2021

RAJYA SABHA REPLIES

MONSOON SESSION, 2021
[254th SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA]

[19th July, 2021 to 13th August, 2021]. The House adjourned *sine die* on 11th August, 2021.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointment DVN

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 32

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22.07.2021

Vacancies of Judges in High Courts

32 SHRI JOHN BRITTAS:

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

a) the details of sanctioned strength and the actual number of Judges in various High Courts, State-wise;
b) the number of High Court Judges recommended by the Supreme Court collegium for appointment during the last one year; State-wise;
c) out of such recommendations, the number of Judges finally been appointed and a State-wise break up thereof; and
d) the time line by which all the remaining recommendations made is expected to be implemented?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.*32 due for answer on 22.07.2021 regarding "Vacancies of Judges in High Courts"

(a) to (c): During the last one year i.e. 01.7.2020 to 15.07.2021, the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) has made 80 recommendations for appointment of Judges in various High Courts, out of which 45 recommendees were appointed by the Government as High Court Judges in various High Courts and the remaining proposals are under various stages of processing with the Government and SCC. The Statement showing the details of Sanctioned Strength, Working Strength of Judges and number of High Court Judges recommended for appointment by the SCC and number of appointments made in various High Courts during 01.07.2020 to 15.07.2021 is at **Annexure.**

(d): Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at the State and Centre level. Hence, the time needed for filling up of vacancies of the Judges in the higher Judiciary cannot be indicated. 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.

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

e Courts

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No 42
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22nd JULY, 2021

All India online portal for monitoring of court cases

42 # Shri Mahesh Poddar :

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

(a) whether Government has received any suggestion from various courts to set up an all India online portal for the monitoring of ongoing court cases in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to set up this kind of portal;

(c) whether Government has prepared any action plan for setting up such portal and initiate the necessary process for it; and

(d) whether this portal will be competent to provide information to common people or only parties related to court cases and the people related to judicial process will be able to access the portal?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 42# FOR 22nd JULY 2021 REGARDING ALL INDIA ONLINE PORTAL FOR MONITORING OF COURT CASES

(a) to (d)The national online portal for monitoring of court cases across the country is already available. It has been created under the eCourts project, a Mission Mode Project of Department of Justice. The eCourts Services portal was launched on 7th August 2013 which is a centralized gateway providing information to litigants, Advocates and Judiciary including all citizens to access:

i. Cause list: Cause list of particular court complex can be accessed by selecting the State, District and Court Complex from the drop-down menu.

ii. Case Status: Case Status can be accessed by providing any of these information like case number, FIR Number, party name, advocate name, filing number, Act and case type

iii. Daily orders and final judgments: Orders and final judgments can be similarly accessed using any of the following information like Case Number, CNR number, Court Number, Party Name and Order Date.

iv. Location Search: Location of Court complex can be searched.

The links for e-Courts services portals are:
https://services.ecourts.gov.in/ (for District and Subordinate Courts of India)
https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/main.php (for High Courts of India)

In addition, theNational Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) wascreated in 2015 whichis a national repository of data relating to cases pending and disposed of in all the High Courts, District and Subordinate courts of the country. The portal has been developed around the concept of elastic search technology enabling efficient case management and monitoring of cases leading to effective disposal of cases.

The link for National Judicial Data Grid for High Courts of India is:

https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/hcnjdgnew/?p=main/index

The Link for National Judicial Data Grid for District and SubordinateCourts of India is:

https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/njdgnew/index.php

As on 01.07.2021, case status information can be accessed in respect of over 18.77 crore pending and disposed cases of High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts and more than 14.61 crore orders / judgments of District & Subordinate Courts. This information is available to all citizens and placed in the public domain.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ecourts

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 411

TO BE ANSWERED ON THRUSDAY, THE 22nd JULY, 2021

Status of eCourts Project

411. **Shri Sujeet Kumar :**

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

(a) the current status of Phase II of the e-Courts Project.

(b) whether timeline and budget have been approved for Phase-III of e-Courts Project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a): The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology enablement of District and Subordinate courts across the country in association with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India.

The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II has commenced since 2015 for a period of four years (2015-19) or until the project is completed, whichever is later. So far 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized. Out of 2992 court complexes Wide Area Network connectivity has been provided to 2945 court complexes. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crore for eCourts Phase-II, the Government has so far released a sum of Rs. 1582.11 crore for implementation of the eCourts project. Some of the other salient achievements under eCourts Project Phase II include the introduction of Case Information Software using Free and Open Source Software to automate the entire process of Court registry. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. The 'National Judicial Data Grid' (NJDG) have been developed which provides status of 18.77 crore pending/disposed cases and 14.61 crore orders/judgments of Subordinate Courts and High Courts (as on 1st July 2021). Open Application Programming Interface (APIs) has been recently introduced to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants to access NJDG data for pendency monitoring. Seven platforms have been created for disseminating real time information on case status, cause list, judgments etc. to lawyers and litigants viz. a multilingual and disabled-friendly eCourts Portal, eCourts Mobile App and JustIS App for judges, Automated emails, SMS Push and Pull Service, Judicial Service Centres and Information Kiosks.

