

2024

RAJYA SABHA REPLIES

**WINTER SESSION, 2024[266th SESSION OF
RAJYA SABHA]
[25th November, 2024 to 20th December, 2024]**

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO . 42
ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

JS(NKG)

HAMARA SAMVIDHAN HAMARA SAMMAN PORTAL

✓ 42. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of "Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman Portal" and the manner in which this portal would provide information to the citizens about the constitution and their legal rights;
- (b) whether the objective of this portal is to make citizens aware of their rights and whether it will increase their respect towards the constitution; and
- (c) whether active participation of citizens would be promoted through this portal and the manner in which it would strengthen the judicial system of our 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): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*42 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING
'HAMARA SAMVIDHAN HAMARA SAMMAN PORTAL.'

(a) to (c) The Department of Justice is implementing a pan-India, year-long nationwide campaign titled 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' to celebrate the 75th year of India as a Republic and the adoption of India's Constitution. The campaign was launched on January 24, 2024, by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India. Following this, three regional events have also been organized in Bikaner, Rajasthan, on March 9, 2024, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, on July 16, 2024, and in Guwahati, Assam on November, 19, 2024 respectively to ensure decentralized outreach of the campaign. The campaign aims to reaffirm our collective commitment to the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India and to celebrate the shared values that bind our nation.

The 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman Portal' which was launched during the 2nd regional event at Prayagraj on 16th July, 2024 serves as a knowledge repository to enhance public awareness about the Constitution and their legal rights. It's available on the web portal <https://www.hamarasamvidhan.gov.in/>. Additionally, the campaign has generated significant public engagement through online competitions conducted in collaboration with MyGov, inspiring citizens to deepen their understanding of constitutional rights and duties.

The primary objective of the "Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman Portal" is to enhance citizens' awareness of their fundamental rights and duties and legal protections under the Constitution. By providing easy access to crucial legal knowledge, the portal aims to empower individuals with the information they need to exercise their rights effectively. Furthermore, by fostering a deeper understanding of the Constitution's significance and its role in maintaining justice, equality, and democracy, the portal is expected to instill greater respect and reverence for the Constitution among citizens. Promoting constitutional literacy is the key to strengthening democratic values and ensuring that the citizens respect the laws that govern them.

The portal serves as an accessible, user-friendly platform that offers comprehensive information on various provisions of the Constitution, key legal rights and Fundamental Duties. Through interactive tools, video content, and text resources, citizens can learn about the historical significance of the Constitution, its framers, and how the provisions of the Constitution safeguard their rights and duties in their day-to-day life.

The portal is designed to actively engage citizens by providing interactive features such as quizzes, crossword, and opportunities to participate in reading of Preamble and Panch Pran. As on date 1.29 lakh citizens have participated in the Panch Pran activity under 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' campaign nationwide.

At its core, the campaign serves as a dynamic platform aimed at empowering citizens with essential knowledge about their legal rights and responsibilities. Participating in this campaign signifies a commitment to transcend individual interests and unite in the collective endeavor to build a nation founded on the principles of progress, inclusivity, and sustainable development.

This nationwide initiative provides opportunities for every citizen to participate in various ways, empowering them to contribute meaningfully through its three sub-campaigns namely:- Sabko Nyaya Har Ghar Nyaya, Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp and Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyan. The first sub-campaign, Sabko Nyaya Har Ghar Nyaya aims to ensure justice to all irrespective of socio-economic backgrounds through the network of Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) of the Common Service Centres (CSCs) in 2.5 lakh gram panchayats by engaging citizen in reading the Panch Pran Pledge in regional languages. The citizen-centric services fairs called "Nyaya Sewa Melas" have also been organized for the citizens. In addition, door to door awareness is being provided by the Nyaya Sahayaks who have been engaged in 500 Aspirational Blocks of the country.

The second sub-theme of the campaign is Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp. Under this activity, online competitions such as the Samvidhan Quiz competition (designed on the provisions of the Constitution of India where 53222 citizens participated, from which 1000 entries were selected), Panch Pran Rangotsav (poster-making competition where 876 citizens participated) and Panch Pran Anubhav (reel-making competition where 830 citizens participated) were organised on the MyGov platform and winners were felicitated at the 2nd Regional event held on 16.07.2024 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

The third sub-theme namely, Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyan involves promoting legal literacy and awareness through grassroots initiatives and educational endeavours. Under this sub-campaign, the activity namely Gram Vidhi Chetna which engages students in driving legal awareness activities within adopted villages under their respective pro bono club. Till date, 10,000 outreach program have been organised through the law schools. The activity namely, Vanchit Varg Samman which envisage to enhance constitutional education where IGNOU

and Doordarshan is organizing online workshops/webinars covering various marginalized groups' rights. The activity under the sub campaign is Nari Bhagidaari which aims to conduct online workshops/webinars addressing gender-based issues. The third sub theme of the campaign has a total outreach of 65.80 lakhs citizens till date.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No - 434
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

JS (e-court)

VIDEO CONFERENCING FACILITIES IN DISTRICT COURTS

✓ 434. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY :

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

- (a) the number of district courts in the country which still do not have video conferencing facilities and necessary digital equipments for hybrid hearings; and
- (b) the timeline by which Government will have these facilities?

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 part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented by Department of Justice in collaboration with eCommittee Supreme Court of India. Phase I of the eCourts project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023. In eCourts Mission Mode Project, during Phase I of the project video conferencing facility has been operationalised between 488 court complexes & 342 corresponding jails. In eCourts Phase II of the project, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes, including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms (High Court-Wise details attached at Annexure I). Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available (High

Court-Wise details of VC Cabins attached at Annexure II). VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

eCourts Phase III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7210 crore was approved by Union Cabinet in September 2023 for a period of 4 years (2023 onwards) to upgrade digital infrastructure of the lower judiciary. Focus of Phase III is on building a robust governance framework and a judicial system that is more accessible, efficient, and equitable for every individual who seeks justice or is part of the delivery of justice in India. Under this phase, there is a provision for enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of Video Conferencing in 10200 establishments, including 500 Jails, 700 District Government Hospitals and 9000 Courts at an amount of Rs. 228.48 crore.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha admitted question no RSUQ 434 for 28/11/2024 regarding Video conferencing facilities in district courts. High Court wise details of VC equipment for Court Rooms is as follows:

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

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

Annexure II

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha admitted question no RSUO 434 for 28/11/2024 regarding Video conferencing facilities in district courts. High Court wise details for VC Cabins in Court Complexes is as follows:

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 435
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

JS (e-courts)

**MEASURES TO TRANSLATE AND PUBLISH PROCEEDING AND JUDGMENTS
OF SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS**

✓ 435. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken appropriate measures to translate and publish the proceedings and judgments of Supreme Court and High Courts in the country through the artificial intelligence in translation field;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the total funds sanctioned for the same and for the translation projects/ jobs undertaken by the Supreme Court and High Courts in the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The Supreme Court of India has adopted the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) language technology in translation of judicial documents. AI has also been deployed for transcribing oral arguments, particularly in Constitution Bench matters since February 2023. A Committee headed by a Hon'ble Judge of the Supreme Court of India has been constituted to monitor the translation of important Supreme Court and High Court judgments into vernacular languages. The Committee is having regular meetings with the Sub-Committees of High Courts comprising Hon'ble Judges to expedite the process of translation.

The AI Translation Committees of the High Courts are monitoring the entire work relating to translation of the Supreme Court and High Court Judgments into vernacular language. As

on date, 17 High Courts have already started e-High Court Reports (e-HCR)/e-Indian Law Reports (e-ILR).

The AI Committees of the High Courts have been informed to request the respective State Governments to translate all the Central and State Legislation, Rules, Regulations, etc. into regional language and put it on the State website so as to help the common man to read it in the regional language. It has also been impressed upon all the State Governments to extend full support to the respective High Courts in the exercise of translation of judgments, since it is part of 'access to justice' as envisaged under the Constitution of India.

As on 25.11.2024, 36,316 Supreme Court Judgments have been translated in Hindi language and 42,457 Judgments of Supreme Court have been translated in other 17 regional languages and the same are available on the e-SCR portal.

No separate fund has been sanctioned to Supreme Court for this translation project.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 436
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY

✓ 436. SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) the current vacancies in the judiciary including district courts and different forums;
- (b) whether Government is planning to fill such vacancy as soon as possible, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is thinking to bring all India Judicial Service examination for the selection of judges, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government is thinking to allow foreign law firms practising in India, if so, details of the regulatory structure to allow multinational law firms; and
- (e) whether Government has recently convened a meeting with various stakeholders in this regard?

ANSWER

THE 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 status of vacancies in the judiciary including district courts as on 21.11.2024 is as under:

Name of the Courts	Vacancy as on 21.11.2024
Supreme Court	02
High Courts	364
District and Subordinate Courts	5245

(b): Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at the State and Centre level. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies of Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

Filling up of vacant positions in the case of 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 the recruitment process of judges in the District and Subordinate courts.

(c): Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of All India Judicial Service (AIJS), which shall not include any post inferior to that of a District Judge. The constitutional provision enables creation of the AIJS at District Judge level. 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 above 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 the High Courts on the constitution of 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 level 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.

(d): The Bar Council of India (BCI) vide notification dated 10th March, 2023 has published in Gazette of India the Bar Council of India Rules for registration and regulation of foreign lawyers or foreign law firms in India. The Rules provide for foreign lawyers and Foreign Law Firms to practice foreign law and diverse international law and international arbitration matters in India on the principle of reciprocity in a well-defined, regulated and controlled manner. Chapter IV of the Rules lays down nature and extent of law practice by a foreign lawyer/law firm. Rule 8 provides the nature and extent to which a foreign lawyer is authorised to practice law in India.

The BCI has informed that foreign law firms in India have to subject themselves to the regulatory mechanism of BCI as per the rules that may be summarised as under:

- i. Foreign Lawyers and Law firms shall be allowed to advise their clients about foreign laws and international laws only.
- ii. They would render advisory work about such Laws for their foreign clients only.
- iii. Foreign Lawyers and foreign law firms shall be allowed to function in non-litigious areas only.

- iv. Foreign lawyers and foreign law firms shall not be allowed to appear in any Court, Tribunal, Board, before any statutory or regulatory authority or any forum legally entitled to take evidence on Oath and/or having trappings of a Court.
- v. Entry of Foreign Lawyers would be on reciprocal basis only i.e. Lawyers of only those countries would be permitted in India where Indian Lawyers are also permitted to practice.
- vi. Foreign Lawyers would be allowed to appear for their clients in International Commercial Arbitration.

The BCI shall have the right of issuing such directions and regulations from time to time, as are necessary for the proper implementation and execution of these Rules.

As per the objects and reasons of the Rules, growth in international legal work, globalization of legal practices and crisscrossing of legal professionals from one country to other has called for presence of an open, responsive and receptive legal dispensation mechanism in India. Bar Council of India is of the view that opening up of law practice in India to foreign lawyers in the field of practice of foreign law; diverse international legal issues in non litigious matters and in international arbitration cases would go a long way in helping legal profession/domain grow in India to the benefit of lawyers in India too. The rules will also help to address the concerns expressed about flow of Foreign Direct Investment in the country and making India a hub of International Commercial Arbitration.

Further, the BCI has informed that, it is of the firm view, firstly, that entry of foreign lawyers and foreign law firm is not going to adversely impact advocates of the country. On the contrary, the Bar Council of India firmly believes that entry of foreign lawyers and law firms will benefit scores of young advocates and budding Indian Law Firms. And in the long run, it will be proved beneficial to the Indian Lawyers, Law Firms and for the entire country.

(e): Recently the Government has not convened any meeting in this regard.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 437
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

FAMILY COURTS

✓ 437# SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:

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

- (a) the number of family courts functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases registered, disposed and pending in these courts during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Jharkhand;
- (c) whether the states are facing problems in disposal of these cases filed in these courts;
- (d) if yes, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The details of family courts functioning at present in the country, State-wise and cases registered, disposed and pending during the last three years including the information pertaining to the State of Jharkhand are at **Annexure**.

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

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

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

- i. **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary was launched in 1993. Under this Scheme, the number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 23,590 as on 31.10.2024 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,076 as on 31.10.2024. Since inception of the Scheme, an amount of Rs.11583.07 crore has been released till 20.11.2024. The Scheme has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs.9,000 crore, including central share amounting to Rs.5,307 crore. Besides construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it now also covers construction of Lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

- ii. **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** The Department of Justice, Government of India in close coordination with the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India has been implementing the eCourts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of the Indian Judiciary. The number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 till 2023. Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on date, the litigants can access case information and 27.65 crore orders/judgments pertaining to these courts. The eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders and final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerized courts, e-Courts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Rs.12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

With a view to handling the COVID-19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 1375 e-Sewa Kendras (Facilitation centres) in District & Subordinate courts and 28 e-Sewa Kendra (Facilitation centres) in High courts had been made functional to facilitate citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information, e-filing facilities, etc. Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 24,53,0538 cases while the High Court heard 89,63,007 cases (totaling more than 3.3 crore) using video conferencing till 30.09.2024. Rs.28.886 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails.

- iii. **Filling up of vacant positions in District and Subordinate Courts:** Sanctioned and working strengths of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts have increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.10.2024	25,725	20,487

- iv. **Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:** In pursuance of Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High

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

Annexure as referred to in Reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 437

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

(As on 30.09.2024)

S.No	State/UTs	Functional Court	Cases Registered			Cases Disposed			Cases Pending		
			2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
1	Andhra Pradesh	15	6877	8552	5876	4990	8090	6046	10447	13205	13672
2	Andaman Nicobar	1	0	262	369	0	307	305	0	799	921
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	7	6130	5758	3952	7450	4937	4213	7532	7158	7357
5	Bihar	39	24085	22737	18973	22501	21445	25234	71376	72668	67662
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	29	15548	17550	12322	14995	16763	13648	18718	19505	19545
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	30	22664	0	27273	21014	0	30379	***	***	52282
10	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Gujarat	50	24910	27194	44037	26557	30084	30659	34761	31954	50128
12	Haryana	28	46271	49164	39994	48301	43652	40438	62231	64656	68126
13	Himachal Pradesh	3	6275	4171	3014	5470	4160	3848	5924	6301	5923
14	Jammu & Kashmir	2	0	0	8587	0	0	6057	0	0	15192
15	Jharkhand	31	13312	15782	10514	16670	16855	11487	15999	15306	15702
16	Karnataka	41	28208	29391	20395	28259	30409	20791	39397	38407	40260
17	Kerala	37	68111	84610	45628	68289	86250	53418	113756	112267	109740
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	128	0	0	76	0	0	120
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	64	12974	41598	32874	13724	43231	34194	65283	64020	66158
21	Maharashtra	51	40186	38830	30236	39673	40399	32514	67828	66259	67242
22	Manipur	4	674	560	439	1058	422	539	628	720	662
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	2	257	210	176	223	194	191	199	233	238
26	Odisha	30	14653	15588	11188	19567	18577	14401	39786	36797	34694
27	Puducherry *	2	1232	1094	876	1363	845	594	1212	1473	1845
28	Punjab	33	67286	68711	55547	71313	72668	58881	79413	73388	77604
29	Rajasthan	50	43357	50912	34174	41740	48155	38233	47957	50714	49805
30	Sikkim	6	349	287	251	417	325	258	148	35	160
31	Tamil Nadu *	40	25645	22608	17688	27775	23039	19240	30952	32222	33213
32	Telangana	23	11814	13439	9166	10568	13227	10065	7213	18888	19007
33	Tripura	9	4028	3636	2420	3663	3726	3075	3977	3957	3539
34	Uttar Pradesh	189	229098	287494	188747	234047	284091	214561	390256	396875	395853
35	Uttarakhand	27	13342	14707	9926	14722	14726	10371	14617	14591	16421
36	West Bengal	5	301	657	9056	351	312	1460	1124	1517	9899
	Total	848	727587	825502	643828	744700	826889	685176	1130734	1143915	1242970
*** Data not provided by the concerned High Court											
* Data provided by the concerned High Courts till Aug'24											

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 438

ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

SOCIAL DIVERSITY IN HIGHER JUDICIARY

✓ 438. SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a) whether Government has included in memorandum of procedure proposed for appointment of High Court and Supreme Court judges, requirement of social diversity/reservations;
- (b) details and number of SC,ST,OBC, forward caste, women and minority judges in all the High Courts and in Supreme Court as on 31.10.2024;
- (c) reasons due to which the names of Ramasamy Neelakandan and John Sathyam have been kept pending despite being recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium on 17.01.2023 for appointment as judges of Madras High Court; and
- (d) details of total number of vacancies in all High Courts for judges with total strength as on 31.10.2024?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (d): Appointment of Judges to 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), which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of SCs, STs and OBCs among the Judges of High Courts are not centrally maintained. However, 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). Based on the information provided by the recommendees, out of 684 High Court Judges appointed since 2018,

21 belong to SC category, 14 belong to ST category, 82 belong to OBC category and 37 belong to Minorities. As on 31.10.2024, 02 women Judges are working in the Supreme Court and 106 in various High Courts.

2. 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, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. However, the Government 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.

3. As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the proposals recommended by the High Court Collegium for appointment as High Court Judges, are to be considered in light of such other reports/inputs as may be available to the Government for assessing the suitability in respect of the names under consideration. The Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 6.10.1993 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.

4. 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 exercises its opinion on the recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) by virtue of this collaborative process so as to ensure that most suitable and meritorious candidate is appointed to the esteemed post of a Judge in the Constitutional Courts. Only those persons are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts whose names have been recommended by the SCC.

5. The sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judges in the High Courts as on 31.10.2024 is at **Annexure.**

ANNEXURE**Statement showing Sanctioned strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts**
(As on 31.10.2024)

Sl. No.	High Court(s)	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Allahabad	160	78
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	8
3	Bombay	94	25
4	Calcutta	72	29
5	Chhattisgarh	22	5
6	Delhi	60	23
7	Gauhati	30	6
8	Gujarat	52	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	6
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	10
11	Jharkhand	25	7
12	Karnataka	62	12
13	Kerala	47	2
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	18
15	Madras	75	8
16	Manipur	5	1
17	Meghalaya	4	0
18	Orissa	33	14
19	Patna	53	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	32
21	Rajasthan	50	18
22	Sikkim	3	0
23	Telangana	42	15
24	Tripura	5	0
25	Uttarakhand	11	5
	Total	1122	360

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 439
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

PENDING CASES IN COURTS

✓ 439. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether large number of cases are still pending despite several steps like setting up fast track courts;
- (b) if so, the number of pending cases at district courts, High Courts and Supreme Court as on date;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up more courts and appoint more judges in the existing courts to dispose the pending cases at the earliest; and
- (d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to dispose the pending cases in time bound manner?

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 National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of pending cases in courts across the country, as on 25.11.2024, is as under:

S. No.	Name of court	No. of pending cases
1.	Supreme Court of India	82,511
2.	High Courts	61,11,028
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,54,79,245

(c) & (d): In case of Supreme Court of India, Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled "The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look", submitted in 1988, reiterated the

recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of Appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai. The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to the Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. **The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.**

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 was amended to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court of India from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI). The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019 came into force w.e.f. 09.08.2019.

In case of High Court, Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No.379 of 2000 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural facilities and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day today administration of the High Court. To be complete, the proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State. At present, there is no complete proposal pending with the Government for setting up of Bench(es) in any High Court.

During the period from 01.05.2014 to 21.11.2024 with the approval of the respective State Governments, concerned High Courts and the Chief Justice of India, the Government has increased the Judge strength of the High Courts from 906 to 1122 i.e. by 216 posts.

In case of District and Subordinate courts, the setting up of more courts is within the domain of the concerned High Court and respective State Government.

As far as appointment of more judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts is concerned, under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court. In exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Governments, in consultation with the High Court, frame the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. The sanctioned strength of judicial officers has increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 25,725 as on 22.11.2024. The state-wise sanctioned strength and working strength in respect of judges of the District and Subordinate Courts during past 5 years is at *Annexure-I*.

(e): The disposal of pending cases in time bound manner is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem for expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves improved infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (C) & (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 439 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN COURTS'.

Sl.No	Name of the State/Uts		As on 31.12.2020		As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023		As on 22.11.2024	
			Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
1	Andhra Pradesh		607	510	607	491	607	534	618	535	618	544
2	Telangana		474	378	474	425	560	410	560	445	560	445
3	Auranchal Pradesh		41	32	41	32	41	33	44	34	44	33
4	Assam		466	412	467	436	485	425	485	439	485	461
5	Bihar		1936	1433	1954	1394	2016	1349	2016	1550	2019	1536
6	Chandigarh		30	26	30	30	30	30	30	29	30	30
7	Chattisgarh		480	387	482	409	527	437	562	423	663	465
8	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	D & N Haveli	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
		Daman & Diu	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
9	Delhi		799	648	884	692	884	681	887	798	897	803
10	Goa		50	40	50	40	50	40	50	40	50	40
11	Gujarat		1521	1152	1523	1123	1582	1151	1720	1175	1720	1185
12	Haryana		772	493	772	482	772	464	772	564	773	555
13	Himachal Pradesh		175	161	175	160	179	163	179	158	179	160
14	Jammu and Kashmir		296	255	300	241	314	223	317	223	322	277
15	Ladakh		16	8	17	9	17	9	17	10	17	11
16	Jharkhand		675	544	675	523	694	508	693	512	705	506
17	Karnataka		1357	1071	1363	1087	1365	1132	1375	1150	1375	1157
18	Kerela		538	470	569	488	595	473	605	514	610	534

19	Lakshadweep	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	4
20	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1610	2021	1552	2021	1649	2028	1730	2028	1692
21	Maharashtra	2190	1940	2190	1940	2190	1940	2190	1940	2190	1940
22	Manipur	54	36	59	42	59	42	59	49	62	49
23	Meghalaya	97	49	97	49	99	51	99	57	99	56
24	Mizoram	64	43	65	42	74	41	74	41	74	45
25	Nagaland	33	26	34	24	34	24	34	24	34	24
26	Odisha	950	756	976	785	1001	767	1008	803	1041	842
27	Puducherry	26	11	26	11	28	11	29	10	36	26
28	Punjab	692	593	692	607	797	589	797	585	804	723
29	Rajasthan	1489	1292	1549	1274	1587	1256	1638	1342	1641	1314
30	Sikkim	25	20	28	20	30	21	35	23	35	23
31	Tamil Nadu	1298	1049	1316	1082	1340	1068	1371	1040	1369	1023
32	Tripura	120	97	122	97	128	108	128	108	133	109
33	Uttar Pradesh	3634	2581	3634	2542	3647	2474	3696	2449	3698	2717
34	Uttarakhand	297	255	299	271	299	269	298	271	298	270
35	West Bengal	1014	918	1014	918	1014	918	1014	918	1105	863
36	A& N Island	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	12
Total		24247	19318	24515	19340	25077	19313	25439	20011	25725	20480

55(P.P.P.)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 440
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

HUGE BACKLOG OF PETTY CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES

✓ 440. SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge backlog of petty civil and criminal cases across several tiers of the judiciary resulting in high litigation expenses;
- (b) whether these petty civil cases and criminal offences can be addressed out-of-court and through a mediation method;
- (c) whether Government proposes Gram Panchayat-level mediation for petty civil and criminal issues on the lines of Panchayat-level mediation in Rajasthan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE 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): Pendency of civil and criminal cases in the country at the level of District and Subordinate Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court are reflected in real time basis on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) developed by NIC under the aegis of eCommittee of the Supreme Court and funded by Government of India's eCourts Project.

