- (a) number of pending cases in tribunals in the country;
- (b) the volume of cases pending, tribunal-wise;
- (c) the sanctioned and working strength of Chairpersons/Members and staff in each tribunal;
- (d) the average age of pending cases and monthly disposals rate, tribunal-wise; and
- (e) whether Government has formulated any time-bound plan to reduce the pendency in cases, including the timeline to fill the vacancies?

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): Details of Tribunal-wise pendency of cases including staff strength in each Tribunal is given as **Annexure**.

(d): In view of the nature and kind of cases, their complexity, stage-wise procedures involved, repeated re-hearings and other operational variables involved for final adjudication of cases being handled by each of the Tribunal such a computation cause significant variation in the overall time frame.

(e) Government has been making all out efforts to adhere to the timelines for filling up of vacancies in Tribunals. Vacancies in various Tribunals occur on account of retirement, resignation, promotion and voluntary retirement etc. and are filled up as per the statutory provisions. Occurring of Vacancies and its filling up of is a continuous ongoing process. To facilitate expeditious disposal of cases in Tribunals, Government is taking all necessary steps as per the Acts under which the Tribunals function and provide for indicating timeline within which appeal should preferably dispose of. Various measures are also undertaken by the Tribunals for speedy disposal of pending cases which include; Filling up of vacancies of

Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 596 for reply on 04/12/2025 regarding "Cases pending in tribunals"

SI No	Tribunals	Chairperson/President		Members		Staff		Pending cases
		Sanctioned	Working	Sanctioned	Working	Sanctioned	Working	
1.	Central Government Industrial Tribunal	-	-	22*	15*	182	116	10644
2.	Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal	1	1	126*	103*	987	680	42502
3.	Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal	-	-	32*	30*	348	265	71454
4.	Appellate Tribunal under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property)	-	-	4*	4*	34	28	12498
5.	Central Administrative Tribunal	1	1	69	66	1373	1039	69102
	State Administrative Tribunals	4	1	28	18	645	463	28940
6.	Railway Claims Tribunal	-	-	46*	36*	566	395	10570
7.	Securities Appellate Tribunal	1	1	3	2	28	19	1308
8.	Debts Recovery Tribunal	-	-	39*	35*	1151	1015	233901
9.	Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal	-	-	5*	3*			5193
10.	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal	1	1	2	2	49	37	5979

11.	National Company Law Tribunal	1	1	62	55	320	60	14961
12.	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal	1	1	11	10	111	20	410
13.	National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission	1	1	11	08	169	133	1969
14.	Appellate Tribunal for Electricity	1	1	4	4	31	22	2644
15.	Armed Forces Tribunal			34*	23*	559	371	6904
16.	National Green Tribunal	1	1	20	10	166	126	5301

N.B: (*) Include the Post of President/Vice President/Chairperson/Presiding Officers, as the case may be.

Sl. No. 125

USQs. No. 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1395, 1398

Pertain to DoJ

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 125
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

WEAKENING OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM

J.S. (App'te)

125. # SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) whether there is an effort by some people to weaken the judicial system;
- (b) whether some YouTubers continue to spread outrageous and frenzied propaganda against the Chief Justice of India on social media after a highly shameful incident against him, yet there has been indifference in taking action against them; and
- (c) whether in recent years, some people tried to intimidate the judiciary but there has been indifference in Government action in restraining them; and
- (d) the details of the action taken in this case and in similar 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): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 125 FOR REPLY ON 11/12/2025
REGARDING 'WEAKENING OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM ASKED BY SHRI RAMJI
LAL SUMAN'**

(a) to (d): Judiciary is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution and is fully empowered and capable of handling all its matters. The Government is fully committed to the independence of Judiciary and constantly endeavours to provide a conducive environment for judges to discharge their judicial functions smoothly. Article 129 and 142 of the Constitution vest the Supreme Court of India with the power to punish for contempt of Court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

Article 129 of the Constitution of India provides that "*The Supreme Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself*".

Article 142 provides that "*(1) The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe*".

The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 defines and limits the powers of certain Courts in punishing Contempts of Courts and regulates the procedure in relation thereto. Section 2(c) defines "criminal contempt" as :

"(c) "criminal contempt" means the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other- act whatsoever which-

(i) scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court; or

(ii) prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or

(iii) interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner; "

Rule 2, Part-I of the Rules to Regulate Proceedings for Contempt of the Supreme Court, 1975 states that:

“ 2. (1) Where contempt is committed in view or presence or hearing of the Court, the contemner may be punished by the Court before which it is committed either forthwith or on such date as may be appointed by the Court in that behalf.

(2) Pending the determination of the charge, the Court may direct that the contemner shall be detained in such custody as it may specify:

Provided that the contemner may be released on bail on such terms as the Court may direct.”

Rule 3 Part-II of the Rules provide that:

“3. In case of contempt other than the contempt referred to in Rule 2, the Court may take action:

- (a) suo motu, or*
- (b) on a petition made by Attorney General, or Solicitor General, or*
- (c) on a petition made by any person, and in the case of a criminal contempt with the consent in writing of the Attorney General or the Solicitor General”.*

Similarly, Article 215 provides that “*Every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself*”.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1382
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

REPEAL OF OBSOLETE LAWS AND LEGAL REFORMS

Leg I (L.D)
1382 #

Shri Brij Lal:
Shri Sujeet Kumar:
Smt. Kiran Choudhry:
Smt. Dharmshila Gupta:
Shri Narayana Koragappa:
Shri Manan Kumar Mishra:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken a fresh exercise since 2024 to identify obsolete or redundant Central Acts for repeal and if so, the number of such Acts identified;
- (b) whether the 23rd Law Commission has submitted any interim recommendations on revising, simplifying or repealing outdated Central laws;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has set targets to further reduce compliance burden through amendment, consolidation or repeal of laws;
- (e) if so, the action plan and timeline thereof;
- (f) the steps being taken to simplify the drafting style of Central legislation for greater public accessibility; and
- (g) the training or capacity-building initiatives which have been undertaken?

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): The Government has identified seventy-one obsolete and redundant Acts for repeal.
- (b) and (c): No interim recommendations on revising, simplifying or repealing outdated Central laws has been received from the 23rd Law Commission.

(d) and (e): As a part of the Government's commitment to bring reforms to the legal system, initiatives have been taken for reducing the compliance burden, ensuring good governance and making the legal system more accessible to the common man through amendment, consolidation or repeal of obsolete and redundant laws. In the latest exercise relating to identification and repeal of redundant and obsolete laws, the Government has identified to repeal seventy-one obsolete and redundant laws by an appropriate legislation.

(f): The Legislative Department undertakes drafting of laws on the basis of the policy decisions taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Department of the Government of India and as per the procedure prescribed by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the Manual of Parliamentary Procedure in the Government of India. The Legislative Department has been taking necessary steps to ensure that legislative drafting is simple, plain, precise and unambiguous.

(g): The Legislative Department undertakes continuous training and capacity building initiatives to simplify the drafting style of Central legislation for greater public accessibility through its training courses conducted by the Institute of Legislative Drafting and Research, Legislative Department, which includes ninety days Basic Course of Legislative Drafting, thirty days Basic Course of Legislative Drafting (in Hindi), fifteen days Appreciation Course of Legislative Drafting and Structured Courses in Legislative Drafting curated for various Ministries/Departments on request. Additionally, four module courses on Drafting in Plain Language has also been contributed on iGOT portal for consumption by all Public Servants engaged in drafting of legislation.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1383
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

J.S.(ANM.R.I)
PENDENCY OF CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS

1383. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending in various courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether measures have been taken by Government to expedite the disposal of pending cases in the courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any study has been conducted regarding the success of alternative dispute redressal system for the early disposal of pending cases in courts;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the other steps taken by Government for early disposal of pending 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) & (g): 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 08.12.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending Cases
1.	Supreme Court	90,897
2.	High Courts	63,63,406
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,84,57,343

The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and

litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc. The Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts, a sum of Rs. 12,358.15 crore 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 22,606 (as on 31.10.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 20,008 (as on 31.10.2025), under this Scheme.
- iii. The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till 30.09.2025, 579.53 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.81 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of e Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1987 across High Courts and District Courts.
- 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 26.11.2025, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1156 new Judges were appointed and 819 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. Filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.
- v. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- vi. Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. Further, ten Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs.

- vii. As on 30.09.2025, 773 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 400 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.
- viii. The Government has also amended 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 with a view to reduce pendency.
- ix. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- x. 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.
- xi. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App. Pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering have been institutionalized in the country. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been established in 23 High Courts. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instil Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(e) & (f): No study/assessment has been conducted regarding the success of alternative dispute redressal system for the early disposal of the pending cases in the courts.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1384
ANSWERED ON – 11/12/2025

FTSC SCHEME

1384 SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the details of funds allocated and utilized under the Fast Track Special Court (FTSC) scheme during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the number of FTSCs functional in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the details of key achievements and outcomes of the scheme during the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether Government would consider to extend the scheme for other cases also; 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) & (b): 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.

The Department has released a sum of ₹1108.97 Crore to the States/UTs since inception of the Scheme. The funds are released on the pattern of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (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, determined by the number of functional FTSCs/ e-POCSO courts in the State/UT concerned, are released to the States/UTs on a reimbursement basis. The State/UT-wise details of central share of funds released, during the last three years and the current year are given at **Annexure-I**.

As of 30.09.2025, 773 FTSCs, including 400 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO courts, are given at **Annexure-II**.

(c): The establishment of Fast Track Special Courts demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Government towards women security, combating sexual and gender-based violence, reducing the backlog of pending cases related to Rape and offense under the POCSO Act, and providing enhanced access to justice for survivors of sexual crimes. With professional and experienced judges and support staff specialized in handling sensitive sexual offense cases, these courts ensure consistent and expert-guided legal proceedings and offer victims swift resolution for mitigating the trauma and distress. Fast Track Special Courts have notably adopted the approach of setting up Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres within the courts to facilitate the victims and to make the courts child friendly. These courts have disposed of 3,50,685 cases till 30.09.2025.

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.

(d) & (e): The Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme has been formulated exclusively for the expeditious trial of cases related to rape and offences under the POCSO Act and is funded through the Nirbhaya Fund, which is dedicated to initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women and children. In view of this, no proposal to expand the scope of the Scheme to cover other categories of cases is under consideration with the Ministry.