The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 96,239 virtual hearings (as on 09.07.2021 since the beginning of lockdown period).The High Courts (36, 47,381 hearings) and Subordinate Courts (67,85,877 hearings) have conducted 1.04 crore virtual hearings till 31st May

2021. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms have also been released. 12 Virtual Courts in 9 States have been operationalised to handle traffic challan cases. More than 72 lakh cases have been handled by 12 virtual courts and online fine of Rs. 159 crore has been realised till 08.07.2021. The Delhi High Court has set up 34 Digital Courts dealing with cases under Negotiable Instruments Act. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers. For making the payment process easy and transparent, online payment of court fees, fines, penalties and judicial deposits has been enabled. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. To bridge the digital divide funds have been released for setting up 235 eSewa Kendras at all High Courts and one District Court in every state. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 29 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 20 High Courts.

(b) to (d): No Sir. A draft Vision Document has been formulated by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court for eCourts Project Phase III. The Vision Document has been prepared in consultation with domain experts from within the judiciary and private sector experts. This document has been put in the public domain for inviting suggestions and feedback based on which the Detailed Project Report will be drawn.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JR Desk

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 412

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22ND JULY, 2021

Gram Nyayalayas in the country

412. SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

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

(a) whether Government has set up Gram Nyayalayas across the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Karnataka and the present status thereof;

(b) whether the villagers are facing difficulties in getting justice from Subordinate / High Courts as they are far away from their places of residence and if so, the steps taken by the Government to set up Gram Nyayalayas in villages;

(c) whether the cases pending in lower courts would be considered in these Nyayalayas and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of funds allocated and released to the States for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (d) : To provide access to justice to the citizen at their door steps, the Central Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. It provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level. The State

Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. The issues affecting operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas were discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers where it was decided that the State Governments and High Courts should decide the question of setting up of Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account the local issues and situation.

As per information made available by State Governments / High Courts, 455 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified so far by 13 States. Out of these, 226 are operational in 10 States at present. Karnataka has Notified 2 Gram Nyayalayas and both are functional. State-wise details of the Gram Nyayalayas notified and operationalised by the State Governments are as under:

Sl. No.	State	Gram Nyayalayas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas Functional
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
2	Rajasthan	45	45
3	Karnataka	2	2
4	Odisha	23	18
5	Maharashtra	36	23
6	Jharkhand	6	1
7	Goa	2	0
8	Punjab	9	2
9	Haryana	3	2
10	Uttar Pradesh	113	14
11	Kerala	30	30
12	Andhra Pradesh	42	0
13	Telangana	55	0
	Total	**455**	**226**

Civil and criminal cases pending before District / Session Courts or courts subordinate to them falling within the jurisdiction of the Gram Nyayalayas can be transferred to Gram Nyayalayas.

The Central Government has been encouraging the States to set up Gram Nyayalayas by providing financial assistance. The Gram Nyayalaya scheme has been extended up to 2025-26 by the Government with budgetary outlay of Rs. 50.00 crore. As per the scheme for assistance to State Governments for establishing and operating Gram Nyayalayas, the Central Government provides one-time assistance to States towards non-recurring expenses for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya. The Central Government also provides assistance towards recurring expenses for operating these Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya per year for the first three years. The State-wise details of financial assistance provided so far to State Governments for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas are as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Financial Assistance sanctioned
1	Madhya Pradesh	2,456.40
2	Rajasthan	1,240.98
3	Karnataka	25.20
4	Odisha	337.40
5	Maharashtra	660.80
6	Jharkhand	75.60
7	Goa	25.20

8	Punjab	25.20
9	Haryana	25.20
10	Uttar Pradesh	1323.20
11	Kerala	828.00
12	Andhra Pradesh	436.82
13	Telangana	693.00
Total		**8153.00**

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointment DUN

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.414

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22.07.2021

Vacancies of judges

414 DR. C.M. RAMESH:

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

(a) the details of vacancies of judges and Chief Justices in different High Courts of the country, State-wise and from when these posts are lying vacant; and

(b) by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up in the light of pending cases, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (b) : A Statement showing details of vacancies of judges in the High Courts as on 15.07.2021 is at Annexure. The details of vacancies of Chief Justice of High Courts is as under:

SL. NO.	NAME OF HIGH COURT	DATE OF OCCURRENCE OF VACANCY OF CHIEF JUSTICE
1	ALLAHABAD	26.06.2021
2	CALCUTTA	29.04.2021
3	CHHATTISGARH	01.06.2021
4	HIMACHAL PRADESH	01.07.2021

As per the Memorandum of Procedure, for the appointment of Judges of High Court, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposals in consultation with two senior-most Judges from amongst the eligible candidates from the Bar and concerned State Judicial Service six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies.