As per NJDG, the backlog of total number of civil and criminal cases across different tiers of judiciary is as under:

Backlog of Civil and Criminal Cases in Judiciary (as on 21.11.2024)				
S. No.	Name of court	No. of cases pending (civil)	No. of cases pending (criminal)	Total
1.	Supreme Court of India	64,225	18,265	82,490
2.	High Courts	43,46,093	17,58,414	61,04,507
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	1,09,48,059	3,44,77,774	4,54,25,833

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

The information regarding pending petty civil and criminal cases categorized in the manner sought are not separately maintained on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). In case of petty criminal offences, the Bhartiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 under Section 229(2), defines petty offence as “any offence punishable only with fine not exceeding five thousand rupees, but does not include any offence so punishable under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988), or under any other law which provides for convicting the accused person in his absence on a plea of guilty.”

Many categories of petty civil cases and criminal offences can be addressed out-of-court and through Lok Adalats or mediation.

Lok Adalat, established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 is primarily a “People’s Court” wherein decisions are arrived at between two or more disputing parties on mutually acceptable terms amicably. Lok Adalats can take up any kind of Civil Matters and all Criminal Compoundable Matters, mostly petty in nature that are pending in a court or at the Pre-Litigative stage. There are three types of Lok Adalats: National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats. Mobile Lok Adalats are also organized in various parts of the country, which travel from one location to another to resolve disputes in order to facilitate the resolution of disputes through a mediated mechanism. Since June, 2020, Online Lok Adalat/e-Lok Adalats have been organised virtually that facilitates party interaction and exchange of information, allowing people to effectively participate from their homes with the help of internet technology.

The Mediation Act, 2023 lays down that mediation can be conducted in civil and commercial matters in terms of the provisions of the Mediation Act, 2023 barring such matters explicitly listed in the First Schedule of the Act which are not fit for mediation and in which mediation can not be conducted. It can be seen from the exempted list in the first schedule that only

major offences have been excluded, thus leaving majority of the petty offences under the ambit of Mediation Act, 2023.

(c) & (d): As per the information provided by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), an Expert Committee had been constituted on the subject of “*Community Mediation/Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16.3*” to provide policy and operational guidance for expanding access to justice and reduce inequalities in access to justice at the grass-roots level. The Committee has recommended that the States may formulate State-led Composite Model, which may comprise one or more of the Development of Panchayat Model (as in Bihar/ Himachal Pradesh), Panchayat Facilitated Community Mediation, Panchayat Justice Delivery through Self Help Groups – Panchayati Raj Institutions (SHG-PRI) Partnership, Jagratha Samiti Model and Semi-formal systems towards alternate dispute resolution to allow scalable sustainability while allowing for participatory empowerment. ‘Panchayats’ being a ‘State’ subject, the recommendations of the Committee have been forwarded to the States for taking up suitable actions towards their implementation.

Under The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, enacted by Government of India, village-level judicial institutions called Gram Nyayalayas have been established at the grass roots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps in rural areas. At present, there are 45 Gram Nyayalayas operational in the State of Rajasthan. Under Section 26 of the Act, it is mandated that as a duty, in every civil or criminal suit or proceeding, arising at the local level, endeavor shall be made by the Gram Nyayalaya in the first instance, to assist, persuade and conciliate the parties in arriving at a settlement in respect of the subject matter of the suit, claim or dispute.

The details of 15 states which have notified and operationalized the Gram Nyayalayas is at *Annexure-I*.

Annexure-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 440 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING 'HUGE BACKLOG OF PETTY CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES'.**

Notified and Operational Gram Nyayalaya as on 26.11.2024			
Sr. No	States	No of Gram Nyayalaya Notified	No of Gram Nyayalaya Operational
1	Andhra Pradesh	42	0
2	Goa	2	2
3	Haryana	3	2
4	Jammu and Kashmir	20	0
5	Jharkhand	6	1
6	Karnataka	2	2
7	Kerala	30	30
8	Ladakh	2	0
9	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
10	Maharashtra	39	26
11	Odisha	24	21
12	Punjab	9	2
13	Rajasthan	45	45
14	Telangana	55	0
15	Uttar Pradesh	113	93
Total		481	313

**Source:- Gram Nyayalaya Portal*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 441

ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

Declaration of assets by judges

✓ 441 Shri Vivek K. Tankha:

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

- (a) the number of present and former Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court who have declared their assets in the last 5 years, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is contemplating to enact a law mandating judges of the higher judiciary to furnish their property returns as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its report titled 'Judicial Processes and their Reform' of August, 2023;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the timeline by which the government intends to enact the law: and
- (d) 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) The details on the declaration of assets by the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court are not maintained centrally.

(b) to (d) No. However, the "Restatement of values of Judicial Life" adopted by a full Court Meeting of Supreme Court on 07.05.1997 lays down certain judicial standards which are to be followed by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The Full Bench in its meeting dated 26th August, 2009 decided to disclose the statement of assets submitted

by the Judges on the basis of Resolution dated 7th May 1997 to public by putting it on Supreme Court website. Further, the Full Court in its meeting dated 8th September 2009 resolved to put the declaration of assets in the Supreme Court website on or before 31st October 2009 and that is purely on Voluntary basis.

The Supreme Court of India constituted a Committee of Judges of the Supreme Court to examine the issue of mandatory declaration of assets by the Judges of the Supreme Court of India on the recommendations of the Departmental related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievance, Law and Justice. The Committee observed that the issue pertaining to declaration of assets by the Judges of the higher judiciary and furnishing of such information under the Right to Information Act, 2005, has been extensively examined and dealt with in the Constitution Bench judgment of this Court in CPIO, Supreme Court of India Vs. Subhash Chandra Agrawal, reported in (2020) 5 SCC 481. The procedure adopted and followed in terms of the decisions of the Full Court are in conformity with the aforesaid decision. The Committee reiterated the earlier decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court that every Judge should make a declaration of his/her assets on assuming office and also whenever any acquisition of a substantial nature is made to the Chief Justice. This also includes the declaration of the CJI. The Committee proposed that the official website of the Supreme Court should display the name of the Judges, who have made declaration of assets to the Chief Justice. The said proposal has been approved by the CJI and accordingly, the name of the Judges have been displayed on the official website of the Supreme Court.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 442
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

JSC(PPP)

PENDENCY OF CASES AT LOWER JUDICIARY LEVEL

✓ 442. 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, State-wise as on 15th November, 2024;
- (b) the details of pending civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on 1st January, 2024, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of increase/decrease in pendency of criminal and civil cases, State-wise during the last one year?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of pending, civil and criminal cases in the District and Subordinate Courts in the country, State/UT-wise as on 15th November, 2024 is at *Annexure-I*.
- (b): As per information available in the Department, the details of pending civil and criminal cases in the District and Subordinate Courts in the country, State/UT-wise as on 1st January, 2024 State-wise is at *Annexure-II*.
- (c): the details of increase/decrease in pendency of criminal and civil cases, State/UT-wise during the last one year i.e. 30th November, 2023 to 15th November, 2024 is at *Annexure-III*.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 442 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES AT LOWER JUDICIARY LEVEL'

Details of Cases Pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 15.11.2024.

S No.	State/UTs	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar	3,811	4,276	8,087
2	Andhra Pradesh	4,28,490	4,58,370	8,86,860
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,927	8,266	10,193
4	Assam	1,04,289	3,95,726	5,00,015
5	Bihar	5,35,092	30,70,890	36,05,982
6	Chandigarh	23,328	82,717	1,06,045
7	Chhattisgarh	79,352	3,36,273	4,15,625
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	3,384	4,278	7,662
9	Delhi	2,20,380	12,48,370	14,68,750
10	Goa	26,569	32,218	58,787
11	Gujarat	3,50,166	12,11,030	15,61,196
12	Haryana	4,37,815	9,85,240	14,23,055
13	Himachal Pradesh	1,67,929	4,83,268	6,51,197
14	Jammu and Kashmir	1,08,222	2,24,305	3,32,527
15	Jharkhand	92,392	4,55,869	5,48,261
16	Karnataka	9,93,468	11,18,303	21,11,771
17	Kerala	5,18,036	12,16,575	17,34,611
18	Ladakh	690	762	1,452
19	Lakshadweep	134	387	521
20	Madhya Pradesh	4,04,656	15,58,632	19,63,288
21	Maharashtra	16,89,131	37,33,394	54,22,525
22	Manipur	8,441	4,127	12,568
23	Meghalaya	4,259	11,042	15,301
24	Mizoram	2,972	2,453	5,425
25	Nagaland	662	1,985	2,647
26	Orissa	2,74,581	13,74,740	16,49,321
27	Puducherry	12,808	22,086	34,894
28	Punjab	3,77,868	4,79,023	8,56,891
29	Rajasthan	4,79,440	18,13,297	22,92,737
30	Sikkim	738	935	1,673
31	Tamil Nadu	7,36,649	7,80,233	15,16,882
32	Telangana	3,35,903	5,91,226	9,27,129
33	Tripura	12,323	31,950	44,273
34	Uttar Pradesh	18,27,705	97,26,187	1,15,53,892
35	Uttarakhand	45,994	3,13,993	3,59,987
36	West Bengal	6,30,583	26,08,885	32,39,468
Total		1,09,40,187	3,43,91,311	4,53,31,498

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 442 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES AT LOWER JUDICIARY LEVEL'

Details of Cases Pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 01.01.2024.

Sl.No	State/UTs	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar	3,731	5,036	8,767
2	Andhra Pradesh	4,22,382	4,42,563	8,64,945
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,174	2,975	4,149
4	Assam	1,01,120	3,52,416	4,53,536
5	Bihar	5,37,060	30,51,832	35,88,892
6	Chandigarh	23,347	1,25,067	1,48,414
7	Chattisgarh	78,493	3,32,086	4,10,579
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	3,441	3,883	7,324
9	Delhi	2,30,685	9,93,588	12,24,273
10	Goa	26,211	30,967	57,178
11	Gujarat	3,72,162	12,17,306	15,89,468
12	Haryana	4,59,885	9,73,156	14,33,041
13	Himachal Pradesh	1,64,325	4,09,285	5,73,610
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1,01,210	1,88,996	2,90,206
15	Jharkhand	91,346	4,51,630	5,42,976
16	Karnataka	9,42,582	9,98,989	19,41,571
17	Kerala	5,18,099	13,12,818	18,30,917
18	Ladakh	631	697	1,328
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	3,94,159	16,10,411	20,04,570
21	Maharashtra	16,37,874	35,62,441	52,00,315
22	Manipur	8,705	4,365	1,3070
23	Meghalaya	4,508	11,706	16,214
24	Mizoram	2,464	3,102	5,566
25	Nagaland	675	2159	2834
26	Orissa	2,93,052	13,19,143	16,12,195
27	Puducherry	12,896	21,183	34,079
28	Punjab	3,78,545	4,72,637	8,51,182
29	Rajasthan	5,37,184	17,73,804	23,10,988
30	Sikkim	626	1038	1664
31	Tamil Nadu	7,25,902	7,23,103	14,49,005
32	Telangana	3,49,414	5,68,181	9,17,595
33	Tripura	11,759	33,620	45,379
34	Uttar Pradesh	18,75,023	97,51,773	1,16,26,796
35	Uttarakhand	44,930	3,13,102	3,58,032
36	West Bengal	6,20,769	23,68,053	29,88,822
	Total	1,09,76,369	3,34,33,111	4,44,09,480

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 442 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES AT LOWER JUDICIARY LEVEL'

State-Wise Details of Increase/Decrease in Pendency of Criminal and Civil Cases during 2023-2024 in District and Subordinate Courts

S. No	States/UTs	Pendency as on 30 th November, 2023	Pendency as on 15 th November, 2024	Increase/Decrease*	Pendency as on 30 th November, 2023	Pendency as on 15 th November, 2024	Increase/Decrease*
		Civil Cases			Criminal Cases		
1	Andaman & Nicobar	3,708	3,811	103	5,077	4,276	-801
2	Andhra Pradesh	4,20,907	4,28,490	7,583	4,50,024	4,58,370	8,346
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,109	1,927	818	2,376	8,266	5,890
4	Assam	1,00,860	1,04,289	3,429	3,52,951	3,95,726	42,775
5	Bihar	5,34,981	5,35,092	111	32,26,505	30,70,890	-1,55,615
6	Chandigarh	23,870	23,328	-542	2,45,258	82,717	-1,62,541
7	Chattisgarh	80,179	79,352	-827	3,35,105	3,36,273	1,168
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	3,476	3,384	-92	3,893	4,278	385
9	Delhi	2,35,667	2,20,380	-15,287	9,82,465	12,48,370	2,65,905
10	Goa	25,967	26,569	602	30,759	32,218	1,459
11	Gujarat	3,77,382	3,50,166	-27,216	12,58,375	12,11,030	-47,345
12	Haryana	4,67,009	4,37,815	-29,194	9,18,297	9,85,240	66,943
13	Himachal Pradesh	1,65,187	1,67,929	2,742	4,03,386	4,83,268	79,882
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1,01,069	1,08,222	7,153	1,86,564	2,24,305	37,741
15	Jharkhand	89,931	92,392	2,461	4,41,823	4,55,869	14,046
16	Karnataka	9,46,579	9,93,468	46,889	10,58,241	11,18,303	60,062
17	Kerala	5,16,364	5,18,036	1,672	13,48,694	12,16,575	-1,32,119
18	Ladakh	616	690	74	603	762	159
19	Lakshadweep	0	134	134	0	387	387
20	Madhya Pradesh	3,98,101	4,04,656	6,555	16,02,812	15,58,632	-44,180
21	Maharashtra	16,36,515	16,89,131	52,616	35,69,668	37,33,394	1,63,726
22	Manipur	8,616	8,441	-175	4,300	4,127	-173
23	Meghalaya	4,476	4,259	-217	11,630	11,042	-588
24	Mizoram	2,482	2,972	490	3,103	2,453	-650
25	Nagaland	684	662	-22	2,131	1,985	-146
26	Orissa	2,92,861	2,74,581	-18,280	12,92,214	13,74,740	82,526
27	Puducherry	13,061	12,808	-253	20,830	22,086	1,256
28	Punjab	3,83,924	3,77,868	-6,056	4,98,717	4,79,023	-19,694

29	Rajasthan	5,45,850	4,79,440	-66,410	17,53,097	18,13,297	60,200
30	Sikkim	668	738	70	1,106	935	-171
31	Tamil Nadu	7,34,058	7,36,649	2,591	7,20,010	7,80,233	60,223
32	Telangana	3,46,016	3,35,903	-10,113	5,69,199	5,91,226	22,027
33	Tripura	11,545	12,323	778	36,885	31,950	-4,935
34	Uttar Pradesh	18,68,481	18,27,705	-40,776	97,93,330	97,26,187	-67,143
35	Uttarakhand	44,801	45,994	1,193	3,05,140	3,13,993	8,853
36	West Bengal	6,19,865	6,30,583	10,718	23,37,940	26,08,885	2,70,945
Total		1,10,06,865	1,09,40,187	-66,678	3,37,72,508	3,43,91,311	6,18,803

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

*In cases of decrease of pendency of cases it is depicted by (-) prefix

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 443
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

Use of regional languages in courts

✓ 443. Shri Harbhajan Singh:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by people in courts due to language barrier as English remains the official language for court proceedings;
- (b) if so, whether there is any proposal for conducting court proceedings, particularly in higher courts, in regional languages; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and every High Court shall be in English language. However, Article 348 (2) of the Constitution of India provides that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. Further, Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 states that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English Language, for the purposes of any judgment, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State and where any judgment, decree or order is passed or made in any such language (other than the English Language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English Language issued under the authority of the High Court.

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

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

The Supreme Court is collaborating with the High Courts in translation of e-SCR Judgements in 18 vernacular languages. The Chief Justice of India has constituted the Artificial Intelligence Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court of India to monitor the translation of Supreme Court Reportable Judgements (e-SCR) into vernacular languages by using Artificial Intelligence Tools. A similar Committee has been constituted in all the High Courts, headed by the Judges of the respective High Courts.

The Artificial Intelligence Committee of the Supreme Court has been convening frequent meetings with the Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Courts and giving directions/ suggestions for translation of Supreme Court and High Court Judgements in vernacular language by using Artificial Intelligence Tools. The Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Courts, Law Secretary, Advocate General, the Secretary in-charge of translation department in the State have been requested to take steps for appointment of translators in every High Court for translation of Supreme Court Reportable Judgements (e-SCR) as well as the High Court judgements into vernacular/ local language of that state.

As on 27.09.2024, 36302 Supreme Court Judgments have been translated in Hindi language and 37661 Judgments of Supreme Court have been translated in other vernacular languages and uploaded on e-SCR portal with the assistance of the High Courts (Annexure-I).

As regards the High Court Judgments, 12629 Judgments of 09 High Courts have been translated in Hindi language and 18315 Judgments have been translated in other vernacular languages as on 27.09.2024 and uploaded on the website of the respective High Courts. The High Court wise details of Supreme Court and High Court Judgments translated and uploaded after vetting is placed as Annexure-II.

The Supreme Court has requested the High Courts to give wide publicity as to availability of Supreme Court and High Court Judgments both in English and regional languages, so that various stakeholders, such as the Government Departments, Police Department, the Revenue Department, the State Bar Council, District Bar Associations, Judicial Training Academies and Law Colleges could make use of this facility free of cost.

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SUPREME COURT VERNACULAR JUDGEMENTS AVAILABLE ON E-SCR PORTAL		
Sl. No.	Local Language	No. of Judgements
1.	Assamese	268
2.	Bengali	989
3.	Garo	7
4.	Gujarati	2305
5.	Hindi	36302
6.	Kannada	1942
7.	Kashmiri	1
8.	Khasi	3
9.	Konkani	16
10.	Malayalam	2575
11.	Marathi	2479
12.	Nepali	150
13.	Odia	253
14.	Punjabi	21183
15.	Santali	31
16.	Tamil	2559
17.	Telugu	1579
18.	Urdu	1321
Total		73963

(As on 27.09.2024)

Annexure-II

**Details of High Court Judgements translated and uploaded by the High Courts as on
27.09.2024**

Sl. No.	High Court	Vernacular Language	HC Judgements
1.	Allahabad	Hindi	8338
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Telugu	811
3.	Bombay	Marathi	1161
4.	Calcutta	Bengali	324
5.	Chhattisgarh	Hindi	791
6.	Delhi	Hindi	469
7.	Gauhati	Assamese	65
8.	Gujarat	Gujarati	2253
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Hindi	877
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Urdu	9
11.	Jharkhand	Hindi	795
12.	Karnataka	Kannada	745
13.	Kerala	Malayalam	611
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Hindi	152
15.	Madras	Tamil	892
16.	Manipur	Manipuri	83
17.	Meghalaya	Garo	6
		Khasi	5
18.	Orissa	Odiya	161
19.	Patna	Hindi	123
20.	Punjab & Haryana	Punjabi	9365
21.	Rajasthan	Hindi	616
22.	Sikkim	Nepali	3
23.	Telangana	Telugu	811
24.	Tripura	Bengali	1010
25.	Uttarakhand	Hindi	468
Total			30944

(As on 27.09.2024)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 444
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024
Use of local language in courts

✓ 444# Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh:

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

- (a) whether the use of local language is being considered in the Courts;
- (b) if so, the efforts being made to start the judicial system in local language in the courts;
- (c) if not, whether it is possible to consider the use of local languages in future to strengthen the judicial system at the local level; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

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

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

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

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

The Supreme Court is collaborating with the High Courts in translation of e-SCR Judgements in 18 vernacular languages. Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has constituted the Artificial Intelligence Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, headed by Shri Justice Abhay S. Oka, Judge Supreme Court of India to monitor the translation of Supreme Court Reportable Judgements (e-SCR) into vernacular languages by using Artificial Intelligence Tools. A similar Committee has been constituted in all the High Courts, headed by the Judges of the respective High Courts.

The Artificial Intelligence Committee of the Supreme Court has been convening frequent meetings with the Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Courts and giving directions/ suggestions for translation of Supreme Court and High Court Judgements in vernacular language by using Artificial Intelligence Tools. The Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Courts, Law Secretary, Advocate General, the Secretary in-charge of translation department in the State have been requested to take steps for appointment of translators in every High Court for translation of Supreme Court Reportable Judgements (e-SCR) as well as the High Court judgements into vernacular/ local language of that state.

As on 27.09.2024, 36302 Supreme Court Judgments have been translated in Hindi language and 37661 Judgments of Supreme Court have been translated in other vernacular languages and uploaded on e-SCR portal with the assistance of the High Courts (Annexure-I).

As regards the High Court Judgments, 12629 Judgments of 09 High Courts have been translated in Hindi language and 18315 Judgments have been translated in other vernacular languages as on 27.09.2024 and uploaded on the website of the respective High Courts. The High Court wise details of Supreme Court and High Court Judgments translated and uploaded after vetting is placed as Annexure-II.

The Supreme Court has requested the High Courts to give wide publicity as to availability of Supreme Court and High Court Judgments both in English and regional languages, so that various stakeholders, such as the Government Departments, Police Department, the Revenue Department, the State Bar Council, District Bar Associations, Judicial Training Academies and Law Colleges could make use of this facility free of cost.