State/UT wise details of Central Share of funds released during the last three years and the current year

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Amount released in 2022-23	Amount Released in 2023-24	Amount Released in 2024-25	Amount Released in 2025-26 (Till 08/12/2025)
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
2	Assam	6.73	5.53	10.98	4.48
3	Bihar	11.90	9.87	11.36	10.56
4	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
5	Chhattisgarh	3.93	3.25	3.70	0
6	Delhi	4.22	3.47	1.98	8.00
7	Goa	0.47	0.22	0.49	0.11
8	Gujarat	9.26	7.59	8.64	0
9	Haryana	4.22	3.47	7.90	2.33
10	Himachal Pradesh	2.38	1.95	2.22	2.95
11	J&K	1.58	2.32	1.48	0.16
12	Jharkhand*	5.83	4.77	0.00	0.00
13	Karnataka	7.39	7.45	7.65	0.46
14	Kerala	7.41	25.40	13.58	16.27
15	Madhya Pradesh	17.72	15.38	16.54	7.03
16	Maharashtra	8.72	6.59	1.23	0
17	Manipur	0.79	0.65	0.74	0
18	Meghalaya	1.98	1.63	1.85	0
19	Mizoram	1.18	0.98	1.11	1.12
20	Nagaland	0.39	0.33	0.37	0
21	Odisha	11.64	9.52	10.86	10.62
22	Puducherry	0.00	0.20	0.25	0.37
23	Punjab	4.31	3.96	5.93	1.56
24	Rajasthan	11.90	21.14	22.22	5.83
25	Tamil Nadu	6.62	6.50	6.91	1.63
26	Telangana	8.99	7.61	4.44	0
27	Tripura	1.17	0.98	1.11	0.02
28	Uttarakhand	1.53	1.30	1.48	0.92
29	Uttar Pradesh	57.68	47.26	53.83	0
30	West Bengal	0.00	0.71	1.11	0
TOTAL		199.92	200.00	200.00	74.42
	Third Party Evaluation Cost	0.08			
	GRAND TOTAL	200	200	200	74.42

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

State/UT wise details of functional FTSCs along with exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) courts as on 30/09/2025

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Functional Courts	
		FTSCs including exclusive POCSO	Exclusive POCSO
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16
2	Assam	17	17
3	Bihar	54	48
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	36	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	20	20
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		773	400

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. Puducherry made a special request to be included in the Scheme and has since operationalized one exclusive POCSO Court in May, 2023.

* 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 JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1385
ANSWERED ON-11/12/2025

VACANCY IN TELANGANA HIGH COURT

TJS (Appends)

1385. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there are as many as 12 vacancies of judges that exist in the High Court of Telangana as on 01.02.2025 against the total sanctioned strength of 42 judges including additional judges;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is also aware of the fact that due to significant vacancy of post of judges, backlog of cases has piled up considerably which seriously affects the process of administration of justice; and
- (d) if so, the details of steps taken to fill up the vacancy of judges in Telangana?

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) : Yes.
- (b) to (d): 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 Supreme Court Collegium are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

As on 05.12.2025, no proposal from the Telangana High Court is pending with Government.

Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake-holders viz. Bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and proper application of rules and procedures to monitor, track and bunch hearing of cases. Furthermore, pendency of cases and vacancy position of judges in High Courts are not necessarily directly related.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1386
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

PENDENCY OF ENVIRONMENT RELATED CASES IN MAHARASHTRA

1386 DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) the current pendency of environment-related cases before district courts, High Court and NGT pertaining to Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the delays in adjudication are affecting the forest protection, land demarcation and coastal-zone enforcement and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to expedite such cases through fast track courts, digital monitoring or special benches; and
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes additional legal reforms to strengthen environmental justice delivery in the State 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) to (d): As per data provided by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, the total pendency of environment related cases in various courts of Maharashtra is as under:

S. No	Name of the Court	Pendency of environment related cases
1.	High Court of judicature at Bombay including	250

	Benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad Circuit Bench at Kolhapur and High Court of Bombay at- Goa	
2.	District Judiciary in Maharashtra*	7,809
3.	District Judiciary in Goa*	25
4.	Union Territory of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli*	Nil

*As on 30.11.2025

As per the information provided by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, pendency of environment related cases before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Pune Bench pertaining to Maharashtra is 151.

The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter-alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc.

The Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

- (i) The NGT was set up on 18th October, 2010 under the NGT Act, 2010 for the purpose of effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The NGT has five places of sitting i.e., the Principal Bench at New Delhi and Zonal Benches at Pune, Kolkata, Bhopal and Chennai.
- (ii) The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the High Courts from time to time. Filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.
- (iii) Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- (iv) Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, special focus is on amalgamation of latest technologies for increasing access to Justice and greater transparency. Government has

been supplementing the resources of the State Governments/UTs for providing suitable infrastructure facilities for the District and Subordinate Judiciary under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary.

- (v) Government has promoted Alternate Dispute Resolution methods, through progressive amendments in various acts such as, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes.
- (vi) Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines. Lok Adalats are held as an Alternative Dispute Mechanism where the disputes/ cases pending in the courts 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.
- (vii) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has informed that Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019 was issued with a view to conserve and protect the unique environment of coastal stretches and marine areas, besides livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities in the coastal areas and to promote sustainable development based on scientific principles. As per the CRZ Notification, 2019, the State Government or the Union Territory (UT) Coastal Zone Management Authorities (CZMAs) shall be primarily responsible for enforcement and monitoring of the Notification. To assist in this task, the State Government and the Union Territory shall constitute District-Level Committees under the Chairmanship of the concerned District Magistrate, including at least three representatives from the local traditional coastal communities including fisherfolk, State/UT CZMAs have been empowered under Sections 5, 10, and 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to enforce and monitor the provisions of the CRZ Notification.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1387
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

PERFORMANCE OF COURTS

J.S(NMJR-I)
1387. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has maintained performance metrics to evaluate improvement in the overall judicial system, particularly before the High Courts;
- (b) whether empirical data exists to show any measurable increase in judicial efficiency and reduction in pendency during the last five years;
- (c) whether persistent bottlenecks such as vacancies, infrastructure gaps or procedural delays continue to affect the disposal rate of cases;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to remove such impediments; and
- (e) whether Government proposes further policy interventions to strengthen case management and ensure time-bound 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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The performance assessment of courts in India is within the domain of the Judiciary. The evaluation of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts falls within the exclusive domain of their respective courts, while the administrative control over the District and Subordinate Judiciary is vested in the concerned High Courts, as per Article 235 of the Constitution of India. To enhance judicial efficiency and establish measurable performance standards, the Supreme Court has constituted the National Court Management System (NCMS) Committee. A Sub-Committee under the NCMS Committee has worked on

developing the National Framework of Court Excellence (NFCE), which aims to set objective performance benchmarks and establish a monitoring mechanism for courts. These reports and recommendations serve as guidelines for High Courts to consider and implement, as required.

The data reflecting judicial efficiency and the status of pendency over the past five years of the High Courts is placed at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II**.

(c) to (e): The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which *inter alia*, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc. The Central Government has an unwavering commitment towards speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, 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.
- (ii) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts, a sum of Rs. 12,358.15 crore 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 22,606 (as on 31.10.2025), and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 20,008 (as on 31.10.2025), under this Scheme.
- (iii) The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 579.53 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.81 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of e Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1987 across High Courts and District Courts.

- (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 26.11.2025, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1156 new Judges were appointed and 819 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. Filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.
- (v) Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- (vi) Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. Further, ten Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs.
- (vii) As on 30.09.2025, 773 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 400 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.
- (viii) The Government has also amended 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 with a view to reduce pendency.
- (ix) Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- (x) 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.

- (xi) The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App. Pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering have been institutionalized in the country. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been established in 23 High Courts. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instil Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1387 FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2025
REGARDING 'PERFORMANCE OF COURTS'.**

Details of Disposal in High Courts for the last five years:

Sl. No	Name of the High Court	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025 (As on 08.12.2025)	
		Institution	Disposal	Institution	Disposal	Institution	Disposal	Institution	Disposal	Institution	Disposal
1	Allahabad	275658	239746	336022	326237	364409	332101	355551	281548	329431	263713
2	Bombay	137797	96077	179426	134303	175983	145344	188190	160783	181389	211322
3	Calcutta	49964	54351	72063	86691	74797	88215	74091	72041	59917	66098
4	Gauhati	24761	20895	29816	27121	31384	28897	29965	28762	29072	27075
5	Telangana	57796	40462	71133	73586	63641	69678	70622	72138	72394	69662
6	Andhra Pradesh	50145	34708	69958	52191	62412	54890	57355	59532	62136	59301
7	Chhattisgarh	35530	30351	42714	32615	41470	42668	45151	51060	51935	59144
8	Delhi	37095	27595	48521	45620	53981	47556	59684	54471	58625	50020
9	Gujarat	70181	57575	84221	77512	81195	75347	84220	80282	81778	77732
10	Himachal Pradesh	38244	32125	45158	38663	50439	44731	65880	60300	72996	65309
11	Jammu and Kashmir	11862	23037	13209	16795	13938	14393	13474	12885	13867	13283
12	Jharkhand	40566	40486	45982	46812	45990	48160	38718	50109	38724	40930
13	Karnataka	76837	81317	94556	76544	104744	87721	112757	99105	115349	88242
14	Kerala	70469	56448	91780	78101	99199	86397	98849	102813	89844	81233
15	Madhya Pradesh	124002	97898	137541	115965	153302	137457	159584	140663	111350	107738
16	Manipur	2450	2060	3308	3284	2809	2400	2989	2370	3266	2781
17	Meghalaya	1171	1042	1374	1772	1486	1546	1586	1458	1260	1070
18	Punjab and Haryana	119059	87364	138557	141735	152502	158966	165998	176809	156456	172270
19	Rajasthan	165346	123762	195933	144568	198350	190888	214134	196754	219119	150634
20	Sikkim	157	217	141	157	167	150	190	163	222	149
21	Tripura	2183	2773	2431	2586	2006	2342	2060	2285	1980	1593
22	Uttarakhand	16869	14013	19336	15701	20889	15590	20797	15575	19439	16037
23	Madras	258303	249331	311755	324660	330603	343268	343221	358068	389464	405814
24	Orissa	128452	107711	104259	137653	106633	119694	89638	90980	86950	74032
25	Patna	107400	60787	108220	122127	123824	139239	130828	126063	125906	110746

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NIC Pune)

Annexure-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1387 FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2025 REGARDING 'PERFORMANCE OF COURTS'.

Details of Pending Cases in High Courts for the last five years.

Sl. No	Name of High Court	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 01.12.2025
1	Allahabad	1031587	1033621	1066111	1144553	1166971
2	Bombay	353143	380469	400461	414919	665027
3	Calcutta	234909	220734	206437	208421	199281
4	Gauhati	44356	47516	49236	52341	63539
5	Telangana	240029	233682	231575	229221	233079
6	Andhra Pradesh	223783	243629	251924	250051	249462
7	Chhattisgarh	81001	91184	90240	84305	76681
8	Delhi	101685	105625	112891	116616	122839
9	Gujarat	155006	161922	167825	171948	175092
10	Himachal Pradesh	82354	91210	99465	93942	101475
11	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	48318	47521	49293	50422	45106
12	Jharkhand	88364	87977	86000	74513	72017
13	Karnataka	246413	264234	282039	297609	324974
14	Kerala	226494	240437	253190	247545	258085
15	Madhya Pradesh	408527	429567	445382	464092	472401
16	Manipur	3218	3230	3473	3651	5772
17	Meghalaya	1201	920	841	950	1441
18	Punjab and Haryana	451985	446068	436630	422295	420540
19	Rajasthan	560062	604868	601278	610027	685845
20	Sikkim	179	163	178	208	273
21	Tripura	1736	1602	1269	1038	1438
22	Uttarakhand	40963	44512	49846	55323	58854
23	Madras	259980	234545	212921	198110	557945
24	Orissa	196483	164622	146884	146293	157676
25	Patna	226071	212173	197158	202289	215316

Source: National Judicial Data Grid

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1388
ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2025

D.S.C. (Law & Justice)
1388 Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha:
STRENGTHENING OF E-COURTS SYSTEM

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

- (a) the current status of implementation of the e-Courts Phase-III project;
- (b) the steps being taken to promote virtual hearings, paperless courts and complete digital case management; and
- (c) whether adequate funding and training mechanisms have been provided to ensure its effective rollout 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) and (b): The Government is implementing e-Courts Project Phase-III with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore over four years. Funds to the tune of Rs.768.25 crore and Rs 1029.11 crore have been expended under the project during financial year 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. Further, Rs.907.97 crore have been released during current financial year 2025-26.

The eCourts Project Phase III envisions transforming Indian courts into digital and paperless courts by digitizing legacy and current case records, expanding video conferencing to all courts, jails, and selected hospitals, and extending online courts beyond traffic violations. The project aims at universal saturation of eSewa Kendras, creation of a state-of-the-art cloud-based data repository for storing digitized court records and applications, and deployment of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for case analysis and forecasting. The Digital Courts 2.1 platform enables judges to access all case-related documents, pleadings, and evidence digitally, marking a significant leap toward a paperless court ecosystem. A few achievements under Phase-III of the e-Courts Project for Information & Communication Technology enablement of the courts are as under:

- (i) 99.5% of court complexes have been connected to Wide Area Network with bandwidth speed ranging from 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps.
- (ii) Case Information System (CIS) 4.0 is implemented in all courts, with a user manual published online for uniform adoption.
- (iii) Real-time digital services have expanded significantly, with more than 4 lakh SMS and more than 6 lakh emails being issued daily and 35 lakh daily hits on the e-Courts portal. Courts have sent more than 14 crore SMS to litigants and advocates.
- (iv) 29 Virtual Courts have been established till 30.09.2025. These Virtual Courts have received 8.96 crore challans, out of which 7.84 crore challans have been disposed and 86.59 lakh challans were paid amounting to Rs.895.59 crore.
- (v) The e-Courts Services mobile app (3.38 crore downloads) provides the lawyers and litigants relevant information about case status, cause lists etc.
- (vi) The JustIS app (21,955 downloads) is a management tool for the judges assisting them to effectively organise and monitor their judicial business.
- (vii) High Courts and District Courts have already digitised court records involving 224.66 crore pages and 354.87 crore pages respectively.
- (viii) Video conferencing facilities are available in 3,240 courts and 1,272 jails; and 3.81 crore online case hearings have been conducted till 30.09.2025.
- (ix) Live streaming of court proceeding is operational in 11 High Courts.
- (x) 5,187 court establishments are enabled on e-filing portal, with 92.08 lakh cases e-filed till 30.09.2025.
- (xi) The e-Payments system has processed 49.2 lakh transactions for court-fee worth Rs.1,215.98 crore and 4.86 lakh transactions for fine worth Rs.61.97 crore.
- (xii) Courts have operationalised 1,987 e-Sewa Kendras for facilitating litigants and advocates regarding online services available under the eCourts project.
- (xiii) Solar power systems are installed in 1,471 of 1,530 targeted courts.
- (xiv) Under National Service and Tracking of Electronics Processes (NSTEP) system, the courts have processed 6.21 crore e-processes, out of which 1.61 crore e-processes have been successfully delivered.
- (xv) The Judgment Search Portal hosts 1.69 crore judgments.
- (xvi) The S3WaaS platform hosts 730 District Court websites, ensuring secure and accessible web infrastructure.
- (xvii) Pilot testing of Digital Courts 2.1 application developed for making courts paperless has been taken up.

In addition, Nyaya Shruti app has been launched in 2024 under the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), to facilitate virtual appearances and testimonies of accused persons, witnesses, police officials, prosecutors, scientific experts, prisoners etc. through video conferencing, saving both time and resources while expediting case resolutions. For effective implementation and integration of Nyaya Shruti with other pillars of ICJS, 17 High Courts have already notified Nyaya Shruti Rules. In addition, digital recording of evidence has been introduced to enhance accuracy and transparency with e-Sakshya platform. For faster and more reliable communication of court notices and summons, e-Summons platform has been introduced.

(c): The Government has allocated a sum of Rs.7210 crore under the e-Courts Project Phase-III, out of which Rs.208.52 crore has been earmarked for training and change management. The training under eCourts Project Phase-III follows a six-tier national, state, and regional model, ensuring uniform digital readiness across the system. The e-Committee, Supreme Court of India has conducted 910 training programmes and has trained 3,22,740 stakeholders, including organizing specialised programmes for visually-challenged officers and programmes for technical staff in cybersecurity and digital forensics.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1389
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

S.S(NMR-1)
PENDING CASES

1389. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending across all courts in the country including pending trials in district and subordinate judiciary;
- (b) the reasons for delays in disposal of cases including cases pending before the Supreme Court and High Courts;
- (c) the reasons cited by the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for pendency of cases; and
- (d) the steps taken for speedy trial of pending 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) & (b): 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 08.12.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending Cases
1.	Supreme Court	90,897
2.	High Courts	63,63,406
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,84,57,343

However, the data of pending trials is not maintained centrally.

The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc.

(c): The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) has been upgraded with an improved dashboard for functioning as a monitoring tool to identify, manage and reduce pendency of cases. It provides timely inputs for making policy decisions to reduce case pendency. It also facilitates better monitoring of court performance and identification of systemic bottlenecks for efficient resource management. The NJDG serves as National Judicial Data Warehouse and improves transparency by providing the consolidated figures of civil and criminal cases instituted, disposed and pending duly segregated into varied categories. Further, the data uploaded and collated on the portal can be accessed and analysed to show category-wise, year-wise, month-wise and State-wise disposal of cases across institutions and across the original/appellate/execution stages of a litigation.

The data can also be analysed by reasons for delay which may include:

Delay Reasons		
Sr. No	Short Name(Displayed on NJDG)	Delay Name
1	Parties not interested	Parties not interested - Infertile litigation
2	Accused absconding	One or more accused absconding/not appearing
3	Stayed by SC	Stayed by Supreme Court
4	Stayed by HC	Stayed by High Court
5	Stayed by DC	Stayed by Court other than Supreme Court or High Court (District Court/Other Court)
6	Stayed for reasons	Stayed for other reasons
7	LRs not on record	LRs or new parties could not be brought on record
8	Misc. apps blocked	Miscellaneous application delaying the process of the main case
9	Awaiting documents	Awaiting for documents
10	Witness	Difficulty in securing presence of important witness
11	Execution of Decree	Obstructions in service of process in execution of decree
12	Record unavailable	Record not available for the reason
13	Frequent appeals	Frequent challenge to interim/interlocutory orders
14	Counsel not available	Non availability of Counsel
15	More witness	Number of witness is more than 20

(d): The Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts, a sum of Rs. 12,358.15 crore 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 22,606 (as on 31.10.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 20,008 (as on 31.10.2025), under this Scheme.
- iii. The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till 30.09.2025 , 579.53 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.81 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of e Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1987 across High Courts and District Courts.
- 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 26.11.2025, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1156 new Judges were appointed and 819 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. Filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.
- v. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- vi. Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. Further, ten Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs.

- vii. As on 30.09.2025, 773 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 400 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.
- viii. The Government has also amended 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 with a view to reduce pendency.
- ix. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- x. 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.
- xi. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App. Pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering have been institutionalized in the country. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been established in 23 High Courts. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instil Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1390
ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2025

J. S. e-Courts
1390. Shri Rajinder Gupta:

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM

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

- (a) whether Government is taking initiatives to provide for digital transformation of judicial system in order to improve access to justice for citizen;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard;
- (c) the challenges and obstacles faced in this respect;
- (d) the measures being taken to overcome the same; and
- (e) the proposed measures to be taken towards integrating technology into all levels of the judicial system?

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 Government is implementing e-Courts Project Phase-III with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore over four years. Funds to the tune of Rs.768.25 crore and Rs 1029.11 crore have been expended under the project during financial year 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. Further, Rs.907.97 crore have been released during current financial year 2025-26.

The eCourts Project Phase III envisions transforming Indian courts into digital and paperless courts by digitizing legacy and current case records, expanding video conferencing to all courts, jails, and selected hospitals, and extending online courts beyond traffic violations. The project aims at universal saturation of eSewa Kendras, creation of a state-of-the-art cloud-based data repository for storing digitized court records and applications, and deployment of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for case analysis and forecasting. The Digital Courts 2.1 platform enables judges to access all case-related documents, pleadings, and evidence digitally, marking a significant leap toward a

paperless court ecosystem. A few achievements under Phase-III of the e-Courts Project for Information & Communication Technology enablement of the courts are as under:

- i. 99.5% of court complexes have been connected to Wide Area Network with bandwidth speed ranging from 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps.
- ii. Case Information System (CIS) 4.0 is implemented in all courts, with a user manual published online for uniform adoption.
- iii. Real-time digital services have expanded significantly, with more than 4 lakh SMS and more than 6 lakh emails being issued daily and 35 lakh daily hits on the e-Courts portal. Courts have sent more than 14 crore SMS to litigants and advocates.
- iv. 29 Virtual Courts have been established till 30.09.2025. These Virtual Courts have received 8.96 crore challans, out of which 7.84 crore challans have been disposed and 86.59 lakh challans were paid amounting to Rs.895.59 crore.
- v. The e-Courts Services mobile app (3.38 crore downloads) provides the lawyers and litigants relevant information about case status, cause lists etc.
- vi. The JustIS app (21,955 downloads) is a management tool for the judges assisting them to effectively organise and monitor their judicial business.
- vii. High Courts and District Courts have already digitised court records involving 224.66 crore pages and 354.87 crore pages respectively.
- viii. Video conferencing facilities are available in 3,240 courts and 1,272 jails; and 3.81 crore online case hearings have been conducted till 30.09.2025.
- ix. Live streaming of court proceeding is operational in 11 High Courts.
- x. 5,187 court establishments are enabled on e-filing portal, with 92.08 lakh cases e-filed till 30.09.2025.
- xi. The e-Payments system has processed 49.2 lakh transactions for court-fee worth Rs.1,215.98 crore and 4.86 lakh transactions for fine worth Rs.61.97 crore.
- xii. Courts have operationalised 1,987 e-Sewa Kendras for facilitating litigants and advocates regarding online services available under the eCourts project.
- xiii. Under National Service and Tracking of Electronics Processes (NSTEP) system, the courts have processed 6.21 crore e-processes, out of which 1.61 crore e-processes have been successfully delivered.
- xiv. The Judgment Search Portal hosts 1.69 crore judgments.
- xv. The S3WaaS platform hosts 730 District Court websites, ensuring secure and accessible web infrastructure.

xvi. Pilot testing of Digital Courts 2.1 application developed for making courts paperless has been taken up.

In addition, Nyaya Shruti app has been launched in 2024 under the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), to facilitate virtual appearances and testimonies of accused persons, witnesses, police officials, prosecutors, scientific experts, prisoners etc. through video conferencing, saving both time and resources while expediting case resolutions. In addition, digital recording of evidence has been introduced to enhance accuracy and transparency with e-Sakshya platform. For faster and more reliable communication of court notices and summons, e-Summons platform has been introduced.