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**SUPREME COURT VERNACULAR JUDGEMENTS AVAILABLE ON E-SCR
PORTAL**

Sl. No.	Local Language	No. of Judgements
1.	Assamese	268
2.	Bengali	989
3.	Garo	7
4.	Gujarati	2305
5.	Hindi	36302
6.	Kannada	1942
7.	Kashmiri	1
8.	Khasi	3
9.	Konkani	16
10.	Malayalam	2575
11.	Marathi	2479
12.	Nepali	150
13.	Odia	253
14.	Punjabi	21183
15.	Santali	31
16.	Tamil	2559
17.	Telugu	1579
18.	Urdu	1321
Total		73963

(As on 27.09.2024)

**Details of High Court Judgements translated and uploaded by the High Courts as on
27.09.2024**

Sl. No.	High Court	Vernacular Language	HC Judgements
1.	Allahabad	Hindi	8338
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Telugu	811
3.	Bombay	Marathi	1161
4.	Calcutta	Bengali	324
5.	Chhattisgarh	Hindi	791
6.	Delhi	Hindi	469
7.	Gauhati	Assamese	65
8.	Gujarat	Gujarati	2253
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Hindi	877
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Urdu	9
11.	Jharkhand	Hindi	795
12.	Karnataka	Kannada	745
13.	Kerala	Malayalam	611
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Hindi	152
15.	Madras	Tamil	892
16.	Manipur	Manipuri	83
17.	Meghalaya	Garos	6
		Khasi	5
18.	Orissa	Odiya	161
19.	Patna	Hindi	123
20.	Punjab & Haryana	Punjabi	9365
21.	Rajasthan	Hindi	616
22.	Sikkim	Nepali	3
23.	Telangana	Telugu	811
24.	Tripura	Bengali	1010
25.	Uttarakhand	Hindi	468
Total			30944

(As on 27.09.2024)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 446
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN LOWER JUDICIARY

✓ 446. **SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken initiative to develop infrastructure facilities in lower judiciary i.e., District Courts and Subordinate Courts;
- (b) if so, details of infrastructure developmental activities that have been undertaken in the State of Telangana during the last five years, District-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The primary responsibility to provide Judicial Infrastructure for the District and Subordinate Judiciary rests with the State/UT Governments. The Central Government supplements the resources of the State/UT Governments, by providing financial assistance through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Judicial Infrastructure. The scheme covers construction of Court Halls and Residential Units for Judicial officers along with Lawyer Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms. As on date, Central Share of Rs. 11583.07 crores has been released under the scheme since its inception in 1993-94. There are 22,515 number of court halls and 21,096 number of residential units available in the district and subordinate courts against the working strength of 20,480 Judges/Judicial Officers as on date. Further, 3,154 Court Halls and 2,619 residential units are under construction as on date.

(b): Since the inception of the scheme in 1993-94 till 2013-14 (when Telangana got separated from Andhra Pradesh), a sum of Rs. 159.64 crore had been released as Central Share to the

erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh. Since 2014-15, a sum of Rs. 58.26 crore has been released as Central Share to Telangana, out of which, Rs. 48.26 crores has been released during the last 5 years. Under the scheme, total number of 552 Court Halls and 472 Residential Units have been constructed as on date for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts in the state of Telangana. Also, 21 Court Halls and 5 Residential Units are under construction in Telangana.

District-wise details of Court Buildings and Residential Quarters constructed in the State of Telangana in the last 5 years under the Centrally sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Project	Year of initiation	Year of completion
1.	Adilabad	Construction of Junior Civil Court Building at Adilabad	2019-20	2020-21
2.	Hyderabad	Construction of extended Court Building (Block) in the Premises of Criminal Court Complex at Nampally	2019-20	2020-21
3.	Khammam	Construction of 1 st floor over the existing court building at Sathupally on (2 Courts i.e. Principal & Additional Junior Civil Judge Courts)	2019-20	2020-21
		Construction of Additional Court over the canteen building situated in the 1 st floor in premises of District Court Complex at Khammam District (POCSO ACT Court Functioning)		
4.	Rjanna Siricilla	Construction of Residential Quarters at Siricilla	2019-20	2022-23
5.	Nagarkurnool	Construction of Two Court Building Complex at Nagarkurnool	2019-20	2021-22
6.	Nalgonda	Construction of Five Court Building Complex at Nalgonda	2019-20	2023-24/25
7.	Warangal	Construction of Junior Civil Judge Court Building Complex at Narsampet in Warangal	2019-20	2020-21
8.	Hanumakonda	Construction of Ten Court Building Complex in the Warangal District Court Complex	2019-20	2021-22
9.	Medchal Malkajgiri	Construction of Ten Court Building at Kukatpally, Construction of POSCO and Family Court complex at Kukatpally (10+12)	2021-22	2023-24
10.	Mancherla	Construction of Junior Civil Judge Residential Quarters at Bellampally	2021-22	2023-24

In the State of Telangana, 42 court halls and 02 residential quarters have been constructed during last 5 years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary.

Apart from the above, the following seventeen (17) projects are under construction up to the financial year 2024-25, comprising 09 court halls and 08 residential quarters under the scheme:

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of Project	Court Halls	Residential Quarters
1.	Peddapally	Construction of Six Court Building Complex at Godavarikhni	06	--
		Construction of Six Residential Quarters at Godavarikhni	--	06
2.	Naigonda	Construction of Junior Civil Judge's Court Building at Nidamanoor	01	--
		Construction of Junior Civil Judge's Quarter at Nidamanoor	--	01
3.	Mancherial	Construction of Junior Civil Judge Court Building at Bellampally	01	--
4.	Adilabad	Construction of Junior Civil Judge's Court at Boath	01	01
		Construction of Junior Civil Judge's Residential Quarter at Boath		

(c): Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 456
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

SHORTAGE OF JUDGES

✓ 456. SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment on the shortage of judges and vacant posts in the various courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise specially Assam;
- (c) whether the process of recruitment has started against the said vacancies during the last five years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE 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 detailed statement of vacant posts in the various courts of the country i.e. Supreme Court and High Courts (including Assam) is at *Annexure-I* and the District and Subordinate Courts in the country, State/UT-wise (including Assam) is at *Annexure-II*.

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

Filling up of vacant positions in the case of 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 the recruitment process of judges in the District and subordinate courts.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 456 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING
'SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'.**

**Vacant Positions of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as on
21.11.2024**

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
A.	Supreme Court	34			32			2		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	81	0	81	38	41	79
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	7	29	6	2	8
3	Bombay	71	23	94	53	15	68	18	8	26
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	33	10	43	21	8	29
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	9	7	16	8	-2	6
6	Delhi	45	15	60	34	2	36	11	13	24
7	Guwahati	22	8	30	19	5	24	3	3	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	32	0	32	7	13	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	11	0	11	2	4	6
10	J & K and Ladakh	19	6	25	12	3	15	7	3	10
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	18	0	18	2	5	7
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	44	6	50	3	9	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	30	15	45	5	-3	2
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
15	Madras	56	19	75	56	11	67	0	8	8
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	1	4	0	0	0
18	Orissa	24	9	33	19	0	19	5	9	14
19	Patna	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	49	4	53	15	17	32
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	32	0	32	6	12	18
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	24	3	27	8	7	15
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	6	0	6	3	2	5
	Total	846	276	1122	668	90	758	178	186	364

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 456 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING
'SHORTAGE OF JUDGES'.**

Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Court as on 21.11.2024

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
3.	Assam	24
4.	Bihar	483
5.	Chandigarh	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	198
7.	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	D & N Haveli
		Daman & Diu
8.	Delhi	94
9.	Goa	10
10.	Gujarat	535
11.	Haryana	218
12.	Himachal Pradesh	19
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	45
14.	Jharkhand	199
15.	Karnataka	218
16.	Kerala	76
17.	Ladakh	6
18.	Lakshadweep	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	336
20.	Maharashtra	250
21.	Manipur	13
22.	Meghalaya	43
23.	Mizoram	29
24.	Nagaland	10
25.	Odisha	199
26.	Puducherry	10
27.	Punjab	81
28.	Rajasthan	327
29.	Sikkim	12
30.	Tamil Nadu	346
31.	Telangana	115
32.	Tripura	24
33.	Uttar Pradesh	981
34.	Uttarakhand	28
35.	Andaman and Nicobar*	230
36.	West Bengal*	
TOTAL		5245

Source: - MIS portal of Department of Justice.

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *109

ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

RETIREMENT AGE OF JUDGES

✓ JS(ApP+Hs)
*109. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has considered increasing the retirement age of Judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court to address the rising pendency of cases in the judiciary;
- (b) the current number of pending cases across various courts in the country and its impact on access to justice;
- (c) the measures taken by Government to fill judicial vacancies and improve case disposal rates;
- (d) whether increasing the retirement age of Judges would help retain experienced legal minds and reduce the backlog of cases; and
- (e) the timeline for implementing reforms to improve judicial efficiency and reduce pendency?

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. 109 FOR REPLY ON 5th DECEMBER, 2024 REGARDING RETIREMENT AGE OF JUDGES ASKED BY SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA.

(a): There is no such proposal for increasing the retirement age of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

(b) to (e): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of pending cases in courts across the country, as on 28.11.2024, is as under:

S. No.	Name of court	No. of pending cases
1.	Supreme Court of India	82,396
2.	High Courts	61,11,165
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,55,98,240

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

Filling up of vacant positions in the case of District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution read with Articles 233 and 234, the respective State Governments, in consultation with the concerned High Courts frame the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in their respective State Judicial Services. The Supreme Court, vide order passed in January 2007, in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has, inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges for District and Subordinate Courts.

Disposal of cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Timely disposal of cases is affected by several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake-holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures as also frequent adjournments. The Government is, however, fully committed to speedy disposal of cases. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency of judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1225
ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

Third-Party Litigation Funding

✓ 1225. Shri A. D. Singh:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) has received the approval of the Supreme Court;
- (b) whether some of the States have provided for TPLF by amending the relevant statutes, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a lack of comprehensive National Frame Work of TPLF;
- (d) whether Government will frame a model National Frame work for TPLF; and
- (e) if not, the reasons thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) No. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Bar Council of India Vs. A.K. Balaji and Ors. [AIR 2018 SC 1382] has only observed that there appears no restriction on third party funding of litigation in India provided that the funder is a non-lawyer. The relevant para of the judgment is as under:

"35. In India, funding of litigation by advocates is not explicitly prohibited, but a conjoint reading of Rule 18 (fomenting litigation), Rule 20 (contingency fees), Rule 21 (share or interest in an actionable claim) and Rule 22 (participating in bids in execution, etc.) would strongly suggest that advocates in India cannot fund litigation on

behalf of their clients. There appears to be no restriction on third parties (non-lawyers) funding the litigation and getting repaid after the outcome of the litigation...."

(b) As on date, there is no Central Government legislation in India that governs third party litigation funding. However, the Order XXV of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 as amended by a few States including Maharashtra acknowledge the role of a third person financing litigation and sets out the situations when such party may be made a party to the proceedings.

(c) to (e) For the present there is no comprehensive framework for Third Party Litigation Funding. Further, there is no proposal to frame a model national framework for Third Party Litigation Funding.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1226**

ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

Implementation of reservation for women in Legislatures

✓ 1226. Shri M. Shanmugam:
Shri Vaiko:

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

- (a) the present status of implementation of Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2023 for reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures;
- (b) by what time, the constituencies (Lok Sabha and Assemblies) will be redrawn and notified for the purpose of women reservation;
- (c) whether there is a possibility of notifying reserved constituencies for women before the next Lok Sabha election; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Article 334A of the Constitution, inserted by the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, provides that the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi

shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for the purpose after the relevant figures for the first census taken after commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 have been published.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1227

ANSWERED ON - 05/12/2024

FAST-TRACK COURTS

JS(PPP)

✓ 1227 # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

- (a) the approximate number of fast track courts required to hear cases related to violence against women and children across the country, State-wise and district wise;
- (b) the State-wise details of the districts in the country, where fast track courts are presently unavailable;
- (c) the details of funds allocated by Government for fast track courts during the last two years, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of cases resolved by fast track courts along with the pending cases in the country, State-wise and district-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (d) : Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts. Allocation of funds for such courts is required to be done by the State Governments as per their need and resources. The 14th Finance Commission set up by the Government of India had recommended the setting up of 1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The Finance Commission had urged upon the State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax

devolution for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments/UTs to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs from the Financial Year 2015-16 onward. In this regard, the State Governments/ UTs have set up 863 FTCs as on 31.10.2024. The State/UT-wise details of number of FTCs to be set up and made functional as of October, 2024 is given at **Annexure**. The Union Government has repeatedly urged the State/UT Governments since 2015-16 onwards to set up more FTCs to achieve the target. The setting up of more FTCs has also featured as one of the agenda items in the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices.

To implement the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and comply with the directives of the Supreme Court to establish Special Courts exclusively dealing with POCSO Act cases, the Government devised a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in August 2019. This Scheme aimed to establish Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO Courts nationwide for expeditious disposal of rape and POCSO Act cases.

The FTSC Scheme was launched initially for one-year w.e.f. 02.10.2019 spread over two Financial Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 at a total outlay of ₹ 767.25 Cr. with ₹ 474 Cr. as Central Share. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 04.08.2021 further approved the continuation of the Scheme for two more financial years (FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23) up to 31.03.2023 at a total outlay of ₹ 1572.86 Cr. with ₹ 971.70 Cr. as central share. The Union Cabinet has now extended the Scheme for another three years i.e. from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026 at a total outlay of Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as Central Share.

The Central share is to be met from the Nirbhaya Fund. The fund-sharing pattern of the Scheme is 60:40 (Centre: State) and 90:10 for the North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States/UTs. However, 100% Central fund is provided for Union Territories without legislature. As per the inputs received from the High Courts, as on 31.10.2024, 750 FTSCs including 408 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs. These courts have disposed more than 2,87,000 cases as on 31.10.2024.

**Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred
Question No. 1227 for 05-12-2024**

State/UT-wise status of allocated and functional FTCs as of October, 2024

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of FTCs to be established	No. of Functional FTCs
1	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	47	21
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4	Assam	36	15
5	Bihar	147	0
6	Chandigarh	2	0
7	Chhattisgarh	28	27
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	1	0
9	Delhi	63	26
10	Goa	5	4
11	Gujarat	174	54
12	Haryana	48	6
13	Himachal Pradesh	13	3
14	Jammu & Kashmir	21	8
15	Jharkhand	50	41
16	Karnataka	95	0
17	Kerala	41	0
18	Ladakh	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	133	0
21	Maharashtra	203	101
22	Manipur	3	6
23	Meghalaya	4	0
24	Mizoram	7	2
25	Nagaland	3	0
26	Odisha	63	0
27	Puducherry	2	0
28	Punjab	50	7
29	Rajasthan	93	0
30	Sikkim	1	2
31	Tamil Nadu	87	72
32	Telangana	37	0
33	Tripura	9	3
34	Uttar Pradesh	212	373
35	Uttarakhand	28	4
36	West Bengal	94	88
	TOTAL	1800	863

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1228
ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

JS(NKG)

Establishing new system of differentiated court fees

✓ 1228. Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade:

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

- (a) the action taken by Government in partnership with the Honorable Supreme Court, to create a system of differentiated court fees based on the merits of individual cases filed by petitioners, as opposed to the current uniform fee structure which includes exemptions for certain low-income families and which is already in practice in several countries, aiming to reduce the financial strain on Government treasury; and
- (b) whether Government has received any representation to explore a new concept of an independent economic structure for our judiciary that does not rely on Government funding, if so, details of further action taken?

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) Fees taken in all Courts except Supreme Court, fall under Entry 3 of the State List under Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Being a State subject, only the States are competent to enact or amend the law concerning the Court fees payable in High Courts and other Courts subordinate thereto having jurisdiction in any State.

The constitution, organisation, jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court (including contempt of such Court), and the fees taken therein inter-alia are covered under Entry 77 of the Union List under Seven Schedule of Constitution of India. As per Article 145(1)(f) of the Constitution of India, the Supreme Court can make rules relating to fees payable in the Supreme Court, however, subject to any law made by the Parliament. The Supreme Court Rules, 2013, notified on 27.05.2014, inter-alia, provides for table of court fees payable in the Supreme Court.

(b) The Government of India is not aware of any such representation. However, Article 146 (3) of the Constitution of India which deals with the expenses of Supreme Court of India states that, 'The administrative expenses of the Supreme Court, including all salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of the officers and servants of the Court, shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India, and any fees or other moneys taken by the Court shall form part of that Fund'. Similarly, Article 229(3) of the Constitution of India states that, 'The administrative expenses of a High Court, including all salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of the officers and servants of the Court, shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State, and any fees or other moneys taken by the Court shall form part of that Fund'.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1229

ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

TRAINING OF LAWYERS UNDER THE TELE-LAW SCHEME

✓ 1229. Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

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

- (a) whether Government has any provision to provide training to the panel of lawyers who render advice services under the Tele-Law scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of individuals who have received advice from the State of Tamil Nadu under the said scheme;
- (d) whether Government has made any special efforts to reach out to marginalized rural women and assist them in the utilization of the said scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) : Yes. The Government has provisions to provide training to the panel lawyers who render legal advice to the beneficiaries under the Tele-Law scheme. The Panel Lawyers undergo regular training and orientation once they are onboarded for rendering their services for the Tele Law scheme. The training ensures that they are equipped to provide quality pre-litigation services, well conversant in regional languages, and in central, state and local laws, rules and regulations. As of October 31, 2024, the number of individuals who have received pre-litigation advice from the State of Tamil Nadu is 2, 75,109.

(d) and (e) : Yes. The Government has made special efforts to reach out to marginalised rural women and assist them in utilizing the Tele-Law scheme. Of 790 Panel Lawyers engaged, 38% are women lawyers. Additionally, approximately 33,866 women Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) who run the Common Service Centres are trained on Tele-Law services. Regular training and awareness sessions are conducted in the villages, with 2418 trainings and 3429 awareness sessions organised across the country since 2021. Till 31.10.2024, 1,01,46,785 beneficiaries have been served under Tele Law scheme, of which 39,63,499 were women beneficiaries.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1230

ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

VACANCIES IN THE HIGH COURTS

✓ 1230. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of vacancies in various High Courts in the country as on 30th June, 2024 vis-a-vis the sanctioned strength with details, High Court-wise;
- (b) the number of these vacancies which are more than 6 months old, more than 1 year old or more, High Court-wise;
- (c) the reasons for not filling the vacancies for such a long time; and
- (d) the efforts that are being made to ensure filling of vacancies on time?

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): High Court wise vacancies as on 30th June, 2024 is at **Annexure**.

(b) to (d): Vacancies of Judges in High Courts keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the sanctioned strength of Judges. Since May, 2014, the Government has increased the sanctioned strength of High Court Judges from 906 to 1122 (as on date), and 64 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court and 999 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts.

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. Hence, the time needed for filling up of vacancies of the Judges in the higher Judiciary cannot be indicated. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

ANNEXURE**Statement showing Sanctioned strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts
(As on 30.06.2024)**

Sl. No.	High Court(s)	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Allahabad	160	74
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	8
3	Bombay	94	28
4	Calcutta	72	27
5	Chhattisgarh	22	7
6	Delhi	60	21
7	Gauhati	30	6
8	Gujarat	52	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	17	1
11	Jharkhand	25	6
12	Karnataka	62	12
13	Kerala	47	6
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	16
15	Madras	75	11
16	Manipur	5	1
17	Meghalaya	4	0
18	Orissa	33	12
19	Patna	53	19
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	31
21	Rajasthan	50	18
22	Sikkim	3	0
23	Telangana	42	14
24	Tripura	5	0
25	Uttarakhand	11	4
	Total	1114	350

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1231
ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

JS(GM)

EXISTING VIRTUAL COURTS IN THE COUNTRY

✓ 1231. SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether Government has expedited the process of improving the existing Virtual Court infrastructure in the country, particularly in the State of Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details of the action taken;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to expand the scope of Virtual Courts to address the problem of long pendency of cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, whether Government is planning to take any steps in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): Virtual Court is aimed at eliminating the physical presence of litigant or lawyer in the court and for adjudication of cases on a virtual platform. This concept has been evolved in order to efficiently utilize court resources and to provide the litigants with an effective avenue to settle petty disputes while adhering to all the judicial processes. Virtual Court can be administered by a Judge over a virtual electronic platform whose jurisdiction may extend to the entire State and function 24x7. Neither litigant nor Judge would have to physically visit a court for effective adjudication and resolution. Communication would only be in electronic form and sentencing / payment of fine or compensation would also be accomplished online. These courts may be used for disposal of cases where there may be proactive admission of guilt by the accused or proactive compliance by the defendant on receipt of the summons and electronic

form as in the cases of traffic violations. Such matters are generally treated as disposed of after the payment of the due fine etc. Establishment of Virtual Courts is an administrative matter which falls within the purview and domain of the judiciary and respective State Governments. As on 30.10.2024, 27 Virtual Courts in 21 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Chandigarh, Gujarat (2), Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand (2), Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Manipur (2), have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 6crore cases have been handled by these virtual courts and online fine of more than Rs. 649.81 crore has been realized till 30.10.2024. At present, there is no Virtual Court functioning in the state of Jharkhand.

(c) to (e): Under phase-III of the eCourts Project, there is a component for establishment and expansion of scope of Virtual Courts beyond traffic challan cases at an amount of Rs. 413.08 crore.

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1232

ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

LIVE STREAMING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

✓ 1232. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA :

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

- (a) the details of steps taken by Government to implement the directions issued in Swapnil Tripathi vs Supreme Court of India, AIR 2018 SC 4806 mandating live streaming of court proceedings;
- (b) whether Government has earmarked specific funds to equip all courts in India to possess the requisite infrastructure for implementing this direction;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): In Swapnil Tripathi v. Union of India, AIR 2018 SC 4806, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India did not issue any specific directions to the Government of India regarding the live streaming of court proceedings.

However, it may be noted that in the said judgment, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has framed the model guidelines to be followed for broadcasting of the proceedings and other judicial events of the Supreme Court of India. The relevant extract of the abovementioned judgment are at *Annexure-I*.

In addition to the above, the Model Rules for Live Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings have been circulated by the Supreme Court of India to all the High Courts. The said model rules are also placed in the public domain at <https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/document/model-rules-for-live-streaming-and-recording-of-court-proceedings/>.

The live streaming of court proceedings falls under the administrative jurisdiction of the respective High Courts and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. As on date, Live Streaming of court proceedings is in operation in the High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.

One of the components of the eCourts Project Phase-III is Courtroom Live Audio-visual Streaming System (CLASS) under which an amount of Rs.112.26 crore has been earmarked.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1232 FOR ANSWER ON 05.12.2024 REGARDING 'LIVE STREAMING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS.

"E. Model guidelines for broadcasting of the proceedings and other judicial events of the Supreme Court of India

A. Kind of matters to be live-streamed

1. Proceedings involving the hearing of cases before the Supreme Court shall be live-streamed in the manner provided below:

a) Cases falling under the following categories shall be excluded as a class from live-streaming:

(i) Matrimonial matters, including transfer petitions;

(ii) Cases involving sensitive issues as in the nature of sexual assault; and

(iii) Matters where children and juveniles are involved, like POCSO cases.

b) Apart from the general prohibition on streaming cases falling in the above categories, the presiding judge of each courtroom shall have the discretion to disallow live-streaming for specific cases where, in his/her opinion, publicity would prejudice the interests of justice. This may be intimated by the presiding judge in advance or live-streaming may be suspended as and when a matter is being heard; and

c) Where objections are filed by a litigant against live-streaming of a case on grounds of privacy, confidentiality, or the administration of justice, the final authority on live-streaming the case shall lie with the presiding judge.