While substantial progress has been made, certain challenges remain during the implementation and operationalisation of this digital transformation. These challenges include variation in digital and physical infrastructure across jurisdictions, scale and complexity of digitising legacy records, the need to strengthen digital literacy among stakeholders, and evolving requirements pertaining to data security.

A number of measures are being undertaken to address these issues, including training and awareness programmes for judges, court staff, advocates and other stakeholders; periodic security audit; provision of special financial assistance to North East states to bridge regional infrastructural gaps; enhancement of interoperable platforms across police, prisons, courts, and forensic labs; and adoption of a phased rollout strategy. These initiatives being undertaken under the eCourts Project are expected to progressively enable digital processes across all level of the judicial system, facilitate faster case processing, reduce delays, improve coordination with allied criminal justice agencies and enhance access to justice for citizens.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1391
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

J. S (NMJRS)
1391 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:
REFORMS TO ADDRESS JUDICIAL DELAYS

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that overburdened courts, frequent adjournments and outdated procedures continue to delay the delivery of justice, particularly in civil and criminal cases;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to implement procedural reforms such as case triaging, fixed timelines or stricter control over adjournments in trial and appellate courts;
- (c) whether Government is considering amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure and Code of Criminal Procedure to streamline processes and reduce pendency; and
- (d) the measures taken to ensure faster disposal of cases involving senior citizens, women, undertrials and marginalised litigants?

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): Time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of case (civil or criminal), complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders *viz.* bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable rules of procedure. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, *inter-alia*, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments, number of revisions / appeals and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. As such it is not practicable to assess the delay in disposal of cases due to procedures and adjournments only.

(b) & (c): In order to expedite the Court cases a number of legislative changes have been made in procedural laws, which include provisions for limiting adjournments of court

proceedings in criminal and civil matters as contained in order XVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and through various specific timeline provisions in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, has repealed and replaced the Code of criminal Procedure, 1971, and came into effect from 1st July, 2024. The measures introduced in BNSS, 2023 focus on a faster and fair resolution of cases to be completed within stipulated time period and instilling confidence in the legal system. Presently no proposal on amendment to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 is under consideration of the Government.

(d): The 14th Finance Commission had recommended the setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during the period 2015-2020 for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, civil cases involving women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses. As per information received from the High Courts, 866 FTCs are functional across 21 State/UTs as on 31.10.2025. The Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. As per data provided by the High Courts, 773 FTSCs, including 400 exclusive POCSO Courts, are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 30.09.2025. Since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, these courts have collectively disposed of 3,50,685 cases, while 2,43,615 cases are currently pending.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1392
ANSWERED ON – 11/12/2025

MOBILE COURT VANS IN ODISHA

1392. SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry intends to establish mobile court vans in Odisha to deliver justice in remote and flood-prone regions; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): No, the Ministry does not have any proposal to establish mobile court vans in any part of the Country. However, in order to make justice accessible even in the remotest regions, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is being implemented in a phased manner through the adoption of information and communication technology. Under this project, various initiatives such as electronic/online filing of court cases, virtual hearings, online case information and other citizen centric services have been undertaken to facilitate remote access to justice. The eCourts Project Phase III does not envision establishment of mobile court vans.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1395
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

T.S. UnmR-II
1395 STATUS OF JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

1395 Shri Samirul Islam:

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

- (a) the funds allocated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary during the last five years, year-wise and State wise;
- (b) the percentage of court complexes at tribunals, lower and higher judiciary that have separate ladies toilets;
- (c) the percentage of court complexes, both at lower and higher judiciary, that are equipped with basic medical facilities;
- (d) the percentage of high court complexes that have drinking water facility with purifiers; and
- (e) the percentage of court complexes, both at lower and higher judiciary, that are accessible for differently abled people?

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 primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments/UTs. However, to augment the resources of the State Governments/ UTs, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the District and Subordinate Courts since 1993-94, by providing financial assistance in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States/UTs. Statement showing Central assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in the last five years, Year wise and State wise is as per Annexure- "A."

The Scheme covers five components, viz., Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial Officers, Lawyers' Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants. Provision for any other facility viz medical facility, drinking water facility with purifiers rest with concerned State Governments in consultation with High Court. The Scheme does not cover High Courts.

The planning and design of a court room in District and Subordinate Courts is decided by the building / infrastructure committees of the respective High Courts, who sanction the projects to be funded under the CSS. As per existing Guidelines for Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary, it is ensured by the States/UTs that the projects to be taken up by them under the Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS) are disabled friendly and meet the requisite norms/accessibility standards as laid down by CPWD and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities , Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, from time to time.

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1395 for reply on 11.12.2025

Central assistance provided since F.Y(2020-21 to 2024-25) under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in District & Subordinate Courts.

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	(A)	States					
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	10.28	0.00	22.50	49.8150	0.9920	83.59
2	Bihar	65.72	0.00	0.00	67.4500	107.8082	240.98
3	Chhattisgarh	7.84	0.00	60.00	6.6900	45.3471	119.88
4	Goa	3.80	3.20	25.00	1.5300	14.2725	47.80
5	Gujarat	13.50	0.00	6.22	95.6175	51.3400	166.68
6	Haryana	22.00	0.00	0.00	20.1000	0.0000	42.10
7	Himachal Pradesh	5.50	0.00	0.00	6.0000	13.6200	25.12
8	Jharkhand	9.05	6.00	16.51	40.8100	14.5747	86.94
9	Karnataka	29.72	27.00	82.01	133.1635	73.9159	345.81
10	Kerala	13.00	50.00	0.00	7.0000	45.8850	115.89
11	Madhya Pradesh	45.60	55.00	125.00	104.0000	42.6919	372.29
12	Maharashtra	23.11	18.00	100.00	119.5300	118.3550	379.00
13	Odisha	0.00	0.00	31.49	30.8800	51.4800	113.85
14	Punjab	16.48	16.50	12.50	18.4200	0.0000	63.90
15	Rajasthan	29.90	41.50	71.66	80.4100	58.3500	281.82
16	Tamil Nadu	18.17	35.66	133.85	0.0000	61.2700	248.95
17	Telangana	16.00	0.00	26.61	0.0000	1.9577	44.57
18	Uttarakhand	5.86	80.00	0.00	13.7500	46.1400	145.75
19	Uttar Pradesh	111.00	219.00	0.00	102.9600	174.1200	607.08
20	West Bengal	31.07	0.00	0.00	18.0000	22.2200	71.29
Total(A)		477.60	551.86	713.35	916.1259	944.3400	3,603.27
	(B)	North-Eastern States					
1	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	4.09	32.38	0.0000	6.2400	47.71
2	Assam	25.00	27.40	25.00	40.0000	40.7505	158.15
3	Manipur	5.00	0.00	12.85	0.0000	3.7100	21.56
4	Meghalaya	7.71	28.02	50.00	33.7200	35.7900	155.24
5	Mizoram	5.00	9.50	0.00	8.8550	13.5695	36.92
6	Nagaland	5.00	13.27	0.00	4.3925	4.0000	26.66
7	Sikkim	2.95	0.00	2.27	2.6950	0.0000	7.92
8	Tripura	7.74	0.00	0.00	40.4869	20.0000	68.23
Total (B)		63.40	82.28	122.50	130.1494	124.0600	522.39
	(C)	Union Territories					
1	A&N Islands	0.35	0.46	0.00	0.4900	0.0750	1.38
2	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
3	D&Nagar Haveili	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
4	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
5	Delhi	45.00	30.00	0.00	0.0000	16.5000	91.50
6	Jammu & Kashmir	6.65	20.00	12.60	12.0000	31.5000	82.75
7	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.4000	6.9250	8.33
8	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
9	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	9.55	0.0000	0.0000	9.55
Total (C)		52.00	50.46	22.15	13.8900	55.0000	193.50
Grand Total (A+B+C)		593.00	684.60	858.00	1060.1653	1123.40	4,319.17

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1396
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

EMPOWERING LAW COMMISSION

Imp. Cell (DLA)
1396 Shri Harsh Mahajan:

Shri Narayana Koragappa:

Shri Madan Rathore:

Shri Sujeet Kumar:

Shri Sadanand Mhalu Shet Tanavade:

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

- (a) the manner in which the Ministry plans to ensure timely and effective implementation of key recommendations of Law Commission including those on electoral reforms and defamation laws;
- (b) the measures taken to provide the Law Commission with adequate independent research staff and resources for long-term legal studies;
- (c) whether the Ministry is considering to introduce Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill to create a transparent, non-partisan system for addressing complaints against higher-judiciary members; and
- (d) the manner in which the Ministry works with Supreme Court and High Courts to administer a consistent approach to judicial asset disclosure?

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 Ministry of Law & Justice forward all the reports of the Law Commission of India (LCI) to the concerned Ministries/Departments for their examination /implementation as well as pursue them for expeditious action including those on electoral reforms and defamation laws. The Ministry also seeks status on the implementation of these reports. The Ministry in pursuance of the recommendations of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievance, Law & Justice has been continuously laying

Annual statement showing the status of pending Law Commission Reports before both the Houses of the Parliament.

(b) Presently, there are 02 Law Officers posted in the Law Commission of India. In addition, a number of Legal Consultants are being hired from time to time by the Law Commission of India, who are assigned the job of legal research.

(c) A bill titled, "The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010", was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 01.12.2010. The Bill lapsed consequent to the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

As per the established "in-house procedure" for the Higher Judiciary, the Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justices of the High Courts. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of High Court Judges. The complaints/representations received are forwarded to the Chief Justice of India or to the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, as the case may be, for appropriate action.

(d): The Full Court of the Supreme Court of India has on 1st April, 2025 decided that the statement of assets of the judges of this Court, shall be placed in the public domain by uploading the same on the website of the Supreme Court website. The Full Court of the Supreme Court of India had resolved that the Judges should make a declaration of their assets on assuming office and whenever any acquisition of a substantial nature is made, to the Chief Justice. This also includes declaration(s) by the Chief Justice of India. Placing the declaration of assets on the Supreme Court website will be mandatory.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1397
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

PRE-LEGISLATIVE CONSULTATIONS

✓ Legt (LD)
1397 # Shri Madan Rathore:
Shri Manan Kumar Mishra:
Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has recently conducted an evaluation of effectiveness of the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy, 2014 and if so, the details of its compliance by Ministries/Departments during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government proposes to strengthen the Legislative Impact Assessment framework to make social, economic, environmental and institutional impact assessment mandatory for all major legislative proposals;
- (c) if so, the details of steps being considered in this regard; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to make pre-legislative consultations and legislative impact assessment statutorily mandatory to ensure uniformity across all Ministries and if so, the details thereof?

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 (d): No such evaluation of effectiveness of the Pre-legislative Consultation Policy, 2014 has been conducted and no record relating to compliance of Pre-legislative Consultation by Ministries is maintained.

As per chapter 9 of the Manual of Parliamentary Procedure, it is provided that the concerned Ministry/Department has to formulate the legislative proposals in consultation with all

the interests and authorities concerned, including holding discussions on the necessity for the proposed legislation and on all matter of substance to be embodied therein.

Further, Pre-legislative Consultation Policy was formulated by the Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary in the meeting held on 10th January, 2014. In order to give effect to the decision of that Committee, Legislative Department has circulated the said Policy to all Ministries/Departments for strict adherence and compliance thereof.