2. In addition to live-streaming of courtroom proceedings, the following events may also be live-streamed in future subject to the provisions of the Rules:

(a) Oath ceremonies of the Judges of the Supreme Court and speeches delivered by retiring judges and other judges in the farewell ceremony of the respective Supreme Court Judges; and

(b) Addresses delivered in judicial conferences or Full Court References or any event organized by the Supreme Court or by advocate associations affiliated to the Supreme Court or any other events.

B. Manner of live-streaming

1. Live-streamed and archived videos of the broadcast shall be made available on the official website of the Supreme Court. The recorded broadcast of each day shall be made available as archives on the official website of the Supreme Court by the end of the day;
2. Live-streaming shall commence as soon as the judges arrive in the courtroom and shall continue till the Bench rises;
3. The presiding judge of the courtroom shall be provided with an appropriate device for directing the technical team to stop live-streaming, if the Bench deems it necessary in the interest of administration of justice;
4. Live-streaming of the proceedings should be carried out with a delay of two minutes;
5. Proceedings shall only be live-streamed during working hours of the court;
6. Courtroom proceedings will continue to be live-streamed unless the presiding judge orders the recording to be paused or suspended;
7. To give full effect to the process of live-streaming, advocates addressing the Bench, and judges addressing the Bar, must use microphones, while addressing the Court;
8. Recording of courtroom proceedings shall be done by the Registry with the technical support of National Informatics Centre or any other public/ private agency authorised by the Supreme Court or the Ministry of Information and Technology; and
9. The portions of proceedings which are not broadcast online, on the direction of the presiding judge of the Bench shall not be made part of the official records and shall be placed separately as 'confidential records'.

C. Technical specifications for live-streaming

1. Live-streaming shall be conducted by the Supreme Court with its own camera-persons or by an authorized agency. No person who is not authorized by the Supreme Court will be permitted to record any proceeding;
2. Cameras should be focused only on the judges and advocates pleading before the Bench in the matter being live-streamed;
3. Cameras shall not film the media and visitor's galleries;
4. Cameras may zoom in on the Bench when any judge is dictating an order or judgment or making any observation or enquiry to the advocate; and

5. The following communications shall not be filmed:

- a) Discussions among the judges on the Bench;
- b) Any judge giving instructions to the administrative staff of the courtroom;
- c) Any staff member communicating any message to the judge or circulating any document to the judge;
- d) Notes taken down by the judge during the court proceedings; and
- e) Notes made by an advocate either on paper or in electronic form for assistance while making submissions to the court.

D. Archiving

- 1. The audio-visual recording of each day's proceedings shall be preserved in the Audio-Visual Unit of the Supreme Court Registry;
- 2. Archives of all broadcasts of courtroom proceedings which have been live-streamed should be made available on the website of the Supreme Court; and
- 3. Hard copies of the video footage of past proceedings may be made available according to terms and conditions to be notified by the Supreme Court Registry. The video footage shall be made available for the sole purpose of fair and accurate reporting of the judicial proceedings of the Supreme Court.

E. Broadcast Room

- 1. The Registry will make one or more rooms or a hall available within the premises of the Supreme Court for the purpose of broadcasting the proceedings. Multiple screens along with the other necessary infrastructural facilities shall be installed, for enabling litigants, journalists, interns, visitors and lawyers to view the courtroom proceedings in the broadcast room(s). Special arrangements will be made for the differently abled.

F. Miscellaneous

- 1. The Supreme Court shall hold exclusive copyright over videos streamed online and archived with the Registry; and
- 2. Re-use, capture, re-editing or redistribution, or creating derivative works or compiling of the broadcast or video footage, in any form, shall not be permitted except as may be notified in the terms and conditions of use and without the written permission of the Registry."

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

Admin. III (L.A)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1233
ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

23rd Law Commission

✓ 1233 # **Shri Subhash Barala:**
Shri Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya:

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

- (a) whether 23rd Law Commission will review the system of judicial administration to make it responsive to the demands of time; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): The 23rd Law Commission of India has been constituted *vide* order dated 2nd September, 2024. The Commission is *inter-alia* mandated to review the system of Judicial Administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure;

- (i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decision should be just and fair.
- (ii) Simplification of processes and court procedures and suggesting harmonising Rules of various High Courts for the sake of uniformity and ease of understanding and implementation.
- (iii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice.
- (iv) Implementation of framework for case management hearing and case flow management.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1234
ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

Leg. I (V.D)

Post enactment legislative impact assessment

✓ 1234. Shri K. R. Suresh Reddy:

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

- (a) whether Government is intending to introduce a focused legislation to mandate the practice of post enactment legislative impact assessment;
- (b) if so, timeline and other details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether it is intending to carry out stakeholder consultation, particularly with parliamentarians to conduct a needs assessment for the same?

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) and (b): There is no proposal of the Government for bringing a focused legislation to mandate the practice of post enactment legislative impact assessment.

(c): 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 judicial impact of such laws, post their enactment.

Further, 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. 1235

ANSWERED ON 05/12/2024

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JUDGES

JS (APR 18)

✓ 1235. SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a) the reasons due to which Government has not evolved code of conduct for judges for discharge of functions in consultation with the Chief Justice of India;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any study to analyses the pending case before the tribunals across the country; and;
- (c) whether Government has considered establishing more benches of tribunals considering the increasing cases and pendency in consultation with nodal Ministry, 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 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 action against judges who do not follow universally accepted values of Judicial life including those included in the Restatement of Values of Judicial life.

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.

(b) and (c): Tribunals are governed by various Acts administered by different Ministries and pendency of cases may be due to various factors including circumstances and complexity of each case, nature of evidence, cooperation of stakeholders and frequent adjournments, non-compliance with the summons issued by the Tribunals, seeking intervention in the Tribunals proceedings, non-appearance in the proceedings and then challenging the ex parte orders passed against them. Absence of lawyers and frequent adjournments by the lawyers also result in pendency. The process of establishing benches of Tribunals is undertaken by the concerned Ministry based on the requirements.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *181
ANSWERED ON - 12/12/2024

JS(PPP)

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS SCHEME

✓ 181# DR. KALPANA SAINI :

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

- (a) the number of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) set up since the inception of the scheme;
- (b) the impact of the said FTSCs on disposal rates of rape and DOCSO cases in comparison to regular courts; and
- (c) the funding mechanism that has supported the establishment and operation of such courts and the manner in which the Nirbhaya Fund has been utilised in this context?

ANSWER

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

(SRI ARJUN RAM MEHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *181 FOR 12/12/2024 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS SCHEME'

(a) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious disposal of Rape and POCSO Act cases came to be introduced, 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]. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, targeting the establishment of 790 courts. As per the inputs received from the High Courts, as on 31.10.2024, 750 FTSCs including 408 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs. These courts have disposed more than 2,87,000 cases as of 31.10.2024. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO courts, is given at **Annexure-I**.

Setting up Fast Track Special Courts demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Government towards girls' and women's security, combating sexual and gender-based violence, reducing the backlog of pending cases related to Rape & POCSO Act, and providing expeditious access to justice for survivors of sexual crimes.

(b) As per the inputs received from the High Courts, the disposal rate of Rape and POCSO Act cases in Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) is 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 8.01 cases per month.

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

The FTSCs have been set up and operationalized under the Nirbhaya Fund. The Department has released a total of ₹ 1008.14 Crore to the States/UTs since its inception to ensure the smooth functioning of the courts, which includes ₹ 173.59 Crore released in the current F.Y. 2024-25, against the allocated budget of ₹ 200.00 Crore. The funds are released on CSS Pattern (60:40, 90:10) and cover the salaries of one Judicial Officer, seven support staff, and a flexi grant to cover day-to-day expenditures. The funds are released to the States/UTs on a reimbursement basis, determined by the number of functional Courts in the State/UT concerned. The details of funds released State/UT-wise are at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *181 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS SCHEME'

State/UT wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO Courts and their disposal (As on 31.10.2024)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Functional FTSCs including exclusive POCSO	Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	5839
2	Assam	17	7076
3	Bihar	46	13762
4	Chandigarh	1	300
5	Chhattisgarh	15	5525
6	Delhi	16	2197
7	Goa	1	83
8	Gujarat	35	13859
9	Haryana	16	6932
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	1264
11	J&K	4	242
12	Jharkhand	22	7776
13	Karnataka	31	11872
14	Kerala	55	22208
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	28648
16	Maharashtra	8	20561
17	Manipur	2	167
18	Meghalaya	5	623
19	Mizoram	3	237
20	Nagaland	1	67
21	Odisha	44	16802
22	Puducherry*	1	107
23	Punjab	12	4489
24	Rajasthan	45	16511
25	Tamil Nadu	14	8534
26	Telangana	36	9849
27	Tripura	3	419
28	Uttarakhand	4	1747
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	79241
30	West Bengal	6	193
31	A&N**	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	0	0
	TOTAL	750	287130

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

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

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

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *181 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS SCHEME'

State -UT wise Total Central Share of funds released under the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme (As on 08.12.2024)

(₹ in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Total Funds (central share) Released from F.Y. 2019-20 to F.Y. 2024-25
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.8
2	Assam	26.65787
3	Bihar	70.665365
4	Chandigarh	0.1875
5	Chhattisgarh	21.8951
6	Delhi	13.2669
7	Goa	1.16129
8	Gujarat	41.2409
9	Haryana	22.44234
10	Himachal Pradesh	9.07991
11	Jammu & Kashmir	8.57994
12	Jharkhand	20.49482
13	Karnataka	36.10824
14	Kerala	54.78451
15	Madhya Pradesh	105.96558
16	Maharashtra	47.59724
17	Manipur	3.86372
18	Meghalaya	7.14255
19	Mizoram	7.31808
20	Nagaland	1.75811
21	Odisha	54.9262
22	Puducherry*	0.555405
23	Punjab	13.93488
24	Rajasthan	84.14015
25	Tamil Nadu	25.465555
26	Telangana	29.13895
27	Tripura	5.28433
28	Uttarakhand	9.10444
29	Uttar Pradesh	281.40032
30	West Bengal	1.816695
31	A&N**	--
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	--
	TOTAL	1008.14477

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

** A&N islands has consented to join the Scheme, but is yet to operationalise 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
STARRED QUESTION NO. 182
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

JSUNK⁹)

LEGAL SERVICE AUTHORITIES

✓ 182. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) the actions taken by Government in collaboration with the Supreme Court and relevant stakeholders to ensure that legal service authorities deliver high-quality legal services to those who are in need;
- (b) the actions implemented by Government in collaboration with the Supreme Court to evaluate the ongoing performance of lawyers from legal service authorities;
- (c) the actions taken by Government in collaboration with the Supreme Court to eliminate underperforming lawyers from legal service authorities; and
- (d) the actions taken by Government to ensure appropriate fees for lawyers of legal service authorities?

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. 182 FOR REPLY ON 12.12.2024 **REGARDING "LEGAL SERVICE AUTHORITIES"**

(a) : The Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society as covered under Section 12 of the Act, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities. The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA and generally the second seniormost judge of the Supreme Court acts as the Executive Chairman of NALSA.

In order to reach out to the citizens in every corner of the country, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk level up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) functions at the Supreme Court whereas, there are 38 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs), 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), 709 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and 2376 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs). The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include Legal Aid and advice; Legal Awareness Programmes; Legal Services Clinics; Legal Literacy Clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme. The details of activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities are at Annexure-A. The following steps have been taken by the Legal Services Authorities to ensure that the poor and marginalised sections of the society get quality legal aid:

- (i) The legal practitioner having minimum three years of experience at the Bar are empanelled as Panel Lawyers. Over 34,000 lawyers, possessing more than ten years of practice experience have been empanelled as Panel Lawyers.
- (ii) The panel prepared for three years is also reviewed and updated periodically, keeping in view the performance of the panel lawyers.
- (iii) Monitoring and Mentoring Committees have been setup for close monitoring of the Court based legal services and also to guide and advise the panel lawyers.
- (iv) NALSA has prepared training modules for panel lawyers to upgrade their skills.

- (v) Lok Adalats and Mediation services are also offered free of cost to the litigants across the country.
- (vi) NALSA has created a web portal to file an application for getting legal assistance wherein application can be filed in ten different languages i.e. English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, Bengali, Odia and Kannada.
- (vii) NALSA has launched a Legal Services Mobile App for Android and IOS version which facilitate seeking legal assistance, legal advice, tracking of application, applying for victim compensation, etc.
- (viii) Legal Services Authorities are also providing legal advice through NALSA's National Toll-Free Helpline Number 15100 through IVRS Technology. From 09.11.2023 to 29.11.2024, 1.45 lakh calls have been received on NALSA helpline number 15100.
- (ix) NALSA is implementing a new Central Sector Scheme namely Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme in order to strengthen the criminal court based legal services. The approved financial outlay of LADCS scheme is Rs. 998.43 crore for 3 years (F.Y. 2023-24 to F.Y. 2025-26). As on 30th September 2024, LADC offices are functional in 653 districts across the country on-boarded with 4674 staff including 3164 Defense Counsels. During the year 2024-25 (upto September, 2024), LADCS offices dealt more than 2.54 lakh criminal cases.

(b) to (d) : NALSA has framed 'The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010'. The Regulation 8 of the aforesaid Regulations provides for Selection of legal practitioners as panel lawyers. The sub-regulations of Regulation 8 provide for evaluation of the performance of the panel lawyers and for removal of the panel lawyer from the panel. The Regulations 10 and 11, inter-alia, provide for setting up of Monitoring and Mentoring Committees for close monitoring of the court based legal services rendered and the progress of the cases in the legal aided matters and to guide and advise the panel lawyers in providing quality legal services, and if the progress of the case is not satisfactory, the Committee may advise the Legal Services Institution to take appropriate steps. The Regulation 12 provides for submitting bi-monthly reports by the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee containing its independent assessment on the progress of each and every legal aid case and the performance of the panel lawyer or Retainer lawyer, and after

evaluating the reports by the Committee, the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution shall decide the course of action to be taken in each case.

The Legal Services Institutions have empanelled 41,775 Panel Advocates as on September, 2024, to provide services across the country. No beneficiary is denied free legal services for the reason that there is shortage of panel lawyers. The Regulation 14 contains the following provisions:-

- (i) Panel lawyers shall be paid fee in accordance with the Schedule of fee, as approved under the State regulations.
- (ii) The State Legal Services Authority and other Legal Services Institution shall effect periodic revision of the honorarium to be paid to panel lawyers for the different types of services rendered by them in legal aid cases.
- (iii) As soon as the report of completion of the proceedings is received from the panel lawyer, the Legal Services Institution shall, without any delay, pay the fees and expenses payable to panel lawyer.

Annexure-A**Legal aid and advice:**

Years	Persons provided Panel Advocates	Persons benefited through Advice/ Counselling	Persons benefited through other services	Total
2022-23	2,91,410	6,39,230	2,84,129	12,14,769
2023-24	3,24,914	9,47,087	2,78,163	15,50,164
2024-25 (upto Sept,24)	1,68,380	5,05,386	86,012	7,59,778

Legal Awareness Programmes:

Years	No of Legal Awareness programmes organised	No. of Persons attended
2022-23	4,90,055	6,75,17,665
2023-24	4,30,306	4,49,22,092
2024-25 (upto Sept. 24)	1,90,231	1,61,35,058

Legal Services Clinics:

Years	2023-24		2024-25 (upto Sept.24)	
Categories	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance
Law Colleges/ Universities	1034	27545	944	9689
Villages	3659	234515	3771	137556
Community Centres	971	75114	831	44351
Courts	1018	141539	1081	85278
Jails	1215	324867	1227	194229
JJB/CWC/ Observation Homes	479	48565	520	38072
For the people of North-East	47	615	49	1131
Others	2961	183280	3568	117173
Total	11384	1036040	11991	627479

Lok Adalats:**National Lok Adalats**

Years	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024 (upto 09.11.24)	6,46,35,285	1,26,34,580	7,72,69,865

State Lok Adalats

Years	No. of benches constituted	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2021-22	74,480	1,14,278	4,18,251	5,32,529
2022-23	62,194	94,939	7,56,370	8,51,309
2023-24	9,865	2,19,230	9,87,873	12,07,103
2024-25 (upto Sept.24)	5,944	6,81,938	3,29,974	10,11,912

Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services)

Years	Cases settled
2021-22	1,18,136
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24	2,32,763
2024-25 (upto Sept. ,24)	98,776

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 185
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

VACANCY IN COURTS

55(1111)
*185. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that district courts in the country have a total vacancy of over 5000 judges;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of vacant posts of judges in district courts during the last three years, court-wise, year-wise, State-wise and district-wise for Punjab;
- (d) by when Government is planning to fill vacant positions of judges in district courts in the country, especially in the courts of Punjab including district courts; and
- (e) the details of the number of pending cases in various courts during the last three years, court-wise including district courts, year-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 (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING
'VACANCY IN COURTS.'**

(a) to (d): Filling up of vacant positions 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 including the State of Punjab for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

Further, the district-wise vacant position is not centrally maintained. However, the number of vacant posts of judges in District Courts during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise are at *Annexure-I*.

(e): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the pendency of cases in Supreme Court of India during the last three years is as under:

S. No	Name of Court	Pendency in Supreme Court			
		2021	2022	2023	As on 30.11.2024
1.	Supreme Court	70,239	69,768	80,765	82,171

The details of the number of pending cases in High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts during the last three years, court-wise including district courts, year-wise, State-wise is at *Annexure-II* and *Annexure-III* respectively.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCY IN COURTS.

Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last three years and current year.

Sl.No	Name of the State/UTs	As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023		As on 01.12.2024	
		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	607	116	607	73	618	83	618	74
2	Telangana	474	49	560	150	560	115	560	115
3	Auranchal Pradesh	41	9	41	8	44	10	44	11
4	Assam	467	31	485	60	485	46	485	24
5	Bihar	1954	560	2016	667	2016	1550	2019	483
6	Chandigarh	30	0	30	0	30	1	30	0
7	Chattisgarh	482	73	527	90	562	139	663	198
8	D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	3	1	7	1	7	1	7	1
9	Delhi	884	192	884	203	887	89	897	94
10	Goa	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10
11	Gujarat	1523	400	1582	431	1720	545	1720	535
12	Haryana	772	290	772	308	772	208	781	229
13	Himachal Pradesh	175	15	179	16	179	21	179	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	300	59	314	91	317	94	322	45
15	Ladakh	17	8	17	8	17	7	17	6
16	Jharkhand	675	152	694	186	693	181	705	199
17	Karnataka	1363	276	1363	233	1375	225	1375	218
18	Kerala	569	81	595	122	605	91	611	77
19	Lakshadweep	3	0	4	0	4	1	4	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	2021	469	2021	372	2028	298	2028	336
21	Maharashtra	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250
22	Manipur	59	17	59	17	59	10	62	13
23	Meghalaya	97	48	99	48	99	42	99	43
24	Mizoram	65	23	74	33	74	33	74	29
25	Nagaland	34	10	34	10	34	10	34	10
26	Odisha	976	191	1001	234	1008	205	1041	200
27	Puducherry	26	15	28	17	29	19	36	10
28	Punjab	692	85	797	208	797	212	804	81
29	Rajasthan	1549	275	1587	331	1638	296	1641	327
30	Sikkim	28	8	30	9	35	12	35	12
31	Tamil Nadu	1316	234	1340	272	1371	331	1369	346
32	Tripura	122	25	128	20	128	20	133	24
33	Uttar Pradesh	3634	1092	3647	1173	3696	1247	3700	983
34	Uttarakhand	299	28	299	30	298	27	298	28
35	West Bengal *								
36	A& N Island*	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1105	230
Total		24515	5175	25077	5764	25439	5428	25736	5260

*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 PART (E) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCY IN COURTS.

Details of Pending Cases in High Courts during the last three years and current year.

Sl. No	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 30.11.2024
1	Allahabad	384693	1032228	1076554	837086
2	Bombay	96438	610734	712430	650688
3	Calcutta	34837	207898	195379	205822
4	Gauhati	10863	58501	62441	64215
5	Telangana	35713	254089	248387	243784
6	Andhra Pradesh	32908	240238	249643	246882
7	Chhattisgarh	29505	91184	90463	84187
8	Delhi	26936	105271	128122	127142
9	Gujarat	50665	161929	169048	170958
10	Himachal Pradesh	10154	91210	99545	93587
11	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	6779	44526	44243	45464
12	Jharkhand	46071	87992	85790	74753
13	Karnataka	40253	304444	288889	301375
14	Kerala	42998	197314	255278	250548
15	Madhya Pradesh	156748	429743	446348	465241
16	Manipur	490	4865	4631	5252
17	Meghalaya	211	1188	1125	1172
18	Punjab and Haryana	164839	447886	441070	339461
19	Rajasthan	151498	633787	672193	656840
20	Sikkim	34	165	179	207
21	Tripura	187	1601	1275	963
22	Uttarakhand	17667	45023	50532	55021
23	Madras	58351	550083	542700	515935
24	Orissa	52340	164709	148447	145639
25	Patna	112456	212106	197663	200564
Total		1563634	5978714	6212375	5782786

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCY IN COURTS.

Detail of pending cases in District and Subordinate Courts during last three years and current year.

Sl. No	States/UTs	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 30.11.2024
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	11886	8767	8087
2	Andhra Pradesh	773952	829147	864945	891416
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	4149	10255
4	Assam	417788	488800	453536	501148
5	Bihar	3379229	3445159	3588892	3610483
6	Chandigarh	69502	79526	148414	106457
7	Chhattisgarh	376220	411599	410579	427410
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	6559	6671	7324	7706
9	Delhi	1082415	1293571	1224273	1516979
10	Goa	59370	56375	57178	58978
11	Gujarat	1951550	1743723	1589468	1599914
12	Haryana	1281697	1458270	1433041	1423179
13	Himachal Pradesh	455949	476137	573610	656141
14	Jammu and Kashmir	243026	299716	290206	332802
15	Jharkhand	495108	519156	542976	547601
16	Karnataka	1823103	1893265	1941571	2150897
17	Kerala	1943255	1933363	1830917	1739937
18	Ladakh	824	1154	1328	1456
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	525
20	Madhya Pradesh	1876194	2000268	2004570	2018231
21	Maharashtra	4881718	4982911	5200315	5447792
22	Manipur	12802	12269	13070	12587
23	Meghalaya	14622	16135	16214	15230
24	Mizoram	5882	5142	5566	5479
25	Nagaland	2603	2966	2834	2718
26	Orissa	1519106	1559338	1612195	1651671
27	Puducherry	34029	29831	34079	35349
28	Punjab	918858	922360	851182	859743
29	Rajasthan	2029814	2123475	2310988	2316457
30	Sikkim	1926	1843	1664	1680
31	Tamil Nadu	1363917	1432575	1449005	1522270
32	Telangana	805622	1059401	917595	928418
33	Tripura	39204	40012	45379	48724
34	Uttar Pradesh	9822224	10973480	11626796	11595720
35	Uttarakhand	301001	327350	358032	361126
36	West Bengal	2589993	2772290	2988822	3246435
Total		40579062	43209164	44409480	45661001

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *189
ANSWERED ON – 12/12/2024

55(PPP)

VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTRES

~~189~~ Dr. Sikander Kumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has received proposal that Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres (VWDCs) should be established to facilitate better process of recording victim testimonies for smoother court proceeding;
- (b) if so, the time by which such centres are likely to be established;
- (c) the details of funds allocated under Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) scheme in the current year for Himachal Pradesh; and
- (d) whether Government is taking steps to upgrade court rooms with modern technology and to have a child psychologist to assist the child with rigorous pre-trial and trial procedures?

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) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *189 FOR 12/12/2024 REGARDING 'VULNERABLE WITNESS
DEPOSITION CENTRES'**

(a) & (b): As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment dated 11.01.2022 in *Smruti Tukaram Badade vs State of Maharashtra* (M.A No. 1852 of 2019 in Criminal Appeal No. 1101 of 2019), all High Courts have been directed to adopt and notify a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres Scheme and form permanent Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers (VWDC) Committees to assess district-wise VWDC needs, oversee implementation, and conduct trainings. The High Courts were also asked to estimate costs for setting up at least one VWDC per District or Additional Sessions Court and propose the optimal number of VWDCs for the State. Further, the State Governments were tasked with promptly sanctioning and disbursing funds based on these estimates and appointing a Finance Department nodal officer to assist in implementation.

(c): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious disposal of Rape and POCSO Act cases came to be introduced, 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]. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, targeting the establishment of 790 courts. As per the inputs received from the High Courts, as on 31.10.2024, 750 FTSCs including 408 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs. These courts have disposed more than 2,87,000 cases as of 31.10.2024.

The Department has released a sum of ₹ 1008.14 Crore to the States/UTs since its inception to ensure the smooth functioning of the courts, which includes ₹ 173.59 Crore released in the current F.Y. 2024-25, against the allocated budget of ₹ 200.00 Crore. A sum of ₹ 9.07 Crore as a Central Share has been released to the State of Himachal Pradesh since the inception of the Scheme, which includes ₹ 2.22 Crore released in the current financial year for the expenditure incurred in the functioning of 6 FTSCs in the State.

(d): The eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary. The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India in close coordination with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India is implementing eCourts Project in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. Phase I of the project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023. The Government has taken the following e-initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all: -

6

- I. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- II. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case information and more than 27.64 crore orders /judgements (as on 29.11.2024).
- III. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- IV. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgments etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (Over 4 lakhs SMS sent daily), Email (Over 6 lakhs sent daily), multilingual eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 2.69 crore downloads till 31.10.2024) and JustIS app for judges (20,719 downloads till 31.10.2024).
- V. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,48,21,789 cases while the High Courts heard 90,21,629 cases (totalling 3.38 crore) till 31.10.2024 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 7,54,443 hearings from 23.03.2020 to 04.06.2024 through video conferencing. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.
- VI. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Calcutta & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- VII. e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24x7.
- VIII. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. Therefore e-Payment system was launched for hassle free transfer of fee etc.
- IX. To bridge the digital divide, 1394 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in District Courts and 36 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in High Courts have been rolled out to provide citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.

X. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.

XI. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

The eCourts Phase III (2023-2027) Project has been approved by the Union Cabinet in September, 2023 at an outlay of ₹7,210 crore, which is over four times the funding for Phase II. The project envisages various new digital initiatives such as establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts that aim to bring court proceedings under a digital format in a court, digitization of court records both legacy records and pending cases, expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, jails and hospitals, scope of online courts beyond adjudication of traffic violations, saturation of all court complexes with eSewa kendras, state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval and supporting the digitized court records, software applications, live streaming, and electronic evidence etc., use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc. for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc. Thus, the efforts of the Government of integrating technology with the governance may prove to be a game changer in eCourts Phase III, ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country. Under eCourts Phase III, an amount of Rs. 825 crores were allotted in FY 23-24 and expenditure of Rs 768.25 Cr (93.11%) was made. During F.Y. 2024-25, an allocation of Rs 1500.00 Cr. in the B.E. has been received, of which Rs. 1232.19 Cr. has been released to the various High Courts so far.

Additionally, as per Section 39 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, the responsibility to prepare guidelines for engaging psychologists, social workers, and other experts to assist children during pre-trial and trial stages lies with the State Governments.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2025

ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

JS (APR 14)
REPRESENTATION OF ALL SECTION OF SOCIETY IN THE JUDICIARY

✓ 2025. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure that there is adequate representation of persons for judgeship in the higher judiciary representing the different strata of the society;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Appointment of Judges to 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), which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.

However, 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). Based on the information provided by the recommendees, out of 684 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 21 belong to SC category, 14 belong to ST category, 82 belong to OBC category and 37 belong to Minorities. As on 06.12.2024, 02 women Judges are working in the Supreme Court and 106 women Judges in various High Courts.

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, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. However, the Government 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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2026
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

SETTLEMENT OF MGNREGA CASES

JS(am)
✓2026.

SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to settle the cases related to delay in payment of wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) related to anganwadi workers at panchayat level through gram nyayalayas and mobile court;
- (b) if so, the total number of gram nyayalayas functioning across the country, State-wise including Rajasthan;
- (c) whether gram nyayalayas are not able to function properly due to lack of basic infrastructure; and
- (d) if so, the total budget allocated and spent for gram nyayalayas during the last three years?

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 Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, which came into effect from 02nd October, 2009, aims at providing affordable and quick access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps. As per Section 3 (5) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts appoint a Nyayadhikari, an officer of the rank of Judicial Magistrate of the first class for every Gram Nyayataya, who is supposed to hold mobile courts as and when situation demands. Under the aegis of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, a plan scheme titled, "Assistance to State Governments for establishing and operating Gram Nyayalayas" was introduced in 2009 and guidelines were formulated for running the Gram Nyayalayas Scheme. As on date, 15 States have implemented Gram Nyayalayas Scheme by notifying 481 Gram Nyayalayas, out of which 313 are

functional in 11 States since the inception of the Scheme. The state-wise details of the Gram Nyayalayas (including Rajasthan) notified and operational are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Gram Nyayalaya Notified	No. of Gram Nyayalaya Functional
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
2	Rajasthan	45	45
3	Kerala	30	30
4	Maharashtra	39	26
5	Odisha	24	21
6	Uttar Pradesh	113	93
7	Karnataka	2	2
8	Haryana	3	2
9	Punjab	9	2
10	Jharkhand	6	1
11	Goa	2	2
12	Andhra Pradesh	42	0
13	Telangana	55	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	20	0
15	Ladakh	2	0
Total		481	313

As far as settling of disputes relating to delay in payment of wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, is concerned, the extant guidelines of the MGNREGA Act, via Section 30, Schedule 1, mandate the States to appoint an Ombudsperson for each District for receiving grievances, enquiring into and passing awards as per guidelines issued from time to time. There are provisions for receiving complaints via electronic (Ombudsperson App) as well as physical mode.

(c) & (d): Infrastructure is not the only issue that is hindering the performance of the Gram Nyayalayas. Studies have brought to light other factors, such as, non-filling of the post of Nyayadhikaries in many States, non-availability of public prosecutors, notaries and general shortage

of first-class judicial magistrates, limited pecuniary jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalayas, insufficient staff, inadequate financial backing from States, reluctance from legal and state authorities and lack of community awareness. Besides, the issue of overlapping jurisdiction with regular courts is another reason for slow take off in respect of Gram Nyayalayas in some States. Moreover, many States have their own parallel systems of village courts functioning at panchayat level. The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, does not make establishment of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory for the State Governments.

A sum of Rs. 8340.00 lakh has been released to the States since the inception of the Scheme. In the last three financial years (2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24), an amount of Rs. 28 crore was allocated, out of which Rs. 8.80 crore was released.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2029
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

JS (PPR)
PENDING CASES IN DISTRICT COURTS AND HIGH COURTS

12029. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the details of civil and criminal cases pending for more than 40 years respectively in various district courts and High Courts, State-wise;
- (b) the details of civil and criminal cases pending for more than 30 years respectively in various district courts and High Courts, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of civil and criminal cases pending for more than 20 years respectively in various district courts and High Courts, 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 AFJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The details of civil and criminal cases pending for more than 40, 30 and 20 years in District and Subordinate Courts and High Courts are at *Annexure-I & Annexure-II* respectively.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2029 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN DISTRICT COURTS AND HIGH COURTS'.

Cases pending in District and Subordinate courts for more than 40, 30 and 20 years as on 06.12.2024

S No.	State/UTs	Cases pending for more than 40 years		Cases pending for more than 30 years		Cases pending for more than 20 years	
		Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
1	Andaman and Nicobar	-	-	0	5	16	69
2	Andhra Pradesh	2	18	26	38	288	277
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	1	6	1	298
4	Assam	7	0	19	4	113	90
5	Bihar	679	701	3749	5603	17120	82115
6	Chandigarh	-	-	1	1	6	3
7	Chhattisgarh	2	0	5	1	41	21
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	-	-	0	2	1	13
9	Delhi	14	0	87	10	430	317
10	Goa	43	0	224	24	717	35
11	Gujarat	9	1	191	408	2657	7894
12	Haryana	3	0	12	2	31	12
13	Himachal Pradesh	0	1	1	1	32	6
14	Jammu and Kashmir	3	0	21	4	269	99
15	Jharkhand	12	19	68	84	524	477
16	Karnataka	17	0	135	10	1369	787
17	Kerala	17	1	100	10	475	129
18	Ladakh	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	2	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	7	1	44	8	375	227
21	Maharashtra	361	1431	1979	19357	11176	66561
22	Manipur	0	5	1	21	15	29
23	Meghalaya	4	4	13	29	73	133
24	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	1	0

26	Orissa	10	52	219	2562	2300	30441
27	Puducherry	1	0	2	0	37	20
28	Punjab	1	0	8	0	54	24
29	Rajasthan	54	1	244	16	1733	1133
30	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Tamil Nadu	25	4	174	95	1517	1581
32	Telangana	1	4	18	63	771	350
33	Tripura	1	20	2	70	8	236
34	Uttar Pradesh	2607	392	16148	17760	66062	203726
35	Uttarakhand	1	0	1	0	47	34
36	West Bengal	644	3340	3197	13747	13844	69922

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2029 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN DISTRICT COURTS AND HIGH COURTS'.

Cases pending in High Courts for more than 40, 30 and 20 years as on 06.12.2024

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Cases pending for more than 40 years		Cases pending for more than 30 years		Cases pending for more than 20 years	
		Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
1.	Allahabad High Court	8610	442	30843	4489	71092	22057
2.	Bombay High Court	6	0	1034	9	38179	2215
3.	Calcutta High Court	5541	31	12785	940	31124	2828
4.	Gauhati High Court	-	-	-	-	18	2
5.	High Court for State of Telangana	131	0	1593	594	4294	767
6.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	106	0	976	388	5103	478
7.	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	-	-	2	0	62	116
8.	High Court of Delhi	-	-	-	-	269	351
9.	High Court of Gujarat	3	0	32	0	406	826
10.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	-	-	1	0	46	0
11.	High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	1	0	3	0	232	17
12.	High Court of Jharkhand	-	-	44	6	482	1431
13.	High Court of Karnataka	1	0	21	0	242	4
14.	High Court of Kerala	-	-	9	0	1127	148
15.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	6	0	9	0	3157	8877
16.	High Court of Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	High Court of Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa High Court	36	0	261	45	2659	2039
19.	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	27	0	483	8	16818	1018
20.	High Court Of Rajasthan	8	2	259	649	9452	11380
21.	High Court of Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	High Court of Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	High Court of Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	539	116
24.	Madras High Court	142	0	1197	2	39517	1013
25.	Patna High Court	867	0	2986	14	5335	3247

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2030
ANSWERED ON – 12/12/2024

DISPOSAL OF CASES IN FTSCs

✓ 2030. Shri Saket Gokhale:

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

- (a) the details of pendency of rape and POCSO Act cases in Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) in the country as of October 2024, State-wise; and
- (b) the details of average performance of States in disposal of cases in FTSCs between January 2023 to October 2024, 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) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious disposal of Rape and POCSO Act cases came to be introduced in October 2019, following the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court [Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019]. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March, 2026, targeting the establishment of 790 courts.

At the inception of the Scheme, the allocation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) was determined by a criterion that one FTSC would be established for every 65 to 165 pending cases. Based on this yardstick, 31 States/Union Territories (UTs) were initially eligible to participate in the Scheme. Arunachal Pradesh opted out citing a very low number of pending cases of rape and POCSO Act, while Puducherry joined the Scheme at a later stage upon special request and operationalized an exclusive POCSO Court in May, 2023. Additionally, the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has conveyed its willingness to join the Scheme, but has not yet established any FTSC. Consequently, the Scheme currently includes a total of 32 participating States/UTs.

As per the inputs received from the High Courts, as on 31.10.2024, 750 FTSCs including 408 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs. These courts have disposed more than 2,87,000 cases since the inception of the scheme while more than 2,03,000 cases are pending as of 31.10.2024. The State/UT-wise details of pendency of rape and POCSO Act cases, are given at **Annexure-I**.

(b) As per the information provided by the High Courts, a total of 1,43,356 cases have been disposed of from January, 2023 to October, 2024, resulting in an average monthly disposal of approximately 6500 cases. The State/UT-wise details of the average performance of States/UTs in disposal of cases in FTSCs between January 2023 to October 2024, are at **Annexure-II**.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2030 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES IN FTSCs'

State/UT wise Details of Pendency of Rape and POCSO Act cases (As on 31.10.2024)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Functional Courts		No. of cases pending at the end of the month				Cumulative Pendency
		FTSCs including exclusive POCSO	Exclusive POCSO	Combined FTSCs			Exclusive POCSO	
				Rape	POCSO	Total		
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	0	0	0	6594	6594
2	Assam	17	17	0	0	0	6030	6030
3	Bihar	46	46	0	0	0	19172	19172
4	Chandigarh	1	0	67	161	228	0	228
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	101	224	325	1626	1951
6	Delhi	16	11	1060	0	1060	2626	3686
7	Goa	1	0	87	59	146	0	146
8	Gujarat	35	24	912	662	1574	4375	5949
9	Haryana	16	12	385	961	1346	3147	4493
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	95	244	339	290	629
11	J&K	4	2	179	0	179	312	491
12	Jharkhand	22	16	641	555	1196	3099	4295
13	Karnataka	31	17	211	1726	1937	3651	5588
14	Kerala	55	14	1097	3822	4919	1716	6635
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	2527	327	2854	7212	10066
16	Maharashtra	8	4	62	788	850	901	1751
17	Manipur	2	0	2	67	69	0	69
18	Meghalaya	5	5	0	0	0	1046	1046
19	Mizoram	3	1	4	39	43	34	77
20	Nagaland	1	0	4	44	48	0	48
21	Odisha	44	23	1052	2572	3624	6199	9823
22	Puducherry*	1	1	0	0	0	209	209
23	Punjab	12	3	356	705	1061	567	1628
24	Rajasthan	45	30	201	921	1122	4612	5734
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	0	0	0	4400	4400
26	Telangana	36	0	216	8308	8524	0	8524
27	Tripura	3	1	102	29	131	87	218
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	341	648	989	0	989
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	7285	22813	30098	59174	89272
30	West Bengal	6	6	0	0	0	4045	4045
31	A&N**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	750	408	16987	45675	62662	141124	203786

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

** A&N Islands has conveyed its willingness to join the Scheme, but has not yet established any FTSC.

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2030 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF CASES IN FTSCs'

State -UT wise details of average performance of States in disposal of cases in FTSCs between January 2023 to October 2024

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Functional FTSCs including exclusive POCSO courts	Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme	Average Monthly Disposal of cases from Jan 2023 to Oct 2024
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	5839	186.47
2	Assam	17	7076	200.68
3	Bihar	46	13762	377.15
4	Chandigarh	1	300	8.13
5	Chhattisgarh	15	5525	117.82
6	Delhi	16	2197	66.20
7	Goa	1	83	2.91
8	Gujarat	35	13859	356.33
9	Haryana	16	6932	166.75
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	1264	33.26
11	J&K	4	242	6.26
12	Jharkhand	22	7776	188.91
13	Karnataka	31	11872	303.46
14	Kerala	55	22208	560.00
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	28648	590.50
16	Maharashtra	8	20561	426.34
17	Manipur	2	167	4.00
18	Meghalaya	5	623	17.68
19	Mizoram	3	237	5.90
20	Nagaland	1	67	0.75
21	Odisha	44	16802	456.81
22	Puducherry*	1	107	4.98
23	Punjab	12	4489	108.78
24	Rajasthan	45	16511	350.94
25	Tamil Nadu	14	8534	192.84
26	Telangana	36	9849	174.17
27	Tripura	3	419	10.29
28	Uttarakhand	4	1747	35.56
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	79241	1568.70
30	West Bengal	6	193	9.25
31	A&N**	N/A	N/A	N/A
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TOTAL	750	287130	6531.81

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

** A&N Islands has conveyed its willingness to join the Scheme, but has not yet established any FTSC.

*** 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- 2031

ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

eCOURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT

✓ 2031. DR. KALPANA SAINI:
DR. K. LAXMAN:
SHRI MAYANKBHAI JAYDEVBHAI NAYAK:
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

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

- (a) the current status of the eCourt Integrated Mission Mode Project;
- (b) the key objectives and achievements of the eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project, particularly in enhancing access to justice through technology; and
- (c) the manner in which the project contributed to the computerization of district and subordinate courts and details of specific technologies implemented to improve connectivity of 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 (c) : The eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary. The Department of Justice, Government of India is implementing eCourts Project in close coordination with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts.

Phase I of the project was implemented during 2011-2015 and focused on the basics of computerisation like setting up computer hardware, ensuring internet connectivity, and operationalizing the e-Courts platform. Against an outlay of Rs. 935 crore, total expenditure incurred was Rs. 639.41 crore for implementation of this phase. The following initiatives were undertaken in this phase:

- i. 14,249 District and Subordinate courts were computerized.
- ii. LAN was installed at 13,683 courts, hardware provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts.
- iii. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise completed in all High Courts.
- iv. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System.
- v. More than 3900 court staff were trained in Case Information System (CIS) as System Administrators.
- vi. Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 493 court complexes & 347 corresponding jails.

Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project (2015-2023), focused on ICT enablement of District & Subordinate Courts and various citizen centric initiatives. Against an outlay of Rs.1670 crore, total expenditure incurred was Rs. 1668.43 crore for implementation of this phase. Till 2023, digital infrastructure has been provided to 18,735 courts.

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

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed. The Wide Area Network (WAN) Project under eCourts project is aimed at connecting all District and Subordinate court complexes, spread across the country using various technologies like Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS), Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Radio Frequency (RF), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Submarine Cable etc. This forms the backbone for the eCourts project ensuring data connectivity in courts across the length and breadth of the country. At present, connectivity to 209 new court complexes is being provided by BSNL using Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) Technology.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized

district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case information and more than 27.64 crore orders / judgments (as on date).

- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (Over 4 lakhs SMS sent daily), Email (Over 6 lakhs sent daily), multilingual eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 2.69 crore downloads till 31.10.2024) and JustIS app for judges (20,719 downloads till 31.10.2024).
- v. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,48,21,789 cases while the High Courts heard 90,21,629 cases (totalling 3.38 crore) till 31.10.2024 using video conferencing system. The Supreme Court of India held 7,54,443 hearings from 23.03.2020 to 04.06.2024 through video conferencing. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.
- vi. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in the High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Calcutta & the Supreme Court of India, thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- vii. Virtual Courts in 21 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. Over 6 crore cases (6,00,29,546) have been handled by these virtual courts and in more than 62 lakhs (62,97,544) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 649.81 crores have been realized till 31.10.2024.
- viii. e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7.
- ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the

Consolidated Fund. Therefore e-Payment system was launched for hassle free transfer of fee etc.

- x. To bridge the digital divide, 1394 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in District Courts and 36 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in High Courts have been rolled out to provide citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. These also provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e- filing of cases across the country, to conduct the bearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- xi. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xii. A new “Judgment Search” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.
- xiii. As a part of the project, 605 trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services provided under the eCourts project has been conducted from May 2020 to October 2024 covering nearly 6,64,144 stakeholders, including High Court Judges, Judges of the District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers among Judges/DSA, Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates.

eCourts Phase III (2023-2027) has been approved by the Union Cabinet in Sep’2023 at an outlay of ₹7,210 crore, which is over four times the funding for Phase II. The project envisages various new digital initiatives such as establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts that aim to bring court proceedings under a digital format, digitization of court records (both legacy records and pending cases), expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, jails and hospitals, scope of online courts beyond adjudication of traffic violations, saturation of all court complexes with eSewa kendras, state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval and supporting the digitized court records, software applications, live streaming, and electronic evidence etc., use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc. for

analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc. Thus, the efforts of the Government of integrating technology with the governance may prove to be a game changer in eCourts Phase III, ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2032**

ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

Voting from home

✓ 2032. Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju:
Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:

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

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

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 Election Commission of India (ECI) has provided the following data for the voters with disabilities who opted for voting from the home mechanism in the recently conducted State elections:

State	No of voters with disabilities opted for voting from home
Jharkhand	2899
Maharashtra	12412

(b): The ECI has informed that the eligibility criteria for absentee voters in the category of persons with disability have been defined for the purpose of home voting, which is as under:

“An elector who is flagged in the database for electoral roll and having a benchmark disability certificate (not less than 40% of specified disability) as certified by the concerned certifying authority, under Section 2 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016”.

(c): The ECI has informed that no complaints have been received.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2033

ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

WOMEN IN JUDICIARY

JS (Apppts)

✓ 2033. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) the percentage of women judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court in the country;
and
- (b) the percentage of these women who belong to the SC, ST and OBC communities respectively?

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): Appointment of Judges to 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), which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. As on 06.12.2024, 02 women Judges are working in the Supreme Court and 106 women Judges in various High Courts.

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). Based on the information provided by them, of the women judges appointed since 2018, 02 belong to SC category, 03 belong to ST category and 14 belong to OBC category.

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, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. However, the Government 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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2034

ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND STANDARDS BILL

✓ 2034. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the Supreme Court in a full court meeting held on 7th May, 1997 had adopted the "Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" which was codified as Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010;
- (b) whether Government is planning to enact a law for judicial accountability and standards in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): 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.

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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2035
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

PENDING COURT CASES

✓ 2035. SHRI SANJAY YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that criminal justice system in the country is facing a severe crisis with more than 55 million court cases pending in various courts;

(b) whether in adequate judicial infrastructure, understaffed judicial system, lack of case management techniques and advanced technologies are main cause of pendency;

(c) the ratio of judges to the population in the country;

(d) details such as total number of judges belonging to SC/ST/OBC and minority communities in the High Courts and Supreme Court; and

(e) details of total number of judges appointed each year in the High Courts and the Supreme Court since 2019?