There is no proposal of the Government to make the Pre-legislative consultations and the Legislative Impact Assessment mandatory for all major legislative proposals. Under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, each Ministry/ Department has been allocated subject matters on which that Ministry/ Department initiates, processes and implements legislative proposals and also studies social, economic, environmental and institutional impact of such laws, post their enactment.

The Ministry/Department concerned with the subject matter initiates pre-legislative consultations, holds deliberations with the public and all stakeholders and on that basis, finalises its legislative policy. After inter-ministerial consultations and finalisation of the legislative policy, the Bill is drafted and introduced in Parliament.

The Ministry/Department concerned with the subject matter carries out the post-legislative scrutiny of the legislation on the basis of inputs, suggestions and feedback received from the public, experts and other stakeholders; takes appropriate decision for modifications, if any.

Further, as part of Government initiative to bring reforms in the legal system, the Law Commission of India has also been mandated to review and suggest reforms in the laws of the country. As per notification dated 02.09.2024, the Twenty-third Law Commission of India was constituted with the mandate, *inter-alia* to, -

- (i) identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed.
- (ii) identify laws which are not in harmony with the economic needs and requirements of the times and require amendments.
- (iii) identify laws which otherwise require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment.
- (iv) consider in a wider perspective the suggestions for revision/amendment in laws given by Expert Groups in various Ministries/Departments with a view to coordinating and harmonizing them.
- (v) examine the laws which affect the poor and carry out post enactment-audit for socio-economic legislations.

(vi) examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution.

(vii) examine the existing laws with a view for promoting gender equality and suggesting amendments thereto.

(viii) revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1398
ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2025

5.5 (e-courts)
USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LEGAL FIELD

1398 # Shri Govindbhai Laljibhai Dholakia:

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

- (a) whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used in the field of Indian jurisprudence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent of work undertaken, so far, at the national, State and local judiciary levels in this regard; and
- (d) the future plans of Government regarding use of Artificial Intelligence in this field?

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, latest technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its subsets Machine Learning (ML), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Natural Language Processing (NLP) are being used in the e-Courts software applications developed under the eCourts Project. AI is being integrated in areas such as translation, prediction and forecast, improving administrative efficiency, automated filing, intelligent scheduling, enhancing the case information system and communicating with the litigants through chatbots.

An AI based software tool namely Legal Research Analysis Assistant (LegRAA) has been developed by the Artificial Intelligence Division of National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the team at Centre of Excellence (eCourts), NIC, Pune under the guidance of eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, to aid judges in legal research, document analysis, and judicial decision support. In addition, Digital Courts 2.1 has been developed to assist judicial officers

by providing access to integrated judgment databases, document management with annotations, automated drafting templates and seamless connectivity with the JustIS app. Digital Courts 2.1 is equipped with voice-to-text feature (ASR - SHRUTI) and translation (PANINI) functionalities to assist the judges with order and judgment dictation.

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

Further, an AI based tool namely Supreme Court Portal Assistance in Court Efficiency (SUPACE) is in experimental stage of development. This tool is aimed at developing a module to understand the factual matrix of cases with an intelligent search of the precedents apart from identifying the cases.

The current scope of AI based solutions remain limited to controlled pilot deployments with the objective of ensuring responsible, secure, and practical adoption. While e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, is in the process of evaluating these pilot initiatives, the formulation and regulation of operational frameworks in this regard will be governed by the rules of business and policies of the concerned High Courts.

To explore the use of AI in judicial domain, the Supreme Court of India constituted an AI Committee, which is responsible for conceptualizing, implementing and monitoring use of AI in the Indian judiciary. Under the Phase-III of eCourts Project approved for a period of 4 years with effect from 2023-24, a sum of Rs 53.57 crore has been allocated for the component of Future Technological Advancement (AI, Blockchain etc). AI is to be integrated in crucial areas of judiciary including improvement in administrative efficiency, prediction of case pendency, automation of processes and streamlining of court operations. The tools and platforms developed under the eCourts Project using AI are meant to be used by the judiciary across the country, in accordance with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Phase-III of the eCourts Project.

Sl. No. 201
USOs. No. 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2183, 2187, 2188, 2189,
2190 & 2191

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Pertain to DoJ

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 201
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

JS(e-Courts)

IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COURTS PHASE III PROJECT

✓201 Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

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

- (a) the progress of implementation of e-Courts Phase-III project, including digital records, virtual hearings and case management systems, as highlighted in the Supreme Court e-Committee's recent review;
- (b) whether the Ministry has discussed vacancy levels, infrastructure gaps and digital enablement challenges with the Uttar Pradesh judiciary, especially in high-pendency districts and the nature of outcomes from such consultations; and
- (c) whether the Ministry proposes new e-Court facilities, training programmes or infrastructure upgrades for courts in Auraiya district?

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
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 201 FOR REPLY ON 18TH DECEMBER,
2025 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COURTS PHASE III PROJECT
ASKED BY SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA**

(a) and (c) : The Government is implementing e-Courts Project Phase-III with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore over four years. Funds to the tune of Rs.768.25 crore and Rs 1029.11 crore have been spent under the project during financial year 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. Further, Rs.907.97 crore have been released during current financial year 2025-26.

The eCourts Project Phase III envisions transforming Indian courts into digital and paperless courts by digitizing legacy and current case records, expanding video conferencing to all courts, jails, and selected hospitals, and extending online courts beyond traffic violations. The project aims at universal saturation of eSewa Kendras, creation of a state-of-the-art cloud-based data repository for storing digitized court records and applications, and deployment of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for case analysis and forecasting. The Digital Courts 2.1 platform enables judges to access all case-related documents, pleadings, and evidence digitally, marking a significant leap toward a paperless court ecosystem. A few achievements under Phase-III of the e-Courts Project for Information & Communication Technology enablement of the courts are as under:

- i. 99.5% of court complexes have been connected to Wide Area Network with bandwidth speed ranging from 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps.
- ii. Case Information System (CIS) 4.0 is implemented in all courts, with a user manual published online for uniform adoption.
- iii. Real-time digital services have expanded significantly, with more than 4 lakh SMS and more than 6 lakh emails being issued daily and 35 lakh daily hits on the e-Courts portal. Courts have sent more than 14 crore SMS to litigants and advocates.
- iv. 29 Virtual Courts have been established till 30.09.2025. These Virtual Courts have received 8.96 crore challans, out of which 7.84 crore challans have been disposed and 86.59 lakh challans were paid amounting to Rs.895.59 crore.
- v. The e-Courts Services mobile app (3.38 crore downloads) provides the lawyers and litigants relevant information about case status, cause lists etc.
- vi. The JustIS app (21,955 downloads) is a management tool for the judges assisting them to effectively organise and monitor their judicial business.
- vii. High Courts and District Courts have already digitised court records involving 224.66 crore pages and 354.87 crore pages respectively.

- viii. Video conferencing facilities are available in 3,240 courts and 1,272 jails; and 3.81 crore online case hearings have been conducted till 30.09.2025.
- ix. Live streaming of court proceeding is operational in 11 High Courts.
- x. 5,187 court establishments are enabled on e-filing portal, with 92.08 lakh cases e-filed till 30.09.2025.
- xi. The e-Payments system has processed 49.2 lakh transactions for court-fee worth Rs.1,215.98 crore and 4.86 lakh transactions for fine worth Rs.61.97 crore.
- xii. Courts have operationalised 1,987 e-Sewa Kendras for facilitating litigants and advocates regarding online services available under the eCourts project.
- xiii. Solar power systems are installed in 1,471 of 1,530 targeted courts.
- xiv. Under National Service and Tracking of Electronics Processes (NSTEP) system, the courts have processed 6.21 crore e-processes, out of which 1.61 crore e-processes have been successfully delivered.
- xv. The Judgment Search Portal hosts 1.69 crore judgments.
- xvi. The S3WaaS platform hosts 730 District Court websites, ensuring secure and accessible web infrastructure.
- xvii. Pilot testing of Digital Courts 2.1 application developed for making courts paperless has been taken up.

The eCourts project is being implemented in all the courts of the country, including the courts in Auraiya district with necessary digital infrastructure. In addition, the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, which is implementing the eCourts project, conducts extensive training programmes for stakeholders, including judges, judicial officers, and technical staff across all the courts under jurisdiction of every High Court. Under eCourts Project Phase-III, 18 training programmes have been conducted and 7119 stakeholders have been trained under the jurisdiction of Allahabad High Court. In addition, under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), 36 training programmes have been conducted and 386 stakeholders have been trained under the jurisdiction of Allahabad High Court.

(b): Filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the 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. The 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.

As regards vacancy levels in High Courts, appointment of judges in higher judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary as per Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 06, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). 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 Supreme Court Collegium are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

Regarding development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary, the primary responsibility rests with the State Governments/UTs. The Central Government supplements the resources of State Governments by implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure facilities for Subordinate Judiciary. As on 31.10.2025, 2923 Court Halls and 2530 Residential Units are available in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2177
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

DISPOSAL OF PENDING CASES

SS(NMJR-I)

✓2177. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has prepared an Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary to dispose of old pending cases in a time bound manner;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of outcomes of the said Action Plan, along with the details of pending cases at the level of district judiciary before and after the implementation of Action Plan, 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 (c): In April, 2024, the Supreme Court Committee on "Model Case Flow Management Rules for Trial Courts, District Appellate Courts, High Courts and to suggest a plan for reduction of arrears in the High Courts and District Courts", prepared and shared an 'Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary' to dispose of old pending cases in time bound manner. The Action Plan inter-alia, indicated focusing upon prioritization of long-standing cases with special emphasis on cases pending for excessively long periods, such as over 10, 20 or 30 years; accelerating the progression of long standing and newer cases to finalization; equitable case distribution among judges; effective handling of unready and stayed cases; effective utilization of alternative dispute resolution; use of technology; managing undated cases for facilitating timely progression and resolution; adequate human resources support to Judicial Officers; regular monitoring of case progress and regular review meetings

to assess effectiveness of action plan; stakeholder engagement to address procedural delays; and tailored strategies allowing for flexibility and adaptation of action plan to meet the specific circumstances of each district.

The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Further, the details of outcomes of the said Action Plan, along with the details of pending cases at the level of district judiciary before and after the implementation of Action Plan, State-wise is not centrally maintained.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2178
ANSWERED ON- 18/12/2025

JS(e-Courts)

JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND AI BASED JUDICIAL REFORM

✓2178 # Smt. Darshana Singh:

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

- (a) whether Government has sought any recommendations from the Law Commission on AI based reforms to enhance transparency, efficiency and accountability in the judiciary;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations concerning judicial reform, digital justice and the use of AI;
- (c) whether Government proposes to adopt AI tools such as e-Court management, case tracking, data analysis and document automation; and
- (d) the steps taken so far to make the judicial process more transparent, timely and accessible?

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): No recommendations have been sought by the eCommittee, who is implementing eCourts, from the Law Commission on AI based reforms in respect of judiciary.

(c): As per the information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, latest technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its subsets Machine Learning (ML), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Natural Language Processing (NLP) are being used in the e-Courts software applications developed under the eCourts Project. AI is being integrated in areas such as translation, prediction and forecast, improving administrative efficiency, automated filing, intelligent scheduling, enhancing the case information system and communicating with the litigants through chatbots.

An AI based software tool namely Legal Research Analysis Assistant (LegRAA) has been developed under the guidance of eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, to aid judges in legal research, document analysis, and judicial decision support. In addition, Digital Courts 2.1 application has been developed to assist judicial officers by providing access to integrated judgment databases, document management with annotations and automated drafting templates. Digital Courts 2.1 is equipped with voice-to-text feature (ASR - SHRUTI) and translation (PANINI) functionalities to assist the judges with order and judgment dictation.

The Supreme Court, in coordination with IIT Madras, has developed and deployed AI and ML based tools integrated with the electronic filing software for identification of defects. The prototypes of AI and ML tools for curing defects, meta data extraction and integration with the electronic filing module and the case management software, namely Integrated Case Management & Information System (ICMIS) are under testing. Further, an AI based tool namely Supreme Court Portal Assistance in Court Efficiency (SUPACE) is in experimental stage of development. This tool is aimed at developing a module to understand the factual matrix of cases with an intelligent search of the precedents apart from identifying the cases.

The current scope of AI based solutions remain limited to controlled pilot deployments with the objective of ensuring responsible, secure, and practical adoption. While e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, is in the process of evaluating these pilot initiatives, the formulation and regulation of operational frameworks in this regard will be governed by the rules of business and policies of the concerned High Courts.

(d): A few achievements under Phase-III of the e-Courts Project to make the judicial process more transparent, timely and accessible are as under:

- i. 99.5% of court complexes have been connected to Wide Area Network with bandwidth speed ranging from 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps.
- ii. Case Information System (CIS) 4.0 is implemented in all courts, with a user manual published online for uniform adoption.
- iii. Real-time digital services have expanded significantly, with more than 4 lakh SMS and more than 6 lakh emails being issued daily and 35 lakh daily hits on the e-Courts portal. Courts have sent more than 14 crore SMS to litigants and advocates.
- iv. 29 Virtual Courts have been established till 30.09.2025. These Virtual Courts have received 8.96 crore challans, out of which 7.84 crore challans have been disposed and 86.59 lakh challans were paid amounting to Rs.895.59 crore.

- v. The e-Courts Services mobile app (3.38 crore downloads) provides the lawyers and litigants relevant information about case status, cause lists etc.
- vi. The JustIS app (21,955 downloads) is a management tool for the judges assisting them to effectively organise and monitor their judicial business.
- vii. High Courts and District Courts have already digitised court records involving 224.66 crore pages and 354.87 crore pages respectively.
- viii. Video conferencing facilities are available in 3,240 courts and 1,272 jails; and 3.81 crore online case hearings have been conducted till 30.09.2025.
- ix. Live streaming of court proceeding is operational in 11 High Courts.
- x. 5,187 court establishments are enabled on e-filing portal, with 92.08 lakh cases e-filed till 30.09.2025.
- xi. The e-Payments system has processed 49.2 lakh transactions for court-fee worth Rs.1,215.98 crore and 4.86 lakh transactions for fine worth Rs.61.97 crore.
- xii. Courts have operationalised 1,987 e-Sewa Kendras for facilitating litigants and advocates regarding online services available under the eCourts project.
- xiii. Under National Service and Tracking of Electronics Processes (NSTEP) system, the courts have processed 6.21 crore e-processes, out of which 1.61 crore e-processes have been successfully delivered.
- xiv. The Judgment Search Portal hosts 1.69 crore judgments.
- xv. The S3WaaS platform hosts 730 District Court websites, ensuring secure and accessible web infrastructure.
- xvi. Pilot testing of Digital Courts 2.1 application developed for making courts paperless has been taken up.
- xvii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal serves as the primary platform for real-time monitoring of case management and judicial performance across courts.

In addition, Nyaya Shruti app has been launched in 2024 under the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), to facilitate virtual appearances and testimonies of accused persons, witnesses, police officials, prosecutors, scientific experts, prisoners etc. through video conferencing, saving both time and resources while expediting case resolutions. In addition, digital recording of evidence on e-Sakshya digital platform has been introduced to enhance accuracy and transparency. For faster and more reliable communication of court notices and summons, e-Summons platform has been introduced.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2179
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

TSUNMJR-I
SPEEDY DISPOSAL OF COURT CASES

✓2179# SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has prescribed any specific timeline, special mechanism or monitoring system for the speedy disposal of criminal and civil cases pending for more than ten years in the courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the main provisions thereof and the progress made, so far;
- (c) whether it is a fact that even in ordinary cases, litigants are compelled to visit the courts for several years; and
- (d) the stand of Government on the expansion of fast-track courts, special benches and e-Courts for the expeditious disposal of such 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 (c): The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. In April, 2024, the Supreme Court Committee on "Model Case Flow Management Rules for Trial Courts, District Appellate Courts, High Courts and to suggest a plan for reduction of arrears in the High Courts and District Courts", prepared and shared an 'Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary' to dispose of old pending cases in time bound manner. The Action Plan inter-alia, indicated focusing upon prioritization of long- standing cases with special emphasis on cases pending

for excessively long periods, such as over 10, 20 or 30 years; accelerating the progression of long standing and newer cases to finalization; equitable case distribution among judges; effective handling of unready and stayed cases; effective utilization of alternative dispute resolution; use of technology; managing undated cases for facilitating timely progression and resolution; adequate human resources support to Judicial Officers; regular monitoring of case progress and regular review meetings to assess effectiveness of action plan; stakeholder engagement to address procedural delays; and tailored strategies allowing for flexibility and adaptation of action plan to meet the specific circumstances of each district.

Further, the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) has been upgraded with an improved dashboard for functioning as a monitoring tool to identify, manage and reduce pendency of cases. It provides timely inputs for making policy decisions to reduce case pendency. It also facilitates better monitoring of court performance and identification of systemic bottlenecks for efficient resource management.

The Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which includes, inter-alia, amalgamation of latest technologies for increasing access to Justice and greater transparency under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project and supplementing of the resources of the State Governments/UTs for providing suitable infrastructure facilities for the District and Subordinate Judiciary under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary.

(d): The 14th Finance Commission had recommended the setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during the period 2015-2020 for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, civil cases involving women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses. As per information received from the High Courts, 866 FTCs are functional across 21 State/UTs as on 31.10.2025.

The Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. As per data provided by the High Courts, 773 FTSCs, including 400 exclusive POCSO Courts, are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 30.09.2025. Since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, these courts have collectively disposed of 3,50,685 cases, while 2,43,615 cases are currently pending.

Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. The proposal of setting up of Benches of a High Court is considered by the Government of India only after receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to have the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and the Governor the State. The State Government has to provide necessary infrastructural facilities for establishment of a Bench of the High Court away from its principal seat as well as the entire expenditure of the High Court and its Bench. In case of District and Subordinate courts, the decision is taken by the State Government and the respective High Court.

Further, the Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 579.53 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.81 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of e Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1987 across High Courts and District Courts.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2180
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

SS(A25)>
AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS FOR WOMEN IN ODISHA

✓ 180. SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry plans to expand awareness campaigns in Odisha on women's legal rights, domestic violence laws and protection under POCSO; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b) As per the information provided by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the Odisha State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), has been organizing Legal Awareness Camps/Programmes regularly in different parts of Odisha, especially in remote areas to generate legal awareness amongst the masses. The SLSA prepares a Calendar with Common Minimum Programmes each year and communicates to all District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) with an instruction to organise activities in each month. Topics such as, women's legal rights, domestic violence laws and protection under POCSO have been included in the Calendar with Common Minimum Programmes, which is prepared by SLSA each year to expand.

During the last three years i.e. from 2023 to 2025 (upto November, 2025), total 8,566 number of awareness camps/programmes have been organized by SLSA and its field units, wherein 7,43,807 number of persons had attended/benefitted.

Further, the Government of India under Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) Scheme spreads legal information and legal literacy through national webinars on topics of relevance besides engaging Nyaya Sahayaks in the Aspirational Blocks. Pre-litigation advice is also provided to the needy people free of cost by the Panel Lawyers through the Common Service Centres (CSCs)/Village Level Entrepreneurs at Panchayat level, Citizen Tele-Law Mobile App (available on Android, IOS), Helpline Number 14454 and Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2181
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

55VNMR-II STRENGTHENING LEGAL AND JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ODISHA

✓ 2181 Shri Manas Ranjan Mangaraj:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from State Government of Odisha for strengthening legal and judicial infrastructure in the State, including construction of court complexes, residential quarters for judges or establishment of new fast-track and special courts;
- (b) if so, the details and current status of such proposals;
- (c) the funds released to the State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary during the last five years; and
- (d) whether the Central Government has assessed the pendency of cases in district and subordinate courts of the State?

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 primary responsibility for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Judiciary rests with the State Governments/UTs. However, to augment the resources of the State Governments/ UTs, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the District and Subordinate Courts since 1993-94, by providing financial assistance in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States/UTs. The fund sharing pattern for the State of Odisha is 60:40 for Centre and State. The Scheme covers five components, viz., Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial Officers, Lawyers' Halls, Toilet

Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants. Total Central assistance of Rs. 277.56 crore (as on 31.10.2025) has been provided to the State of Odisha since inception of the Scheme, out of which Rs.187.32 crore has been provided since FY 2014-15 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in District and Subordinate Courts.

(c) Details of funds released to the State of Odisha during the last five years under the CSS of Development of Infrastructure Facilities in District & Subordinate Courts is as under:-

Financial Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)
2021-22	0.00
2022-23	31.49
2023-24	30.88
2024-25	51.48
2025-26(up to 31.10.2025)	22.92
Total	136.77

(d) Disposal of cases pending in various courts is within the domain of judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of Judges and Judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Detail of pending cases in District and Subordinate Courts of Odisha for the last five years are as under:-

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 01.12.2025
17,89,677	18,26,100	18,73,312	19,20,825	17,59,257

(Source: National Judicial Data Grid)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2183
ANSWERED ON - 18/12/2025

PENDENCY OF CASES IN PUNE

✓2183. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that as of November 2025, over 7.6 lakh cases are pending in Pune courts, causing significant frustration and delays for litigants;
- (b) the reasons for such high pendency, including judge vacancies and infrastructural issues; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to expedite disposal of cases and fill the judicial vacancies there?

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): Yes, the Government is aware of the pending cases in Pune. Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc.

The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

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

- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts, a sum of Rs. 12,358.15 crore 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 22,606 (as on 31.10.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 20,008 (as on 31.10.2025), under this Scheme.
- iii. The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 579.53 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.81 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of e Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1987 across High Courts and District Courts.
- 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 26.11.2025, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1156 new Judges were appointed and 819 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. Filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.
- v. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- vi. Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. Further, ten Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs.
- vii. As on 30.09.2025, 773 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 400 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.
- viii. The Government has also amended 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 with a view to reduce pendency.

- ix. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- x. 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.
- xi. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App. Pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering have been institutionalized in the country. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been established in 23 High Courts. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instil Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

Further, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the 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. The 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
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2184
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

Leg. II
(LD)

VERIFICATION OF CANDIDATE'S AFFIDAVITS

✓2184 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the Committee's observation that responses from both the Government and the Election Commission on creating a mechanism to verify candidate's affidavits were non-committal;
- (b) whether Government proposes to revisit those recommendations for a transparent affidavit-verification system using technology and real-time data checks and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether consultations have been held with the Election Commission or other agencies on the matter; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and by when the verification mechanism would be put in place?