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 National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of cases pending in various courts as on 30.11.2024 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending cases
1.	Supreme Court	82,171
2.	High Courts	57,82,786
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,56,61,001

Pendency of cases in courts can be contributed to several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in

disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

(c): Based on the population as per Census 2011 which was 1210.19 million and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2024, the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population.

(d): 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 SCs, STs and OBCs among the Judges of High Courts are not centrally maintained. However, 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). Based on the information provided by the recommendees, out of 684 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 21 belong to SC category, 14 belong to ST category, 82 belong to OBC category and 37 belong to Minorities.

(e): The details of total number of judges appointed each year in the High Courts and the Supreme Court since 2019 are as under:

Year	APPOINTMENTS OF JUDGES MADE IN THE SUPREME COURT	APPOINTMENTS OF JUDGES MADE IN HIGH COURTS (Fresh Appointments)
2019	10	81
2020	--	66
2021	09	120
2022	03	165
2023	14	110
2024	04	34

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2037
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

JS (Gm)

✓ 2037. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA :

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

- (a) the schemes and initiatives launched by Government in the last five years to improve judicial infrastructure across the country;
- (b) the total budget allocation and utilization for judicial infrastructure development during this period;
- (c) the number of new courtrooms, judicial complexes, and facilities constructed under these schemes; and
- (d) the steps being taken to address the shortage of basic amenities and technological infrastructure in subordinate 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): The Government has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary since 1993-94, to augment the resources of the State Governments for the construction of judicial infrastructure in the district and the subordinate courts. There are five components covered under the scheme, viz., court hall, residential units, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants. While the development of infrastructure in district courts is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, the Central Government supplements the resources of the State Government through the said Scheme. As of now, a central share of Rs. 11,583.07 crores has been released since the inception of the scheme in 1993-94. The Central Government has allocated Rs. 4,244 crore during last 5 years under the scheme. Out of this, as on 31.03.2024, an amount of Rs. 3,855 crore has been utilized by the States/UTs. 21,338 court halls and 14,942 residential units

have been constructed in the district and subordinate courts under the scheme as on date. Another, 3,164 Court Halls and 2,619 residential units are currently under construction.

Besides, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary. The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India is implementing eCourts Project in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts in close coordination with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India. Phase I of the project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023. In the last 5 years, Rs. 1283.83 crore has been released, out of which Rs. 1225.12 crore has been utilized under the scheme. The Government has taken the following e-initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case information and more than 27.64 crore orders / judgments (as on date).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (Over 4 lakhs SMS sent daily), Email (Over 6 lakhs sent daily), multilingual eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App

for lawyers (total 2.69 crore downloads till 31.10.2024) and JustIS app for judges (20,719 downloads till 31.10.2024).

v. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing.

The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,48,21,789 cases while the High Courts heard 90,21,629 cases (totalling 3.38 crore) till 31.10.2024 using video conferencing system. The Supreme Court of India held 7,54,443 hearings from 23.03.2020 to 04.06.2024 through video conferencing. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

vi. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Calcutta and the Supreme Court of India, thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.

vii. Virtual Courts in 21 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases.

Over 6 crore cases (6,00,29,546) have been handled by these virtual courts and in more than 62 lakhs (62,97,544) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 649.81 crores have been realized till 31.10.2024.

viii. e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7.

ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. Therefore e-Payment system was launched for hassle free transfer of fee etc.

x. To bridge the digital divide, 1394 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in District Courts and 36 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in High Courts have been rolled out to provide citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion,

travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.

- xi. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xii. A new “Judgment Search” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

Further, eCourts Phase III (2023-2027) has been approved by the Cabinet in Sep’2023 at an outlay of ₹7,210 crore, which is over four times the funding for Phase II. The project envisages various new digital initiatives such as establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts that aim to bring court proceedings under a digital format in a court, digitization of court records both legacy records and pending cases, expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, jails and hospitals, scope of online courts beyond adjudication of traffic violations, saturation of all court complexes with eSewa kendras, state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval and supporting the digitized court records, software applications, live streaming, and electronic evidence etc., use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc. for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc. Thus, the efforts of the Government of integrating technology with the governance may prove to be a game changer in eCourts Phase III, ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country. Under eCourts Phase III, an amount of Rs. 825 crores were allotted in FY 23-24 and expenditure of Rs 768.25 Cr (93.11%) was made in the space of five months. During FY 24-25, an allocation of Rs 1500 Cr. in the Budget Estimate (BE) has been received, out of which Rs. 1232.19 Cr has already been released to the various High Courts.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2038
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

Court proceedings in regional languages

✓ 2038 Shri Vaiko:
Shri M. Shanmugam:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) As far as Supreme Court and all High Courts are concerned, Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in these Courts shall be in English language. However, Article 348 (2) of the Constitution of India provides that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any

other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. Further, Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 states that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English Language, for the purposes of any judgment, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State and where any judgment, decree or order is passed or made in any such language (other than the English Language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English Language issued under the authority of the High Court.

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

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

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

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

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

(b) & (c) Under eCourts Mission Mode Project, e-Filing has been made functional and it is available for all High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts across India. New e-Filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features.

Mode of appearance, whether physical or virtual, of lawyers in High Courts is an administrative matter under the purview of respective High Courts. However, in the case of *Sarvesh Mathur vs. The Registrar General, High Court of Punjab & Haryana* (WP (Crl.) No. 351/2023), Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 06.10.2023 directed that after a lapse of two weeks from the date of this order, no High Court shall deny access to video conferencing facilities or hearing through the hybrid mode to any member of the Bar or litigant desirous of availing of such a facility.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the COVID lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since COVID lockdown started, the District & Subordinate courts heard 2,48,21,789 cases while the High Courts heard 90,21,629 cases (totalling 3.38 crore) till 31.10.2024 using video conferencing. Since the beginning of lockdown period, the Supreme Court held 7,54,443 hearings from 23.03.2020 to 04.06.2024. In Tamil Nadu, Madras High court heard 14,80,662 cases while the District & Subordinate courts heard 3,92,067 cases. One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and funds have been released for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

(d) The Supreme Court is collaborating with the High Courts in translation of e-SCR Judgements in 18 vernacular languages. The Chief Justice of India has constituted the Artificial

Intelligence Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court of India to monitor the translation of Supreme Court Reportable Judgements (e-SCR) into vernacular languages by using Artificial Intelligence Tools. A similar Committee has been constituted in all the High Courts, headed by the Judges of the respective High Courts.

The Artificial Intelligence Committee of the Supreme Court has been convening frequent meetings with the Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Courts and giving directions/ suggestions for translation of Supreme Court and High Court Judgements in vernacular language by using Artificial Intelligence Tools. The Artificial Intelligence Committee of the High Courts, Law Secretary, Advocate General, the Secretary in-charge of translation department in the State have been requested to take steps for appointment of translators in every High Court for translation of Supreme Court Reportable Judgements (e-SCR) as well as the High Court judgements into vernacular/ local language of that state.

As on 27.09.2024, 36302 Supreme Court Judgments have been translated in Hindi language and 37661 Judgments of Supreme Court have been translated in other vernacular languages and uploaded on e-SCR portal with the assistance of the High Courts (Annexure-I).

As regards the High Court Judgments, 12629 Judgments of 09 High Courts have been translated in Hindi language and 18315 Judgments have been translated in other vernacular languages as on 27.09.2024 and uploaded on the website of the respective High Courts. The High Court wise details of Supreme Court and High Court Judgments translated and uploaded after vetting is placed as Annexure-II.

The Supreme Court has requested the High Courts to give wide publicity as to availability of Supreme Court and High Court Judgments both in English and regional languages, so that various stakeholders, such as the Government Departments, Police Department, the Revenue Department, the State Bar Council, District Bar Associations, Judicial Training Academies and Law Colleges could make use of this facility free of cost.

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2038

Details of Supreme Court Judgments translated in Hindi language and in other vernacular languages and uploaded on e-SCR portal as on 27.09.2024.

Supreme Court Vernacular Judgements Available on e-SCR Portal		
Sl. No.	Local Language	No. of Judgements
1.	Assamese	268
2.	Bengali	989
3.	Garo	7
4.	Gujarati	2305
5.	Hindi	36302
6.	Kannada	1942
7.	Kashmiri	1
8.	Khasi	3
9.	Konkani	16
10.	Malayalam	2575
11.	Marathi	2479
12.	Nepali	150
13.	Odia	253
14.	Punjabi	21183
15.	Santali	31
16.	Tamil	2559
17.	Telugu	1579
18.	Urdu	1321
Total		73963

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2038**Details of High Court Judgements translated and uploaded by the High Courts
as on 27.09.2024**

Sl. No.	High Court	Vernacular Language	HC Judgements
1.	Allahabad	Hindi	8338
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Telugu	811
3.	Bombay	Marathi	1161
4.	Calcutta	Bengali	324
5.	Chhattisgarh	Hindi	791
6.	Delhi	Hindi	469
7.	Gauhati	Assamese	65
8.	Gujarat	Gujarati	2253
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Hindi	877
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Urdu	9
11.	Jharkhand	Hindi	795
12.	Karnataka	Kannada	745
13.	Kerala	Malayalam	611
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Hindi	152
15.	Madras	Tamil	892
16.	Manipur	Manipuri	83
17.	Meghalaya	Garos	6
		Khasi	5
18.	Orissa	Odiya	161
19.	Patna	Hindi	123
20.	Punjab & Haryana	Punjabi	9365
21.	Rajasthan	Hindi	616
22.	Sikkim	Nepali	3
23.	Telangana	Telugu	811
24.	Tripura	Bengali	1010
25.	Uttarakhand	Hindi	468
Total			30944

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2039
ANSWERED ON - 12/12/2024

PENDING CASES IN FAST TRACK COURTS

✓ 2039 Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain:

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

- (a) a detailed breakdown of the number of cases pending in Fast Track Courts (FTCs) till date, State-wise;
- (b) the steps being taken to address the lack of resources, including manpower and infrastructure, in FTCs; and
- (c) the details of financial allocations made for FTCs in 2023-24 and their utilisation status till date?

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): Establishment of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for providing speedy justice in the country lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The Finance Commission had further urged the State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. As per information made available by High Courts, 863 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.10.2024. The State-wise details of cases pending in Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are at **Annexure**.

(b): As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of High Court and State Government concerned. Further, establishment of Fast Track Courts lies entirely within the domain of the State Govts. who set up such courts and deploys Presiding Officers (Judges) and supporting staff as per their requirements and resources in consultation with their respective High Courts. The details of vacancies of judges and other categories of officials in the FTCs are not centrally maintained.

Department of Justice implements a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of Judicial Infrastructure to augment the resources of State Governments for Infrastructure development of

Subordinate Judiciary by way of Financial Assistance in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States. In this regard, a sum of Rs. 11740.10 crore has been released under the scheme since 1993-94. The Scheme covers five components viz., court halls, residential units, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

(c): No central assistance is being provided for setting up of Fast Track Courts. The States/UTs are to set up the Fast Track Courts using their own means and resources.

Annexure

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2039 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING
'PENDING CASES IN FAST TRACK COURTS'**

**State/UT wise details of functional Fast Track Courts and Pending cases therein (As on
31.10.2024)**

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Number of Functional Courts	Number of Cases pending
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	7545
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4	Assam	15	12152
5	Bihar	0	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27	4858
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	0	0
9	Delhi	26	7042
10	Goa	4	1826
11	Gujarat	54	5949
12	Haryana	6	809
13	Himachal Pradesh	3	350
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8	1472
15	Jharkhand	41	8274
16	Karnataka	0	0
17	Kerala	0	0
18	Ladakh	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
21	Maharashtra	101	175508
22	Manipur	6	239
23	Meghalaya	0	0
24	Mizoram	2	268
25	Nagaland	0	0
26	Odisha	0	0
27	Puducherry	0	0
28	Punjab	7	146
29	Rajasthan	0	0
30	Sikkim	2	18
31	Tamil Nadu	72	80251
32	Telangana	0	0
33	Tripura	3	1323
34	Uttar Pradesh	373	1051061
35	Uttarakhand	4	1001
36	West Bengal	88	82597
	Total	863	1442689

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION No- 2040

ANSWERED ON- 12/12/2024

eCOURTS PROJECT PHASE III IMPLEMENTATION

✓ 2040. DR. SYED NASEER UJJAIN :

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

- (a) the current status of the eCourts Phase III Project implementation, including specific milestones achieved to date;
- (b) whether any region-specific challenges have been encountered, particularly in rural or under-resourced areas; and
- (c) the measures being taken to address them?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary. The Department of Justice, Government of India, is implementing eCourts Project in close coordination with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner, through the respective High Courts. The eCourts Phase III (2023-2027) has been approved by the Union Cabinet in Sep'2023 at an outlay of ₹7,210 crore, which is over four times the funding for Phase II. The project envisages various new digital initiatives, such as establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts that aim to bring court proceedings under a digital format, digitization of court records (both legacy records and pending cases), expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, jails and hospitals, scope of online courts beyond adjudication of traffic violations, saturation of all court complexes with eSewa kendras, state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval and supporting the digitized court records, software applications, live streaming, and electronic evidence etc., use of emerging

technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc. for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc. Thus, the efforts of the Government of integrating technology with the governance may prove to be a game changer in eCourts Phase III, ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country. Under eCourts Phase III, an amount of Rs. 825 crores was allotted in FY 23-24 and expenditure of Rs 768.25 Cr (93.11%) was made. During FY 24-25, an allocation of Rs 1500 Cr. in the BE has been received, of which Rs. 1232.17Cr. has already been released to the various High Courts.

The eCourts Mission Mode Project, a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India, aims to universalize various e-initiatives with a view to make justice accessible for all. Some of these initiatives are delineated below:-

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case information and more than 27.64 crore orders / judgments (as on date).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open- Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (Over 4 lakhs SMS sent daily), Email (Over 6 lakhs sent daily), multilingual eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC, (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 2.69 crore downloads till 31.10.2024) and JustIS app for judges (20,719 downloads till 31.10.2024).
- v. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,48,21,789 cases while the

High Courts heard 90,21,629 cases (totalling 3.38 crore) till 31.10.2024 using video conferencing system. The Supreme Court of India held 7,54,443 hearings from 23.03.2020 to 04.06.2024 through video conferencing. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

vi. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in the High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Calcutta & the Supreme Court of India, thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.

vii. Virtual Courts in 21 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. Over 6 crore cases (6,00,29,546) have been handled by these virtual courts and in more than 62 lakhs (62,97,544) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 649.81 crores have been realized till 31.10.2024.

viii. e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7.

ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. Therefore e-Payment system was launched for hassle free transfer of fee etc.

x. Digitization is critical to the eCourts project to provide various citizen centric services to litigants and lawyers. It covers digitization of the entire court record - both legacy records and fresh filing of cases. It is at the core of the ICT enablement initiatives in the judicial domain and for effective hearing of court proceedings in virtual or paperless courts, availability of court records in digitised form is imperative. Over more than 406.48 crore pages (4,06,48,37,964) of court records has been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts as on 31.10.2024.

xi. To bridge the digital divide, 1394 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in District Courts and 36 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in High Courts have been rolled out to provide citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. These also provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of

e- filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.

xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.

xiii. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

xiv. As a part of the project, 605 trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services provided under the eCourts project has been conducted from May 2020 to October 2024 covering nearly 6,64,144 stakeholders, including High Court Judges, Judges of the District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers among Judges/DSA, Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates.

As such, no region specific challenges have been encountered particularly in rural or under resource areas in terms of implementation of eCourt project. It is, however, envisaged that the eCourt project will go a long way in bridging the digital divide and resolve the problem of digital exclusion by multiple initiatives, which are to be implemented across all States uniformly.

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION No-2041

ANSWERED ON- 12/12/2024

MODERNISATION OF COURTS

✓ 2041. SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA :

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

- (a) the current status of digitisation efforts in the judiciary to enable virtual hearings;
- (b) the current budget allocation for digitisation and court modernisation efforts and the manner in which cost-effective implementation of these initiatives is ensured; and
- (c) Government's plans to integrate Artificial Intelligence or other advanced technologies to assist in case processing, legal research or decision making within the judiciary?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Video conferencing (VC) emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. To bring uniformity and standardization in the conduct of VC, an overarching order was passed by the Supreme Court of India on 6th April 2020, which gave legal sanctity and validity to the court hearings done through VC. Further, VC rules were framed by a 5-Judge Committee of the Supreme Court, which were circulated to all the High Courts for adoption after local contextualization. These are available on the website of the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. All the High Courts, except High Court of Madras, have adopted Video Conferencing rules. The High Court of Madras has its own VC rules, similar to earlier circulated rules.

Under eCourts Mission Mode Project, during Phase I of the project video conferencing facility has been operationalised between 488 court complexes & 342 corresponding jails. In

eCourts Phase II of the project, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes, including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms (High Court-Wise details attached at Annexure I). VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, the numbers of cases dealt with (virtual hearings) on video conferencing in High Courts and District Courts is at Annexure II).

(b): Under eCourts Project Phase-III, for the FY 2024-25, Rs. 110.21 crore has been allocated to the digitisation component.

The eCourts Project is being implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. The eCommittee of Supreme Court of India is responsible for the policy planning, strategic direction and guidance for implementation of eCourts project. The Department of Justice releases funds to High Courts on the recommendation of eCommittee of Supreme Court of India.

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

Under eCourts Project Phase-III, an amount of Rs. 177.18 crore has been allocated for Future Technological Advancements component. This components has subsets like Machine Learning (ML), Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) etc.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2041 for 12/12/2024 regarding modernisation of courts. High Court wise details of VC equipment for Court Rooms is as follows:

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

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

Annexure II

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2041 for 12/12/2024 regarding modernisation of courts. The numbers of cases dealt with (virtual hearings) on video conferencing in High Courts and District Courts are as below:

S. No.	High Court	High Courts	District Courts	Grand Total
1	Allahabad	245882	6060607	6306489
2	Andhra Pradesh	403795	1434743	1838538
3	Bombay	63545	193991	257536
4	Calcutta	159069	91824	250893
5	Chhattisgarh	103987	269275	373262
6	Delhi	322024	5880587	6202611
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	2711	8277	10988
8	Gauhati - Assam	266892	471387	738279
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	4100	13268	17368
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	1143	893	2036
11	Gujarat	410580	215153	625733
12	Himachal Pradesh	184635	188666	373301
13	Jammu & Kashmir	261536	539402	800938
14	Jharkhand	222340	696882	919222
15	Karnataka	1256124	162330	1418454
16	Kerala	165926	624823	790749
17	Madhya Pradesh	678660	1016653	1695313
18	Madras	1480662	392067	1872729
19	Manipur	51226	16246	67472
20	Meghalaya	5929	55838	61767
21	Orissa	337746	310089	647835
22	Patna	277502	2778508	3056010
23	Punjab & Haryana	607628	2888346	3495974
24	Rajasthan	242675	217992	460667
25	Sikkim	658	15793	16453
26	Telangana	1153779	194005	1347784
27	Tripura	22360	36238	58598
28	Uttarakhand	88515	47904	136419
	Total	9021629	24821789	33843418

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2042
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

JS (Gm)

IMPLEMENTATION OF GRAM NYAYALAYAS SCHEME

✓ 2042. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) whether the implementation of Gram Nyayalayas Scheme in mission mode has effectively improved access to justice in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details of the metrics used to measure its success and the progress achieved so far;
- (c) whether there are specific challenges faced in the operationalization of Gram Nyayalayas across the country;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to address these challenges;
- (e) whether Government has allocated sufficient resources for the effective functioning of Gram Nyayalayas; and
- (f) if so, the details of the budgetary allocations and their utilization in the last three years?

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 Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass roots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities. In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred on a Gram Nyayalaya by this Act, the State Government, after consultation with the High Court, may, by notification, establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats. The Act therefore, does not make it mandatory for the States to establish Gram Nyayalayas.

Under the Gram Nyayalayas Scheme, the number of Gram Nyayalayas have increased from 152 operational Gram Nyayalayas in 2014 to 313 as on date (rise of 51.43% from 2014). Out of 4,20,129 cases received since the year 2020, 2,96,634 cases have been disposed of till date, thereby reducing the burden of petty civil and criminal cases on the district courts and providing the much needed relief to the rural population in terms of reduced expenses of litigation.

(c) & (d): According to certain studies, the main reasons for slow progress in setting up of Gram Nyayalayas include, non-filling of the post of Nyayadhikaries in many States, non-availability of public prosecutors, notaries and general shortage of first-class judicial magistrates, limited pecuniary jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalayas, insufficient staff, inadequate financial backing from States, reluctance from legal and state authorities and lack of community awareness. Besides, the issue of overlapping jurisdiction with regular courts is another reason for slow take off in respect of Gram Nyayalayas in some States. Moreover, many States have their own parallel systems of village courts functioning at panchayat level.

To set up Gram Nyayalayas in the country, it was decided in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 7th April, 2013 that the State Government and High Courts should take decision on setting up Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account the local issues and situations, as it is a voluntary scheme. The Central Government has been urging the States through meetings to operationalize the already notified Gram Nyayalayas on a regular basis.

(e) & (f): A sum of Rs. 8340.00 lakh has been released to the States since the inception of the Scheme in 2009-10. The details of the budgetary allocation in the last three years is Rs. 800 lakh (2021-22), Rs. 1000 lakh (2022-23) and Rs. 1000 lakh (2023-24). However, release of funds to the States/UTs is contingent upon demand made by them in this regard as it is a reimbursement based scheme.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2043
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2024

JS (PPP)

JUDGES-POPULATION RATIO IN THE COUNTRY

✓ 2043. SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

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

- (a) the judges-population ratio in the country at present along with the vacancies in the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate courts in the country, State/ court-wise;
- (b) whether the ratio of judges in our country is very less as compared to the developed countries; and
- (c) 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): For Calculating the judge-population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Department uses the criterion of using the population as per Census 2011 and sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts in that particular year.

Based on the population as per Census 2011 which was 1210.19 million and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2024, the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population.

Further, in case of District and Subordinate courts, the need for appropriate number of judges and the consequent requirement for filling up of the vacancies lies in the domain of respective High Courts and the State Governments. However, due to consistent efforts, there has been a marked increase in the judges' strength with the sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court being increased from 31 in 2014 to 34 Judges (including Chief Justice of India). In the case of High Courts, the sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has increased

from 906 in 2014 to 1122 Judges, as on 09.12.2024, with a total of 216 new posts of High Court Judges being created since 2014. The District Judiciary's sanctioned strength has increased from 19,518 judicial officers in 2014 to 25,741 judicial officers, as on 09.12.2024. The status of sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court as on 09.12.2024, are 34, 33 and 1(One) respectively. Further, the details of sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts (State/UT wise) are at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

Further, the Courts in various countries operate in varying environments on account of difference in availability of infrastructure, use of technology, docket ratio (population case filing ratio), provisions of substantive laws and procedures in courts etc. The Government of India is committed towards ensuing progressive improvement in the Justice Delivery System, through various interventions.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2043 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'JUDGES-POPULATION RATIO IN THE COUNTRY'.

Vacant Positions of Judges in the High Courts as on 09.12.2024

Sl No.	Name of High Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	81	0	81	38	41	79
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	7	29	6	2	8
3	Bombay	71	23	94	52	15	67	19	8	27
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	33	10	43	21	8	29
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	9	7	16	8	-2	6
6	Delhi	45	15	60	33	2	35	12	13	25
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	19	5	24	3	3	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	32	0	32	7	13	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	11	0	11	2	4	6
10	J & K and Ladakh	19	6	25	12	3	15	7	3	10
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	18	0	18	2	5	7
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	44	6	50	3	9	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	30	15	45	5	-3	2
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
15	Madras	56	19	75	55	11	66	1	8	9
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	1	4	0	0	0
18	Orissa	24	9	33	19	0	19	5	9	14
19	Patna	40	13	53	35	0	35	5	13	18
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	48	4	52	16	17	33
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	32	0	32	6	12	18
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	24	3	27	8	7	15
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	6	0	6	3	2	5
	Total	846	276	1122	664	90	754	182	186	368

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2043 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING 'JUDGES-POPULATION RATIO IN THE COUNTRY'.

Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts as on 09.12.2024

Sl No.	State/Uts	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	623	564	59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	33	11
3.	Assam	485	461	24
4.	Bihar	2019	1536	483
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	663	465	198
7.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	7	6	1
8.	Delhi	897	803	94
9.	Goa	50	40	10
10.	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
11.	Haryana	781	542	239
12.	Himachal Pradesh	179	160	19
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	322	276	46
14.	Jharkhand	705	506	199
15.	Karnataka	1375	1156	219
16.	Kerala	611	534	77
17.	Ladakh	17	11	6
18.	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1691	337
20.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
21.	Manipur	62	49	13
22.	Meghalaya	99	56	43
23.	Mizoram	74	45	29
24.	Nagaland	34	24	10
25.	Odisha	1041	841	200
26.	Puducherry	36	26	10
27.	Punjab	804	723	81
28.	Rajasthan	1641	1313	328
29.	Sikkim	35	23	12
30.	Tamil Nadu	1369	1023	346
31.	Telangana	560	445	115
32.	Tripura	133	109	24
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3700	2704	996
34.	Uttarakhand	298	270	28
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	1105	875	230
36.	West Bengal			
TOTAL		25741	20479	5262

Source: - MIS portal of Department of Justice.

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

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No. 256

ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

Case allocation among panel of counsels

Judicial Sec. (L.D.)

✓ 256 # Shri Baburam Nishad.

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

- (a) the manner in which new guidelines for case allocation among the panel counsels would be implemented in various Ministries;
- (b) the measures to ensure compliance with these guidelines by all designated litigation incharges; and
- (c) the manner in which Government will monitor compliance of case allocation guidelines by litigation incharges?

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 RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 256 FOR 19.12.2024 REGARDING CASE ALLOCATION AMONG PANEL OF COUNSELS

(a) The new guidelines issued by the Department of Legal Affairs, vide Office Memorandum No. J-16/20/2024-Judicial dated 16th October, 2024, for fair and transparent allocation of cases is a self-speaking guideline. Para 3(i) to 3(v) of the OM dated 16.10.2024 specifically contains the instructions to be followed by the designated litigation In-charges in allocation of cases among the panel counsels. These are:

- 3(i) cases of ordinary/routine nature may be assigned to Panel Counsel (except Addl. SGI/Dy. SGI/ Senior Panel Counsel) on turn basis;
- 3(ii) if the Ministry/Department recommends the name of a particular Panel Counsel in writing, it should have proper justification;
- 3(iii) important, sensitive, and high stake matters including those involving constitutional *vires* of the provision being under challenge may be assigned to Addl. SGI/Dy. SGI/ Senior Panel Counsel and/or on the specific request in writing of the Ministry/Department concerned;
- 3(iv) two or more cases in which substantially identical questions of law or facts are involved and where the main difference is in the names, address of the parties concerned amount of money involved etc. irrespective of the fact whether all such cases are heard together or not, may be assigned to the same Panel counsel and not different ones;
- 3(v) a Panel Counsel, except Addl. SGI/ Dy. SGI/ Sr. Panel Counsel, should at a given point have not more than 10% cases out of total pendency of Central Government litigation before the High Court/ Tribunal/ District & Subordinate Court concerned;

The guidelines issued vide Department of Legal Affairs' OM No. J-12017/1/2019-Judicial dated 21.10.2019 and modified vide O.M. No. J-12017/1/2022-Judicial dated 13.09.2022 describes procedure regarding allocation of cases pertaining to Union of India amongst the Panel Counsel for the Courts/Tribunal by the designated litigation In-charges.

In the said O.M.s it has been specified that in respect of cases before Supreme Court of India, allocation of cases to be done by Ld. Attorney General for India and thereafter by Ld. Solicitor General of India.

For Various Courts/Tribunals at Delhi, the In-charge of attached offices of Department of Legal Affairs i.e. Litigation (High Court/CAT), Litigation (Lower Court) Section shall be responsible for engagement of Law Officers/Panel

Counsels for High Court, CAT (PB) and other Tribunals in Delhi; District and Subordinate Courts respectively. For cases before the High Court of Delhi, allocation of cases to be done in consultation with the Additional Solicitor General of India concerned.

For various Courts/Tribunal at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru, In-charge Branch Secretariats of Department of Legal Affairs at these places have been entrusted with the responsibility of engagement of Panel Counsel for respective Court/Tribunal within their jurisdiction. However, for cases before High Courts (PB) at these places, consultation with the Additional Solicitor General of India concerned will be required for allocation of cases to Law Officers/Panel Counsel.

In places except those mentioned above, the engagement of Panel Counsel is done as under:

For High Courts- by Additional Solicitor General of India (ASGI) or Deputy Solicitor General of India (DSGI),

For remaining CAT, AFT, NGT Benches-by concerned Senior Central Government Standing Counsel,

For remaining District and Subordinate Courts-by concerned Standing Government Counsel.

- (b) & (c): The new guidelines issued by Department of Legal Affairs', vide O.M. dated 16.10.2024, requires designated litigation In-charges to send monthly report of allocation of cases to Panel Counsels on regular basis to Department of Legal Affairs through email.

In addition the Department of Legal Affairs has developed an online portal namely, 'Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS)' in the month of February 2016. It is a web based application used for monitoring of all court cases involving Union of India. Further, it is easy to access and it available 24X7 to various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, its organizations, Law Officers and the empanelled Counsels, enabling to them to upload data related to cases of Union of India, pertaining to them.

The aforesaid new guidelines, issued vide O.M. dated 16.10.2024, insists upon Panel Counsels to get their LIMBS ID activated and regularly update the status of cases assigned to them, which are to be monitored on LIMBS portal by the Administrative Ministry/ Department.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2815

ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

SHORTAGE OF JUDGES

✓ 2815. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) the current sanctioned strength and the actual number of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts as of September 2024;
- (b) the State-wise breakdown of the shortage of judges in district courts, including the number of vacancies and the impact thereof on case pendency;
- (c) whether Government considered any alternative measures; such as increasing the number of Judges per court or improving case management systems, to mitigate the effects of the judicial vacancy crisis and the criteria for deciding number of Judges in courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The sanctioned strength and working strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts is at **Annexure-I**. The State-wise sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies in the district courts is at **Annexure-II**.

The sanctioned strength of Supreme Court Judges has been increased from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI) w.e.f. 03.08.2019. Since 2014, the strength of Judges in the High Courts has been increased from 906 in 2014 to 1122 as on date.

Disposal of cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Timely disposal of cases is contingent upon several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of stake-holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures as also frequent adjournments. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency of judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

Annexure-I**Sanctioned strength and working strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts (As on 30.09.2024)**

Sl. No.	Supreme Court/ High Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
	Supreme Court	34	33
1	Allahabad	160	84
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	26
3	Bombay	94	64
4	Calcutta	72	44
5	Chhattisgarh	22	17
6	Delhi	60	37
7	Gauhati	30	24
8	Gujarat	52	29
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	15
11	Jharkhand	25	19
12	Karnataka	62	50
13	Kerala	47	40
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	35
15	Madras	75	66
16	Manipur	5	4
17	Meghalaya	4	3
18	Orissa	33	20
19	Patna	53	33
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	54
21	Rajasthan	50	33
22	Sikkim	3	3
23	Telangana	42	27
24	Tripura	5	5
25	Uttarakhand	11	7

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy statement in District and Subordinate Court (As on 30.09.2024):

Sl. No.	States & Uts	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	618	560	58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	33	11
3.	Assam	485	461	24
4.	Bihar	2019	1536	483
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	663	465	198
7.	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
8.	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
9.	Delhi	897	803	94
10.	Goa	50	40	10
11.	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
12.	Haryana	773	555	218
13.	Himachal Pradesh	179	160	19
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	322	273	49
15.	Jharkhand	705	506	199
16.	Karnataka	1375	1125	250
17.	Kerala	610	539	71
18.	Ladakh	17	11	6
19.	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1697	331
21.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
22.	Manipur	62	49	13
23.	Meghalaya	99	56	43
24.	Mizoram	74	45	29
25.	Nagaland	34	24	10
26.	Odisha	1041	843	198
27.	Puducherry	36	26	10
28.	Punjab	804	723	81
29.	Rajasthan	1641	1315	326
30.	Sikkim	35	23	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	1369	1023	346
32.	Telangana	560	445	115
33.	Tripura	133	109	24
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3698	2717	981
35.	Uttarakhand	298	270	28
36.	Andaman and Nicobar			
37.	West Bengal	1105	875	230

Source: - MIS portal of Department of Justice.

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

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2816
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

JS(hm)

e-FILING IN LOWER JUDICIARY

✓ 2816 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY :

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the poor status of e-filing adoption in the lower judiciary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken by Government to encourage adoption of e-filing, especially due to issues like low internet bandwidth, server problems and power disruptions;
- (c) whether Government plans to introduce training sessions for lawyers and court clerks on the e-filing process and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government plans to introduce any Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning tools for a smoother e-filing plans 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): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project, e-Filing has been made functional and it is available for all High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts across India. New e-Filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers, with upgraded features such as Vakalatnama, pleading, e-payments, applications and portfolio. Draft e-Filing rules have been framed by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India (SCI) which were circulated to all High Courts for implementation of online filing. These are available on the website of eCommittee, SCI (<https://filing.ecourts.gov.in>). A total of 25 High Courts,

except High Court of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Itanagar Bench of Gauhati High Court, have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.10.2024.

To promote e-Filing, the following further measures have also been taken:

- Vide D.O. letter dt. 09.10.2021, instructions have been issued by the Chairperson, eCommittee, Supreme Court to all High Courts to ensure that all Government litigation should be e-Filed.
- Vide D.O. Letter dt. 30.11.2021, Department of Justice has also advised all Central Ministries/ Departments to use e-Filing in all Government litigation.
- Vide D.O. Letter dt. 03.12.2021, Department of Legal Affairs has advised all Ministries/ Departments of the Government of the India, as well as all the Law Officers for e-filing in respect of litigation, on behalf of the Union of India by the Ministries/Departments concerned, including Autonomous Bodies/Subordinate Offices/Attached Offices and PSUs, under their administrative control.

Till October 2024, 43,68,894 cases were filed in District & Taluka Courts using e-Filing facility. The details are placed at Annexure I.

Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, the connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of the Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed. The Wide Area Network (WAN) Project under eCourts project is aimed at connecting all District and Subordinate court complexes, spread across the country using various technologies like Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS), Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Radio Frequency (RF), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Submarine Cable etc. This forms the backbone for the eCourts project, ensuring data connectivity in Courts across the length and breadth of the country. At present, connectivity to 209 new court complexes is being provided by BSNL using Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) Technology, with the facility of opting for multiple connectivity, as well as service providers.

During Phase II of the eCourts Project, solar power system were installed in 5% of court complexes (242 court complexes) to provide power backup and un-interrupted power supply to courts. Under Phase III of the eCourts Project, there is a provision for installation of 1530 Solar power facilities, for ensuring seamless availability of ICT infrastructure, at an outlay of Rs. 229.5 crore.

Further, 112 training programmes for the advocates/ advocate clerks have been conducted by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India in every State, in coordination with the State Judicial Academies of the respective High Courts. These training programmes have interalia covered the topic of e-Filing.

(d): At present, the Supreme Court of India has adopted the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) language technology in translation of judicial documents. AI has also been deployed for transcribing oral arguments, particularly in Constitution Bench matters since February 2023. However, under Phase III of the eCourts Project, there is a component regarding use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc. at an outlay of Rs.53.57 crore.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2816 for 19/12/2024 regarding e-Filing in lower judiciary. The details of total cases e-Filed is as below:

S.No.	State Name	Total Cases e-Filed in District Court
1	Allahabad	8160
2	Andhra Pradesh	4
3	Bombay	1259367
4	Calcutta	1468
5	Chhattisgarh	75
6	Delhi	933307
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	0
8	Gauhati – Assam	14441
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	0
10	Gauhati – Nagaland	0
11	Gujarat	24
12	Himachal Pradesh	83787
13	Jammu & Kashmir	98906
14	Jharkhand	697
15	Karnataka	114939
16	Kerala	772449
17	Madhya Pradesh	588
18	Madras	924906
19	Manipur	4021
20	Meghalaya	1
21	Odisha	51982
22	Patna	3654
23	Punjab & Haryana	32535
24	Rajasthan	3068
25	Sikkim	5051
26	Telangana	286
27	Tripura	7977
28	Uttarakhand	47201
	Total	4368894

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2817
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

Disclosure of assets by High Court Judges

JS (MKG)

✓ 2817 SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that only 13 per cent of High Court Judges have declared their asset in public, with significant variation across States, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps being taken to address the lack of uniformity in disclosure practices across High Courts; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government for balancing transparency in judicial accountability along with concerns about privacy and confidentiality?

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 details on the declaration of assets by the Judges of the High Courts are not maintained centrally. The "Restatement of values of Judicial Life" adopted by a full Court Meeting of Supreme Court on 07.05.1997 lays down certain judicial standards which are to be followed by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The Full Bench in its meeting dated 26th August, 2009 decided to disclose the statement of assets submitted by the Judges on the basis of Resolution dated 7th May 1997 to public by putting it on Supreme Court website. Further, the Full Court in its meeting dated 8th September 2009 resolved to put the

declaration of assets in the Supreme Court website on or before 31st October 2009 and that is purely on Voluntary basis.

The Supreme Court of India constituted a Committee of Judges of the Supreme Court to examine the issue of mandatory declaration of assets by the Judges of the Supreme Court of India on the recommendations of the Departmental related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievance, Law and Justice. The Committee observed that the issue pertaining to declaration of assets by the Judges of the higher judiciary and furnishing of such information under the Right to Information Act, 2005, has been extensively examined and dealt with in the Constitution Bench judgment of this Court in CPIO, Supreme Court of India Vs. Subhash Chandra Agrawal, reported in (2020) 5 SCC 481. The procedure adopted and followed in terms of the decisions of the Full Court are in conformity with the aforesaid decision. The Committee reiterated the earlier decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court that every Judge should make a declaration of his/her assets on assuming office and also whenever any acquisition of a substantial nature is made to the Chief Justice. This also includes the declaration of the CJI. The Committee proposed that the official website of the Supreme Court should display the name of the Judges, who have made declaration of assets to the Chief Justice. The said proposal has been approved by the CJI and accordingly, the name of the Judges have been displayed on the official website of the Supreme Court.

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

Rajya Sabha

Unstarred Question No. 2818

ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

Judicial Sec (L.A)

Assessing performance of Government lawyers and the lawyers on its panel

✓ 2818 Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade:

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

- (a) the manner in which Government assesses the performance of its lawyers and the lawyers on its panel;
- (b) the actions taken to eliminate underperforming Government lawyers and those on the panel;
- (c) the actions taken to establish a consistent and comprehensive monitoring/evaluation mechanism for the performance of Government lawyers and Government empanelled lawyers to ensure strong protection of the interests of Government and its agencies/PSUs; and
- (d) the steps taken to create an online platform for uploading data related to each Government cases for Government lawyers and those on Government panel ?

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) There is a system of In-charge litigations for all the Courts/Tribunals in the country, who submit monthly report with regard to allocation of cases and performance of the Panel Counsel to Department of Legal Affairs. Further, the feedback/complaints received from Ministries/Departments against performance of panel counsel are duly examined and where any delinquency is found the counsel is even removed from the Panel.

(d) The Department of Legal Affairs has launched Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) in the month of February 2016. It is a web-based application used for monitoring of all court cases involving Union of India. Further, it is innovative, easy to access and is available 24x7 to various Ministries/ Departments of the Union of India, its organisations, Law Officers and the empanelled Counsels, enabling them to upload data related to cases of Union of India, pertaining to them.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2819

ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

POST-RETIREMENT JOBS FOR JUDGES

✓ 2819. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has any recommendation of the 14th Law Commission, headed by MC Setalvad, that judges should not take up post-retirement jobs from Government and whether it also recommended setting the cooling-off period after retirement;
- (b) whether Government has any rules and criteria for the post-retirement jobs for the retired Chief justices of the Supreme Court, retired Judges of Supreme Court and retired High Court Judges; and
- (c) 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): The First Law Commission in its 14th Report to the Government, had made some recommendations on the matter. Article 124(7) of the Constitution of India prohibits a retired Judge of the Supreme Court to plead or act in any Court or before any authority within the territory of India. Similarly, Article 220 of the Constitution prohibits a retired Judge of a High Court to plead or act in any Court or before any authority in India except the Supreme Court and the other High Courts. These restrictions are based on legal ethics, i.e. a person who has held office of a Judge in Supreme Court or High Court shall not plead or act before any authority where he is capable of influencing decisions. The Constitution does not stipulate any cooling-off period.

The retired Judges at various levels could be appointed / engaged by the Government of India or Government of States / UTs or any other entity, contingent upon extant framework governing such appointments / engagements.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2820
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

VACANCIES OF JUDGES IN VARIOUS COURTS

✓ 2820 # SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) the details of vacancies of Judges in the lower courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court of the country at present;
- (b) the number of Judges retired and the number of Judges appointed against those vacancies during the last five years; and
- (c) whether Government would consider expediting the process of appointment of Judges in view of the pendency of cases in the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The details of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and the District and Subordinate Courts of the country at present are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Vacancy
1.	Supreme Court	01
2.	High Courts	368
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	5262

(b): 32 Judges from the Supreme Court and 455 Judges from the High Court have retired during 01.01.2019 -12.12.2024. During the same period, 40 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court and 576 Judges have been appointed in the High Courts.

Further, the number of Judges retired and the number of Judges appointed against those vacancies in District and Subordinate Courts are not centrally maintained. However, a statement showing sanctioned strength and vacancies over the last five years in district and subordinate courts, State-wise is at *Annexure-I*.

(c): Filling up of vacant positions in the case of 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.

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2820 FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES OF JUDGES IN VARIOUS COURT'.

Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years													
Sl. No	State/UTs	As on 31.12.2019		As on 31.12.2020		As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023		As on 13.12.2024	
		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	597	68	607	97	607	116	607	73	618	83	623	59
2	Telangana	413	79	474	96	474	49	560	150	560	115	560	115
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	14	41	9	41	9	41	8	44	10	44	11
4	Assam	441	29	466	54	467	31	485	60	485	46	485	24
5	Bihar	1925	776	1936	503	1954	560	2016	667	2016	1550	2019	483
6	Chandigarh	30	1	30	4	30	0	30	0	30	1	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	468	75	480	93	482	73	527	90	562	139	663	198
8	D & N Haveli and Daman and Diu	7	1	7	1	3	1	7	1	7	1	7	1
9	Delhi	799	118	799	151	884	192	884	203	887	89	897	94
10	Goa	50	7	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10
11	Gujarat	1521	336	1521	369	1523	400	1582	431	1720	545	1720	535
12	Haryana	772	297	772	279	772	290	772	308	772	208	781	229
13	Himachal Pradesh	175	22	175	14	175	15	179	16	179	21	179	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	290	58	296	41	300	59	314	91	317	94	322	46
15	Ladakh			16	8	17	8	17	8	17	7	17	6
16	Jharkhand	677	216	675	131	675	152	694	186	693	181	705	199
17	Karnataka	2703	534	1357	286	1363	276	1365	233	1375	225	1375	219
18	Kerala	536	79	538	68	569	81	595	122	605	91	611	77
19	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	1	4	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	2021	401	2021	411	2021	469	2021	372	2028	298	2028	337

21	Maharashtra	2189	247	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250
22	Manipur	55	16	54	18	59	17	59	17	59	10	62	13
23	Meghalaya	97	48	97	48	97	48	99	48	99	42	99	43
24	Mizoram	64	18	64	21	65	23	74	33	74	33	74	29
25	Nagaland	33	8	33	7	34	10	34	10	34	10	34	10
26	Odisha	919	149	950	194	976	191	1001	234	1008	205	1041	200
27	Puducherry	26	15	26	15	26	15	28	17	29	19	36	10
28	Punjab	675	96	692	99	692	85	797	208	797	212	804	81
29	Rajasthan	1428	308	1489	197	1549	275	1587	331	1638	296	1641	328
30	Sikkim	25	6	25	5	28	8	30	9	35	12	35	12
31	Tamil Nadu	1255	175	1298	249	1316	234	1340	272	1371	331	1369	346
32	Tripura	120	24	120	23	122	25	128	20	128	20	133	24
33	Uttar Pradesh	3416	838	3634	1053	3634	1092	3647	1173	3696	1247	3700	996
34	Uttarakhand	294	66	297	42	299	28	299	30	298	27	298	28
35	West Bengal	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1105	230
36	A& N Island												
Total		25079	5208	24247	4929	24515	5175	25077	5764	25439	5428	25741	5262

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2821
ANSWERED ON - 19/12/2024

FAST TRACK COURTS

JS (PPP)
✓ 2821 Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- (a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) established in the country during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and
(b) whether it is a fact that West Bengal has the third highest functional FTCs, 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): Establishment of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for providing speedy justice in the country lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with their respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizens, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The Finance Commission had further urged the State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution for this purpose. The Union Government has requested the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. As per information made available by the High Courts, State-wise details of functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for the last 5 years are at **Annexure-I**.