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 matter pertaining to the mechanism of verification of candidates' affidavit is presently sub-judice before the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court, Lucknow Bench, in Public Interest Litigation (PIL) No. 29990 of 2021.
- (c) and (d): Do not arise in view of (a) and (b).

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2185
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

Imp. (ell)
(DLA)

FEES COLLECTED BY BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

✓2185 # Shri Sanjay Singh:

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

- (a) the types and amount of fees charged by the Bar Council of India (BCI) from law colleges for affiliation, inspection, renewal, infrastructure assessment, etc., during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the facilities, services or academic support provided by BCI to the concerned law colleges, students and educational institutions in lieu of fees collected; and
- (c) whether any independent audit has been conducted to monitor the funds collected and spent by BCI 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) As per information available, the types and amount of fees charged by Bar Council of India (BCI) from Law Colleges for affiliation, inspection, renewal, infrastructure assessment, etc is given as under: -

- i. One Time Portal Registration Fee
 - o One-time non-refundable portal registration fee of Rs. 50,000 per Centres for Legal Education (CLE) for registration on the Bar Council of India portal.
 - o No application for approval/renewal/additional course shall be processed without payment of this fee.
- ii. Regular Fee (till 31st December):
 - o Application Fee: Rs. 50,000
 - o Inspection/Approval Fee:

- Rs. 3,00,000 per course for Non-Hons. Course
- Rs. 5,00,000 per course for Hons. Course

iii. Refundable Interest Free Guarantee Fee

- Rs. 5,00,000 per law degree course as an interest-free refundable guarantee fee for fulfilling of all norms of Bar Council of India, before issuance of approval letter.
- Existing CLEs must ensure any deficient amount is paid to meet this requirement

iv. Validity of Initial Approval and Subsequent Renewals:

- The approval granted on payment of the initial fee shall be valid for 1–2 years, depending on the decision of the Standing Committee on Legal Education.
- Thereafter, the renewal fee / approval shall be generally valid for 3 years, and the renewal fee shall be generally payable once every 3 years, (unless otherwise directed to be paid before expiry of 3 years, owing to new inspection and/or for additional course/section, in existing course, etc) and must be repaid for each subsequent three-year period, subject to compliance with all Bar Council of India norms.

v. Renewal of Approval of Affiliation Fee

- Renewal fee/ pending dues must be deposited by 31st December of the preceding year
- CLEs must apply for renewal six months before the expiry of current approval
- Non-compliance may result in suspension/non renewal of approval or imposition of default fee

The fee structure shall apply to all CLE's who make any payment, including payment of pending dues.

(b) The Bar Council of India (BCI) undertakes regulatory, academic, and welfare functions for legal education and the legal profession, funded through fees collected from law colleges and institutions. These functions include granting and maintaining approval and recognition of law colleges, prescribing and enforcing standards for legal education and conducting inspections to ensure compliance with the Rules of Legal Education.

(c) All income and expenditure of BCI are audited by the Statutory Auditor every year and the same is published in Gazette Notification as mandated by the Advocates Act, 1961.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2186
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

Admin. ID
(COLA)

EFFECTIVENESS OF TRIBUNALS

✓2186 Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to overcome impediments affecting the functioning of tribunals after the enactment of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021;
- (b) if so, whether vacancies in tribunals are being filled expeditiously;
- (c) whether e-filing and digital case-management systems are being strengthened to improve efficiency;
- (d) whether periodic performance audits of tribunals are being conducted; and
- (e) whether coordination mechanisms with High Courts and commercial courts have been established for effective disposal of transferred 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) & (b): Consequent to the enactment of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, sixteen Tribunals have been placed under First Schedule of the Act which are under the purview of various Ministries/Departments as per **Annexure**. The administrative Ministry/Department which administer and are concerned with the subject matter of Tribunals under their respective allocation have not reported any persistent or emerging impediments affecting the functioning of the Tribunals.

Vacancies in various Tribunals occur on account of retirement, resignation, promotion and voluntary retirement etc. and filled up as per statutory provisions. Occurring of Vacancies and its filling up of is a continuous process. As per Sub-section (7) of Section 3 of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, the selection process *inter-alia*, states that “the Central Government shall take a decision on the recommendations made by the Search-cum-Selection-Committee (SCSC), preferably within three months from the date of such recommendation”. Hence, vacancies arise, if any, from time to time in the Tribunals are filled up as per aforesaid statutory provisions.

The provisions of Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 has however, been struck down by Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 19.11.2025 in the matter of W.P.(C) No. 1018 of 2021- Madras Bar Association vs. Union of India and Anr.

(c): The e-Filing and digital management systems have been implemented across most of the Tribunals through ePortal for facilitating electronic filing of appeals, applications, petitions and documents therein, which helped the litigants and advocates to track the case status, orders, daily cause list, etc. with ease and widely accepted by all the stakeholders. Upgradation of infrastructure like provision of free and high-speed internet has also been provided on Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) for facilitating uninterrupted virtual / hybrid hearings including the state-of-the-art video conferencing infrastructure for access by all stakeholders improve the efficiency in the Tribunals in disposing of various cases.

(d): The Tribunals concerned have reported that periodic performance audits are being undertaken regularly in respective Tribunals by the Internal Audit Team and through Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India, from time to time in accordance with the applicable Acts and Rules framed thereunder.

(e): The Tribunals being statutory/quasi-judicial body established under the provisions of Central Acts under the administrative control of various Ministries/Departments, they are entrusted to hear and dispose of appeals independently as per provision of their respective Acts and Rules framed thereunder. The cases, if any, transferred from High Courts and commercial courts are also dealt accordingly on priority for its effective disposal under the relevant Acts and Rules of the respective Tribunals.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.2186 for reply on 18/12/2025 regarding “Effectiveness of Tribunals”

Sl. No.	Tribunal/Appellate Tribunal/Board/Authority	Ministry/Department
1	Industrial Tribunal constituted by the Central Government	Ministry of Labour & Employment
2	Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal	Department of Legal Affairs
3	Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal	Department of Revenue
4	Appellate Tribunal [under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976]	Department of Revenue
5	Central Administrative Tribunal	Department of Personnel and Training
6	State Administrative Tribunals	Department of Personnel and Training
7	Railway Claims Tribunal	Ministry of Railways
8	Securities Appellate Tribunal	Department of Economic Affairs
9	Debts Recovery Tribunal	Department of Financial Services
10	Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal	Department of Financial Services
11	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal	Department of Telecommunication
12	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
13	National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission	Department of Consumer Affairs
14	Appellate Tribunal for Electricity	Ministry of Power
15	Armed Forces Tribunal	Department of Defence
16	National Green Tribunal	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2187
ANSWERED ON – 18/12/2025

✓
JSCLAP) ✓
PERFORMANCE OF LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES

✓2187 # SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:
SHRI MADAN RATHORE:
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:
SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA:
SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:

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

- (a) the number of cases taken up and legal aid provided by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and State Legal Services Authorities during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government has developed any new mechanisms to monitor and assess the performance of Legal Services Authorities, including NALSA;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any awareness initiatives have recently been undertaken to inform economically weaker sections, including SCs and STs, of their entitlement to free legal aid; and
- (e) if so, the details of such outreach efforts?

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) : State/UT-wise details of number of persons benefitted through free Legal Services provided by the Legal Services Authorities during the last three financial years i.e. 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (upto October, 2025) is at Annexure-A.

(b) and (c): In order to monitor and assess 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 the Houses of Parliament.

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 delivery 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.

(d) and (e): In order to make people aware of their entitlements, legal awareness programmes are organised across the country by Legal Services Authorities on various laws and schemes related to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, Persons suffering from Disabilities etc. In addition, Legal Services Authorities have also prepared booklets and pamphlets in easy language on various laws which are distributed amongst the people. Further, NALSA has also launched the **NALSA (Jagriti – Justice Awareness for Grassroots Information and Transparency Initiative) Scheme, 2025** to promote legal awareness across rural India through integration with Local Self-Government Institutions. During the last three years, legal awareness programmes organised by the Legal Services Authorities and number of persons attended are as under: -

Year	No of Camps/ Programmes held	No. of Persons Attended
2023-24	4,30,306	4,49,22,092
2024-25	4,62,988	3,72,32,850
2025-26 (upto October, 2025)	3,00,112	2,16,13,002

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2187 for reply on 18.12.2025 regarding 'Performance of Legal Services Authorities'.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 during the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 (upto October, 2025)

S.No.	SLSAs (States/UTs)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (upto October, 2025)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	220	341	174
2	Andhra Pradesh	8,265	11,266	7,934
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5,696	9,236	5,866
4	Assam	63,749	82,694	57,350
5	Bihar	1,51,413	84,505	45,156
6	Chandigarh	2,822	2,951	1,875
7	Chhattisgarh	62,164	80,874	46,968
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	55	45	57
	Daman & Diu	34	119	74
9	Delhi	1,21,882	76,526	42,756
10	Goa	1,558	1,889	2,135
11	Gujarat	40,569	50,467	49,470
12	Haryana	76,863	82,194	75,191
13	Himachal Pradesh	7,346	6,222	3,896
14	Jammu & Kashmir	11,396	18,602	14,484
15	Jharkhand	2,69,303	3,28,365	2,52,931
16	Karnataka	53,406	51,245	34,854
17	Kerala	36,498	26,571	20,182
18	Ladakh	505	324	152
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	14
20	Madhya Pradesh	2,25,510	2,33,009	1,44,783
21	Maharashtra	53,756	59,454	35,181
22	Manipur	62,635	99,062	50,281
23	Meghalaya	2,371	2,754	3,083
24	Mizoram	4,801	3,713	2,160
25	Nagaland	4,603	5,012	6,429
26	Odisha	19,289	22,134	10,634
27	Puducherry	621	616	309
28	Punjab	60,361	65,513	47,995
29	Rajasthan	20,290	22,216	16,584
30	Sikkim	1,074	901	716
31	Tamil Nadu	45,180	52,528	33,194
32	Telengana	13,193	16,021	12,018
33	Tripura	9,964	10,303	5,259
34	Uttar Pradesh	29,079	22,732	19,097
35	Uttarakhand	21,339	34,208	31,284
36	West Bengal	62,354	92,914	64,671
	Total	15,50,164	16,57,527	11,45,197

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2188
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ODISHA

✓2188 Shri Muzibulla Khan:
Shri Debashish Samantaray:

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

- (a) the number of courts functioning in Odisha, including district and taluk levels;
- (b) the steps taken to reduce pendency of cases in the State;
- (c) the implementation status of e-Courts in the State;
- (d) the legal aid schemes provided for marginalized communities in the State; and
- (e) any proposals for establishing new courts to improve 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) As per information provided by the High Court of Odisha, 895 courts of different category are functioning in the State of Odisha, which includes all the District and Taluk level Courts. Apart from them, 21 number of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) are also functioning under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- (b) Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff, physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures.

The Central Government is fully committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

Further, use of alternate dispute resolution mechanism, establishing Family courts and Fast track Courts is being promoted for speedy resolution of disputes. The disposal of old cases particularly 10, 20 or 30 years old is also monitored by the High Courts as per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India set out in Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (APAAr-DJ).

(c) Under the e-courts projects in the State of Odisha, 499 courts have been computerized, 1,00,331 cases e-filed, 184 e-seva kendra are functional and 21.04 crore pages have been digitized till date. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Process (NSTEP) and Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is functional in the State of Odisha. Under Phase-III of e-courts projects, Rs. 84.35 crore has been released to the State of Odisha.

(d) and (e) NALSA has promulgated and formulated various schemes for the beneficiaries and regulations to ensure effective discharge of the obligations by the Legal Services Institutions set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. In the current financial year (upto October, 2025) 10634 persons have been provided legal aid in the State of Odisha through the various Schemes. During the year 2025, Odisha State Legal Services Authority has organized three National Lok Adalats through which 6,69,166 cases were settled. Apart from regular mediation activities, special 90 days mediation drive, Mediation "For the Nation" campaign was conducted wherein 890 cases were settled successfully.

Decision for establishment of new courts is taken by State Governments/UTs in consultation with concerned High Courts as per their requirements.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2189
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

TSC(Admin)

ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT CADRE UNIT

✓ 2189 # Shri Neeraj Dangi:

Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan:

Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

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

- (a) whether the Department of Justice continues to rely on the Ministry of Home Affairs for its personnel requirements despite fifteen years of separation;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to establish an independent cadre unit for the Department and the timeline proposed therefor; and
- (c) the sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy details of each post in the Department as of March 2025?

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 incumbency position as per records is at Annexure (as on 31st March 2025). Of these, the post of Secretary, 04 posts of Joint Secretaries and 04 posts of Deputy Secretary/ Directors are filled through Central Staffing Scheme. 04 posts of Deputy Secretary/ Directors are manned by Central Secretariat Service Officers posted by Department of Personnel and Training. For the remaining posts, the Ministry of Home Affairs allocates the incumbents.

ANNEXURE

Sanctioned Strength and Working Strength as on 31.03.2025

Name of post	Sanctioned Strength	Working strength	Vacancy
Secretary	1	1	0
Joint Secretary	4	4	0
Director /Deputy Secretary	8	7	1
Under Secretary	11	11	0

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2190
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

PENDENCY OF CASES IN COURTS

JS(CNMJR-I)

✓2190. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has introduced any reforms to reduce the pendency of cases in the courts across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are plans to set up fast-track courts for cases related to women's safety and cyber crimes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has taken any IT initiatives to improve judicial efficiency and transparency; 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 disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts, a sum of Rs. 12,358.15 crore 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 22,606 (as on 31.10.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 20,008 (as on 31.10.2025), under this Scheme.

- iii. The Government is accelerating the disposal of cases by rapidly modernizing the judiciary through advanced digital infrastructure under the e-Court Project (Phase III).
- 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 26.11.2025, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1156 new Judges were appointed and 819 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. Filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.
- v. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- vi. Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. Further, ten Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs.
- vii. The Government has also amended 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 with a view to reduce pendency.
- viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- 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.
- 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. Pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering have been institutionalized in the country. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been established in 23 High Courts. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instil Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(c) & (d): The 14th Finance Commission had recommended the setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during the period 2015-2020 for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, civil cases involving women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses. As per information received from the High Courts, 866 FTCs are functional across 21 State/UTs as on 31.10.2025.

The Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. As per data provided by the High Courts, 773 FTSCs, including 400 exclusive POCSO Courts, are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 30.09.2025. Since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, these courts have collectively disposed of 3,50,685 cases, while 2,43,615 cases are currently pending.

(e) & (f): The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till date, 579.53 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.81 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of e Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1987 across High Courts and District Courts.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2191
ANSWERED ON – 18/12/2025

MONITORING OF PENDING CASES

✓2191. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has reviewed the NCRB 2023 data, which shows that despite a chargesheet rate of over 70 per cent, only 20-36 per cent of cases result in convictions for major crimes;
- (b) the number of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) and exclusive POCSO Courts operational as of March 2025 and the case disposal and conviction rates since 2020;
- (c) the State-wise average trial time taken in FTSCs and POCSO Courts; and
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes to link FTSCs data to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for transparency and monitoring?

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 NCRB report titled Crime in India 2023 has been studied in the Ministry. From the data available with National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), it is noted that the overall conviction rate for IPC crimes in 2023 stands at 54 percent, with a chargesheeting rate of 72 percent. However, conviction rate largely depends on the quality of investigation and evidence, including the oral evidence and expeditious trial, for which the Government of India has taken various steps. While various provisions in this regard have been introduced under New Criminal Laws, numerous technological interventions have been made under Inter-operable Criminal Justice System and eCourts Project.

The eSakshya platform, designed in line with the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, integrates cutting-edge technology to streamline the collection, management, and exchange of digital evidence. The eSakshya Mobile App captures critical evidence directly at the crime scene and records statements, documents scenes, and uploads findings in real-time, ensuring that no detail is overlooked. It stores investigative data fast and securely with encrypted locker, and guarantees data integrity and confidentiality, providing a safely locker for all digital evidence. The evidence on eSakshya platform is meant to be accessed directly by the court.

In addition, Nyaya Shruti app has been launched in 2024 under the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), to facilitate virtual appearances and testimonies of accused persons, witnesses, police officials, prosecutors, scientific experts, prisoners etc. through video conferencing, saving both time and resources while expediting case resolutions. For faster and more reliable communication of court notices and summons, e-Summons platform has been introduced.

The Government of India is implementing e-Courts Project Phase-III with an outlay of **Rs.7,210 crore** over four years. The eCourts Project Phase III envisions transforming Indian courts into digital and paperless courts by digitizing legacy and current case records, expanding video conferencing to all courts, jails, and selected hospitals, and extending online courts beyond traffic violations. The project aims at creation of a state-of-the-art cloud-based data repository for storing digitized court records and applications, and deployment of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR). The Digital Courts 2.1 platform enables judges to access all case-related documents, pleadings, and evidence digitally, marking a significant leap toward a paperless court ecosystem.

Further, the Government of India has been implementing the scheme of Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India (DISHA), which aims to fulfil the mandate of Access to Justice. The Scheme aims to consolidate and mainstream its three pan India initiatives namely Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme that strengthen the pre- litigation framework to provide seamless legal services/assistance to the citizens.

(b): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts was launched in 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.

This Scheme for establishment of 790 courts has been extended twice with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026. As per the information received from the High Courts, as on 31.03.2025, 745 FTSCs, including 404 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts were functional in

30 States/UTs, with a cumulative disposal of 3,19,685 cases since the inception of the Scheme. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO courts along with cumulative disposal as on 31.03.2025, are given at **Annexure-I**.

The State/UT- wise details of conviction rate in FTSCs during the year 2023 and 2024, as received from High Courts, are given at **Annexure -II**.

(c): As per the inputs received from the High Courts, the State/UT-wise details of the average trial time taken in FTSCs including exclusive POCSO courts during 2024, are provided at **Annexure -III**.

(d): The FTSCs are using the Case Information System (CIS) developed under the eCourts Project. Since CIS data of the FTSCs is available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on the same lines as in case of other regular courts under the jurisdiction of the High Courts.

State/UT-wise details of functional FTSCs along with exclusive POCO (ePOCSO) courts as on 31/03/2025

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	6976	6976
2	Assam	17	17	0	8329	8329
3	Bihar	46	46	0	15860	15860
4	Chandigarh	1	0	349	0	349
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	1221	4897	6118
6	Delhi	16	11	720	1837	2557
7	Goa	1	0	68	34	102
8	Gujarat	35	24	3122	12554	15676
9	Haryana	16	12	1933	5833	7766
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	545	777	1322
11	J&K	4	2	125	161	286
12	Jharkhand	22	16	2704	6097	8801
13	Karnataka	30	17	5123	8237	13360
14	Kerala	55	14	16808	7602	24410
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	56	4699	26305	31004
16	Maharashtra	4	1	8685	12004	20689
17	Manipur	2	0	180	0	180
18	Meghalaya	5	5	0	684	684
19	Mizoram	3	1	193	68	261
20	Nagaland	1	0	65	3	68
21	Odisha	44	23	6827	12302	19129
22	Puducherry	1	1	0	139	139
23	Punjab	12	3	2658	2412	5070
24	Rajasthan	45	30	5570	12878	18448
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	0	9656	9656
26	Telangana	36	0	8190	2731	10921
27	Tripura	3	1	240	224	464
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	1869	0	1869
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	42580	46261	88841
30	West Bengal	6	6	0	350	350
	TOTAL	745	404	114474	205211	319685

Note: The State of Jharkhand exited the Scheme vide its letter dated 07.07.2025. Under the Scheme, 22 FTSCs were functional in the State until May 2025.

* As per data provided by the High Courts

The State/UT-wise details of conviction rate in FTSCs during the year 2023 and 2024*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Conviction rate (%)	
		2023	2024
1	Andhra Pradesh	3.97	5.19
2	Assam	16.7	35
3	Bihar	17.29	14.51
4	Chandigarh	67	16.915
5	Chhattisgarh	16.88	23.69
6	Delhi	24.94	8.59
7	Goa	39	9.69
8	Gujarat	7.42	9.53
9	Haryana	15.52	40.5
10	Himachal Pradesh	25.04	8.24
11	J&K	6	4.5
12	Jharkhand	21.2	14.78
13	Karnataka	12.54	8.1
14	Kerala	9.9	13
15	Madhya Pradesh	27.45	14.5
16	Maharashtra	10.55	6.07
17	Manipur	21.86	7
18	Meghalaya	58.49	45
19	Mizoram	14.14	33.5
20	Nagaland	24	25
21	Odisha	13.32	10.63
22	Puducherry	17	17.94
23	Punjab	12.46	47.19
24	Rajasthan	22.6	18.29
25	Tamil Nadu	28.5	25.82
26	Telangana	7.12	7
27	Tripura	6.87	5.3
28	Uttar Pradesh	26.49	25.11
29	Uttarakhand	22.42	22.5
30	West Bengal	1	2

*As per details provided by the High Courts

**State/UT-wise details of the average trial time taken in FTSCs including exclusive
POCSO courts during 2024**

Sl. No.	STATE/UT	Average Time taken for the Trial in FTSCs (in days)
1	Andhra Pradesh	257
2	Assam	940
3	Bihar	941
4	Chandigarh	592.5
5	Chhattisgarh	332.5
6	Delhi	1639.5
7	Goa	547.5
8	Gujarat	1292.5
9	Haryana	575
10	Himachal Pradesh	434.5
11	Jammu & Kashmir	912.5
12	Jharkhand	640.5
13	Karnataka	817
14	Kerala	796.5
15	Madhya Pradesh	380
16	Maharashtra	575
17	Manipur	1350
18	Meghalaya	910
19	Mizoram	1155
20	Nagaland	1185
21	Odisha	499.5
22	Puducherry	180
23	Punjab	590
24	Rajasthan	880
25	Tamil Nadu	466
26	Telangana	434.5
27	Tripura	1484
28	Uttarakhand	512.5
29	Uttar Pradesh	861.34
30	West Bengal	910

* As per details provided by the High Courts