(b): The details of top three states in terms of number of functional Fast Track Courts are at **Annexure-II**.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2821 FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2024 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK COURTS'

State/UT wise details of functional Fast Track Courts

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of functional FTCs				
		As on 31/12/2020	As on 31/12/2021	As on 31/12/2022	As on 31/12/2023	As on 31/10/2024
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21	21	22	22	21
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	14	16	16	15	15
5.	Bihar	33	0	0	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	23	23	23	23	27
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Delhi	5	7	10	27	26
10.	Goa	0	0	4	6	4
11.	Gujarat	0	35	54	54	54
12.	Haryana	5	6	6	6	6
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	3	3	3
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	4	4	8	8
15.	Jharkhand	40	6	34	36	41
16.	Karnataka	13	18	0	0	0
17.	Kerala	23	28	0	0	0
18.	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2	0	1	0	0
21.	Maharashtra	116	110	111	95	101
22.	Manipur	6	6	6	6	6
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	2	2	2	2	2
25.	Nagaland	1	0	0	0	0
26.	Odisha	0	19	0	0	0
27.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	7	7	7	7	7
29.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Sikkim	2	2	2	2	2
31.	Tamil Nadu	73	74	73	72	72
32.	Telangana	29	35	0	0	0
33.	Tripura	11	11	3	3	3
34.	Uttar Pradesh	389	376	372	372	373
35.	Uttarakhand	4	4	7	4	4
36.	West Bengal	87	88	88	88	88
TOTAL		907	898	848	851	863

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2821 FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2024 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK COURTS'**List of States/UTs having highest number of functional Fast Track Courts (As on 31.10.2024)**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of functional FTCs
1.	Uttar Pradesh	373
2.	Maharashtra	101
3.	West Bengal	88

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2822
ANSWERED ON - 19/12/2024

JS (W/KG)

INFRASTRUCTURE IN LOK ADALATS

✓ 2822 SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey to assess the adequacy of infrastructure in Lok Adalats, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is aware that Lok Adalats suffer from inadequate infrastructure, facilities, staff and training as highlighted by the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, if so, the steps taken by Government regarding the same?

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 Lok Adalats are organized on a non-working day of the Courts so that the Court's existing infrastructure can be used for periodic Lok Adalats. Every year, NALSA issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats. During the current year, National Lok Adalats were held on 9th March, 11th May, 14th September and 14th December. Similarly, National Lok Adalats are scheduled to be held on 8th March, 10th May, 13th September and 13th December during the year 2025. The State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) have a specific role in organizing Lok Adalats in their State, in coordination with all stakeholders.

The grants-in-aid provided to NALSA by the Central Government is used only for carrying out the various legal services activities and programmes including organizing of Lok Adalats. It cannot be used for infrastructure development of local courts. NALSA has issued instructions to all SLSAs to take up the matter of lack of infrastructure facilities and

(1)

staff wherever required for strengthening Lok Adalats at the State level with the respective State/UT governments and High Courts.

The primary responsibility to provide the required infrastructure to the District and Subordinate Courts rests with the State/UT Government concerned. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms, to supplement the resource of the State/UT Government concerned. Presently, the fund sharing pattern of the Scheme is 90:10 (Centre:State) for the 8 North-Eastern and 2 Himalayan States and 60:40 for remaining States. There is a provision for 100% assistance in case of Union Territories. As on date, Rs. 11,758.55 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,940 as on 30.11.2024, under this scheme.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2823

ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

Population Control Bill

✓ 2823 Shri Sanjay Raut:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering the implementation of laws or policies aimed at encouraging smaller families across all communities, including a two-child policy, while ensuring the protection of human rights and individual freedoms;
- (b) if so, the specific details of these proposed policies and the timeline for their implementation; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for not pursuing such policies and the manner in which Government plans to address the challenges of population growth?

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 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has informed that India has achieved Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.0 as per NFHS-5 (2019-21), which is aligned with the National Population Policy 2000 and the National Health Policy 2017 (TFR of 2.1)

The MoH&FW has further informed that it focuses on achieving and maintaining replacement levels of fertility by raising awareness about healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies for the well-being of mother and child, providing for the availability of family planning services, and approving the budgets proposed by the states in the Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) based on their specific needs to manage fertility. Various schemes such as Expanded Contraceptive Choices, Mission Parivar Vikas, Compensation scheme for sterilization acceptors, Post-pregnancy contraception, 'World Population Day Campaign' and 'Vasectomy Fortnight', Home Delivery of Contraceptives Scheme by ASHAs, Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS) has also been implemented by the Government under Family Planning Programme.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No- 2824

ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

NYAYA MITRA IN THE DISTRICT COURT

53(WK9)
✓ 2824 Smt. Kiran Choudhry:

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

- (a) the criteria adopted to appoint Nyaya Mitras in the district courts of various States under the Nyaya Mitra Scheme; and
- (b) whether Government intends to appoint Nyaya Mitras in the district courts in Haryana?

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): Nyaya Mitra programme was launched in April, 2017 with an objective to reduce pendency of cases in the Courts. It aimed to facilitate disposal of 10 to 15 years old cases which included civil cases such as matrimonial, accident claim cases and also criminal cases pending in High Courts, District and Subordinate Courts. Since the introduction of Nyaya Mitra programme, a total of 39 Nyaya Mitras were positioned in various districts courts of the States of Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Nyaya Mitras were not engaged in the States other than mentioned above. After due review of the progress of the scheme over the last few years and considering the implementation related issues, it was decided to discontinue the scheme from the Financial Year 2023-2024.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2825
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

PENDENCY IN VARIOUS COURTS

✓ 2825. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) the total number of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts respectively of the country;
- (b) the total number of cases pending in the High Courts and lower courts of Gujarat, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh respectively;
- (c) the overall SFV (Sanctioned, Filled and Vacant) positions of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts respectively of the country; and
- (d) the overall SFV positions of Judges in the High Courts and lower courts of Gujarat, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh respectively?

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 National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), total number of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts of the country as on 12.12.2024 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending Cases
1.	Supreme Court	82,640
2.	High Courts	61,80,878
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,62,34,646

Further, the total number of cases pending in the High Courts and lower courts of Gujarat, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh as on 12.12.2024 are as under:

Name of Court	Pending Cases in Gujarat	Pending Cases in Jharkhand	Pending Cases in Andhra Pradesh
High Courts	1,70,963	74,618	2,47,097
District and Subordinate Courts	16,90,643	5,47,214	9,04,462

(c) & (d): The sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Lower Courts of the country as on 12.12.2024 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1.	Supreme Court	34	33	01
2.	High Courts	1122	754	368
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	25741	20479	5262

Further, The sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of judges in the Gujarat, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh as on 12.12.2024 are as under:

Name of Court	Gujarat			Jharkhand			Andhra Pradesh		
	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V	SS	WS	V
High Courts	52	32	20	25	18	07	37	29	08
District and Subordinate Courts	1720	1185	535	705	506	199	623	564	59

SS (Sanctioned Strength), WS (Working Strength), V (Vacancy)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2826
ANSWERED ON - 19/12/2024

JSLMKA)

LOK ADALATS

✓ 2826 SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) the details of Lok Adalats organised in rural areas during the last three years to date, State-wise and place-wise;
- (b) the details of total number of cases settled in these Lok Adalats, State/UT-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether Government contemplates to make these Lok Adalats more effective and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the total number of Lok Adalats proposed to be organised during the current year, 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) and (b): The State/UT-wise and year-wise details of National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) organized and cases disposed of during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure-A, Annexure-B and Annexure-C respectively.
- (c): The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) vide National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 to organise more Lok Adalats so that pendency of cases could be reduced. Further in view of Covid, E-Lok Adalat was conceptualized which significantly improved access to justice for people who were otherwise unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. The first E-Lok Adalat was held on 27.06.2020 and since then E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 28 States / UTs, wherein 10.26 crore cases were taken up out of which 1.12 crore cases were disposed of.

(d): Every year, NALSA issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats. During the current year, National Lok Adalats were held on 9th March, 11th May, 14th September and 14th December. The State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per the local conditions and needs.

Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2826 for answering on 19.12.2024 raised by Shri S. Selvaganabathy, MP - Lok Adalats.

Statement containing the information of cases disposed (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in National Lok Adalats during the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (upto September, 2024).

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2021	2022	2023	2024
		Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3997	3310	1536	2319
2	Andhra Pradesh	122839	647956	671612	139472
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1054	1071	990	1463
4	Assam	39642	113989	164445	129525
5	Bihar	151620	305483	357765	265649
6	Chandigarh	16833	15569	63764	31149
7	Chhattisgarh	134548	1125318	1664237	2374635
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	172	1323	982	415
9	Daman & Diu	113	215	19650	8177
10	Delhi	154992	535025	671278	509192
11	Goa	1680	3934	3505	3007
12	Gujarat	748722	1185571	1863177	1584194
13	Haryana	123413	673487	985650	1010654
14	Himachal Pradesh	35556	111150	150181	128235
15	Jammu & Kashmir	166544	390496	404665	446944
16	Jharkhand	232473	1121405	2822947	3501128
17	Karnataka	1277856	3444607	14840452	10488183
18	Kerala	68681	136101	57726	46886
19	Ladakh	1463	1444	1781	1624
20	Lakshadweep	7	129	41	35
21	Madhya Pradesh	347333	419776	536105	357346
22	Maharashtra	2440375	4754239	3543736	3588920
23	Manipur	794	1343	437	708
24	Meghalaya	852	956	680	756
25	Mizoram	790	4432	4087	951
26	Nagaland	941	888	801	782
27	Odisha	35557	337065	348288	565104
28	Puducherry	5084	6405	6297	3099
29	Punjab	138175	392256	760712	840072
30	Rajasthan	286834	4572315	16586071	8240293
31	Sikkim	110	232	126	76
32	Tamil Nadu	191604	447536	355762	243724
33	Telangana	349902	1611677	5591849	13399009
34	Tripura	1070	4814	15724	32884
35	Uttar Pradesh	5551793	18698973	31644594	28258464
36	Uttarakhand	20882	67438	85032	58465
37	West Bengal	133736	788082	1115532	1006326
	Grand Total	12788037	41926010	85342217	77269865

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2826 for answering on 19.12.2024 raised by Shri S. Selvaganabathy, MP - Lok Adalats.

Statement containing the information of cases disposed of (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in the State Lok Adalats and benches constituted during the years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto September, 2024).

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	4874	12123	4999	6720	80	1825	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	24	91	1	4	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	136	13672	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Bihar	1	6	9	574	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	69	37	30	538	32	1413	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	187	228	124	139	0	0	0	0
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	250	147103	60	11094	198	123151	182	141984
11	Goa	30	3209	43	1308	13	245	8	329
12	Gujarat	5157	15546	3805	19717	12	244	1569	6544
13	Haryana	54762	115797	43135	230018	92	29196	0	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	260	22031	142	4198	59	2880	26	1126
15	Jammu & Kashmir	24	3271	225	76683	134	28170	138	26422
16	Jharkhand	1310	22954	1523	10868	1495	33718	721	748810
17	Karnataka	412	2524	229	2632	0	0	0	0
18	Kerala	302	19226	607	23246	657	26231	291	1675
19	Ladakh	4	32	4	240	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	808	4110	1242	5367	1472	48996	548	1426
22	Maharashtra	6	28	30	341	38	580	2	1
23	Manipur	0	0	4	43	0	0	0	0
24	Meghalaya	23	89	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	17	204	41	1202	12	94	35	398
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	12	326	6	112422	3	244230	0	0
28	Puducherry	42	262	47	743	38	492	12	181
29	Punjab	339	1108	6	15	154	2268	0	0
30	Rajasthan	786	845	1202	1628	1086	1039	526	497
31	Sikkim	110	636	150	887	143	784	78	468
32	Tamil Nadu	759	13066	1295	16369	1336	34744	263	3104
33	Telangana	2827	7363	2604	25365	2474	171817	1267	12089
34	Tripura	93	11624	19	2492	62	25637	11	3796
35	Uttar Pradesh	57	31414	30	259125	172	411941	224	59246
36	Uttarakhand	25	8605	125	26498	102	17407	43	3816
37	West Bengal	774	74999	454	10830	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	74480	532529	62194	851309	9865	1207103	5944	1011912

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2826 for answering on 19.12.2024 raised by Shri S. Selvaganabathy, MP - Lok Adalats.

Statement containing the information of number of sittings of Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) and cases settled in these sittings during the years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto September, 2024)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		Sitting during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting during the year	Cases settled during the year
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	927	1406	1058	558	1349	1134	726	860
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	141	56	213	56	195	97	83	13
5	Bihar	482	221	313	157	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	240	687	241	10945	239	11511	124	6978
7	Chhattisgarh	1045	1199	1224	2028	1174	6749	575	5536
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	791	17395	773	18682	781	19337	412	10713
11	Goa	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	44
12	Gujarat	9	2238	1	8	0	0	0	0
13	Haryana	3547	30960	3416	72440	3659	107362	1821	33091
14	Himachal Pradesh	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	5144	32514	6216	26154	5826	35715	2958	14287
17	Karnataka	1292	5371	904	4588	603	4190	646	4573
18	Kerala	212	1104	226	2564	415	1527	196	219
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	886	574	1176	608	1071	409	422	156
22	Maharashtra	918	765	1017	1208	1023	485	503	497
23	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	742	1561	753	1612	1041	1891	632	968
28	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	4538	9967	4902	14545	4969	20279	2573	9869
30	Rajasthan	2960	3228	4435	5072	4230	5799	2600	2333
31	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Tamil Nadu	671	272	1121	528	1119	427	553	237
33	Telangana	108	6674	118	7540	104	12746	37	7086
34	Tripura	44	81	70	162	97	157	65	70
35	Uttar Pradesh	3961	1087	3720	1173	4476	2516	2005	1001
36	Uttarakhand	484	765	590	510	649	432	375	245
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	29153	118136	32487	171138	33020	232763	17309	98776

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2827
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

Impl Cell (V.A)

ADVOCATES REGISTERED WITH THE BAR COUNCILS IN UTTAR PRADESH

✓ 2827 # Dr. Dinesh Sharma:

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

- (a) the total number of advocates registered with the Bar Councils in Uttar Pradesh and the percentage of male, female and transgender advocates among them;
- (b) the details of the major initiatives taken by Government to improve the level of law education and legal practice in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (c) the total number of law colleges in the country and the estimated number of students passing out from such colleges every year?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The Bar Council of India (BCI) has informed as follows :

- i. *Total Number of Advocates registered with Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh- 4,69,900 (till 23.11.2024)*
- ii. *Total Male Advocates - 4,20,446*
- iii. *Total Female Advocates - 49,454*
- iv. *Total Transgender Advocates- No data available*

(b) It is submitted that the Advocates Act, 1961, provides the foundational legislative framework for regulating legal education and the legal profession in the country, including in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Under section 7(1) (h) and section 49(1) of the Act, the BCI is entrusted with the responsibility for promoting legal education and laying down its standards across the nation. The BCI has significantly revamped the curriculum allowing law colleges in Uttar Pradesh to offer integrated programs such as B.A. LL.B., B.Com .LL.B., B.Sc.,LL.B.,and BBA LL.B. These programs integrate general education with professional legal training, preparing students for diverse career paths in corporate law, criminal law, international law and more. The efforts to improve legal education and practice in Uttar Pradesh are driven by a cooperative framework involving the BCI, State Government, and Centre of legal educations (CLEs). Initiatives such as revamped curriculum, practical training modules, legal aid clinics and judicial and other internships have significantly contributed to enhancing the quality of legal education in the state.

(c) There are total 1942 registered Centre of legal educations (CLEs) across the country on BCI portal. The total number of students passing varies for every University to University every year. Hence, the data pertaining for students passing out each year is not available.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2828
ANSWERED ON - 19/12/2024

JS (MRG)

FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER
THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT

✓ 2828 SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

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

- (a) whether Government has compiled data on the total number of individuals who have accessed free legal aid services under the Legal Services Authorities Act in the last five years ;
- (b) whether awareness campaigns are being implemented to inform marginalized communities about these services;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has outlined specific budget allocations for legal aid programmes in the current fiscal year; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The details of persons who have accessed free legal aid services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the last five years are as under;

Years	Persons benefited
2019-20	12,12,137
2020-21	6,31,758
2021-22	63,69,643
2022-23	12,14,769
2023-24	15,50,164
2024-25 (upto September, 2024)	7,59,778

(b) and (c): Legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities on various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability, etc. Legal Services Authorities also prepare booklets and pamphlets in simple language on various laws and are distributed amongst the people. 4,30,306 and 1,90,231 legal awareness camps/programs organized by Legal Service Authorities during the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto September) were attended by around 4.49 crore and 1.61 crore persons respectively.

(d) and (e): National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been provided Rs. 200 crore under grants-in-aid during the current financial year 2024-25 for implementation of the Schemes/Legal Aid Services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. In addition, Rs 200 crore have been earmarked in Budget Estimate 2024-25 for implementation of the Central Sector Scheme namely; "Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme" during the current financial year. These funds are further allocated to the State Legal Service Authorities by NALSA for implementation of various legal aid schemes and programmes.

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2829

ANSWERED ON 19/12/2024

23rd Law Commission

Admin III (L.A)

✓ 2829. **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether Government has constituted the 23rd Law Commission recently;
- (b) if so, terms of reference given to the Commission;
- (c) whether Government asked Law Commission to study Uniform Civil Code; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): The 23rd Law Commission of India has been constituted *vide* order dated 2nd September, 2024 for a term of three years *w.e.f.* 01.09.2024. The terms of reference of the 23rd Law Commission of India are as under:-

(A) Review/Repeal of obsolete laws:

(i) Identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed.

(ii) Creating a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for periodic review of existing laws inter-alia for the undertaking of simplification of language and processes.

(iii) Identify laws which are not in harmony with the economic needs and requirements of the times and require amendments.

(iv) Identify laws which otherwise require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment.

(v) 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.

(vi) Consider references made to it by Ministries/Departments through the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, in respect of legislations having bearing on the working of more than one Ministry/Department.

(vii) Suggest suitable measures for quick redressal of citizens grievances, in the field of law.

(B) Law and Poverty:

(i) Examine the laws which affect the poor and carry out post enactment-audit for socio-economic legislations.

(ii) Take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor.

(C) Keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure:

(i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decision should be just and fair.

(ii) Simplification of processes and court procedures and suggesting harmonising Rules of various High Courts for the sake of uniformity and ease of understanding and implementation.

(iii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice.

(iv) Implementation of framework for case management hearing and case flow management.

(D) 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.

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

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

(G) Consider and convey to the Government its views on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).

(H) Consider the requests for providing research assistance/guidance to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).

(I) Examine the impact of globalization on food security, unemployment and recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalized.

(c) and (d): Yes. The subject-matter of the 'Uniform Civil Code' was referred by the Government to the 21st Law Commission of India for examination. The 21st Law Commission had issued a Questionnaire on the subject for inviting responses/comments from various stakeholders and general public. Thereafter, the said Commission placed a 'Consultation Paper on Reform of Family Law' in public domain for wider discussion, on 31.08.2018.

The 21st Law Commission could not finalise its Report and the subject was further taken for examination by the 22nd Law Commission. The Commission decided to solicit views (on the subject) of the public at large and recognized religious organizations and issued a public notice dated 14.06.2023. However, the 22nd Law Commission of India could not finalise its Report on the Uniform Civil Code and the term of the 22nd Law Commission ended on 31.08.2024.

The 23rd Law Commission has been constituted *w.e.f.* 01.09.2024.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2830
ANSWERED ON - 19/12/2024

JS (MKG)

UTILIZATION AND RECOGNITION OF PARA-LEGAL VOLUNTEERS

✓ 2830 SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) whether Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) play a vital role in providing free legal aid, if so, State-wise distribution in the country;
- (b) whether Government is aware of challenges like lack of training, monitoring, incentives and public trust in PLVs, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken to provide training, resources and adequate compensation to PLVs and measures to enhance public awareness and trust in their role; and
- (d) the measures being implemented to ensure effective utilization and recognition of PLVs in bridging the gap between the legal system and citizens?

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 Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) act as intermediaries between the common citizens and the Legal Services Institutions in providing free legal aid ensuring access to justice. The State-wise distribution/ availability of PLVs is at Annexure-A.

- (b) to (d): The Para-Legal Volunteers Scheme was introduced by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in the year 2009, with an aim to impart legal training to the volunteers, selected from different walks of life so as to ensure that legal aid reaches the citizens ensuring access to justice. The scheme was revised in 2017 and re-named as 'Scheme for Para-legal Volunteers (Revised), 2017'.

To enhance the capacities of PLVs, especially their skills and representation, NALSA has prepared an extensive training module namely "Module for Training of Para-legal Volunteers". This Module is intended to sensitize the PLVs on the Constitutional vision of justice, basics of criminal law, labour laws, law for juveniles and laws for protection of women and senior citizens. It lays emphasis on knowledge of procedure as well as social sensitivity, soft skills of behavior and communication skills essential for dealing with a diverse population.

Under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), PLVs undergo training programmes. In addition to orientation and induction trainings, refresher training is also provided to the PLVs from time to time in order to upgrade their skills. The Legal Services Authorities periodically assess the work of PLVs and assist them in identifying the deficits and to tackle the problems in the field. The DLSAs upgrade their skills as per the module. The minimum incentive to the PLVs has been provided as Rs 250/- per day under the scheme. However, the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) may fix the honorarium of the PLVs more than Rs. 250/- per day depending on local circumstances.

Recently, NALSA has issued directions to all the SLSAs with a request that PLVs are to be additionally referred to as "Adhikar Mitra" (meaning "A Friend of Rights") in all programmes organised by the Legal Services Institutions and in all documents, correspondences, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material etc. prepared, circulated and distributed by the Legal Service Institutions. The exemplary services of PLVs are given recognition and are rewarded for providing the best services to the beneficiaries.

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2830 for answering on 19.12.2024 raised by Shri Manoj Kumar Jha, MP – Utilization and recognition of Para-Legal Volunteers.

The State-wise distribution/ availability of Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs)		
S. No.	Name of State/UT Authority	No. of PLVs (as on September, 2024)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19
2	Andhra Pradesh	1668
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2259
4	Assam	1027
5	Bihar	4031
6	Chandigarh	38
7	Chhattisgarh	1613
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	17
9	Daman & Diu	21
10	Delhi	572
11	Goa	37
12	Gujarat	2908
13	Haryana	1135
14	Himachal Pradesh	197
15	Jammu & Kashmir	550
16	Jharkhand	685
17	Karnataka	5169
18	Kerala	1500
19	Ladakh	41
20	Lakshadweep	30
21	Madhya Pradesh	2858
22	Maharashtra	3250
23	Manipur	738
24	Meghalaya	347
25	Mizoram	65
26	Nagaland	117
27	Odisha	2431
28	Puducherry	406
29	Punjab	822
30	Rajasthan	1481
31	Sikkim	223
32	Tamil Nadu	1062
33	Telangana	1173
34	Tripura	189
35	Uttar Pradesh	2580
36	Uttarakhand	665
37	West Bengal	1126
	Total	43050