Filling up of vacancies 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. Hence, the time frame for filling up vacancies of Judges cannot be indicated. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and increase in Judge Strength.

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Annexure.I

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.414 due for answer on 22.07.2021 regarding "Vacancy of High Court judges"

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Vacancies of Judges as on 15.07.2021
1	Allahabad	66
2	Andhra Pradesh	18
3	Bombay	31
4	Calcutta	41
5	Chhattisgarh	08
6	Delhi	30
7	Gauhati	04
8	Gujarat	24
9	Himachal Pradesh	03
10	J & K and Ladakh	06
11	Jharkhand	10
12	Karnataka	15
13	Kerala	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	24
15	Madras	17
16	Manipur	0
17	Meghalaya	0
18	Orissa	14
19	Patna	33
20	Punjab& Haryana	39
21	Rajasthan	27
22	Sikkim	0
23	Telangana	28
24	Tripura	01
25	Uttarakhand	04
Total		**453**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NM

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 416
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22nd JULY, 2021

PENDENCY OF CASES IN DISTRICT COURTS

416. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

the details of the pendency of cases in District Courts of the country in a district-wise manner?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

A statement showing the details of district-wise pendency of cases in the country is at **Annexure.**

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ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 416 FOR ANSWER ON 22.07.2021 REGARDING PENDENCY OF CASES IN DISTRICT COURTS.

Sl. NO.	State/UTs	District	Pendency as on 16.07.2021
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Ananthapur	51615
		Chittor	64199
		East Godavari	68472
		Guntur	78479
		Kadapa	43609
		Krishna	76264
		Kurnool	59078
		Nellore	41755
		Prakasham	53573
		Srikakulam	22064
		Visakapatnam	69030
		Vizianagaram	22915
		VIZIANAGARAM	0
		West Godavari	54282
		Total	**705335**
2.	Assam	Baksa	4099
		Barpeta	18967
		Bongaigaon	9455
		Cachar	28618
		Charaideo	292
		Chirang	4441
		Darrang	15039
		Dhemaji	2892
		Dhubri	27244
		Dibrugarh	17553
		Dima Hasao	1000
		Goalpara	11559
		Golaghat	9940
		Hailakandi	15083
		Hojai	2071
		Jorhat	12651
		Kamrup	12886
		Kamrup Metro	62838
		Karbi Anglong	3432
		Karimganj	13317
		Kokrajhar	3399
		Lakhimpur	9955
		Morigaon	13983
		Nagaon	28682
		Nalbari	8690

		Sivasagar	4746
		Sonitpur	16259
		Tinsukia	11811
		Udalguri	2734
		Total	**373636**
3.	Bihar	Araria	70637
		Aurangabad	62819
		Banka	58491
		Begusarai	93715
		Bettiah	133822
		Bhagalpur	106862
		Bhojpur	98120
		Buxar	61472
		Darbhanga	88306
		Gaya	141695
		Gopalganj	90879
		Jamui	47416
		Jehanabad	43615
		Kaimur at Bhabhua	50405
		Katihar	76882
		Khagaria	50776
		Kishanganj	26299
		Lakhisarai	36162
		Madhepura	49397
		Madhubani	98554
		Motihari	176618
		Munger	50629
		Muzaffarpur	173913
		Nalanda	109950
		Nawada	69467
		Patna	398998
		Purnea	73423
		Rohtas Sasaram	96842
		Saharsa	59237
		Samastipur	113019
		Saran at Chapra	151729
		Sheikhpura	15374
		Sheohar	10127
		Sitamarhi	82618
		Siwan	100006
		Supaul	54401
		Vaishali	92736
		Total	**3315411**
4.	Chhattisgarh	Balod	6247
		Balodabazar	14471
		Balrampur Ramanujganj	6887
		Bastar	7027

		Bemetara	6805
		Bilaspur	40990
		Dantewada	2589
		Dhamtari	7995
		Durg	45825
		Janjgir	15451
		Jashpur	4647
		Kanker	3755
		Kawardha	8150
		Kondagaon	2333
		Korba	16418
		Koriya	10038
		Mahasamund	14539
		Mungeli	7555
		Raigarh	22020
		Raipur	67142
		Rajnandgaon	19620
		Surajpur	11666
		Surguja at Ambikapur	12406
		Total	**354576**
5.	Goa	North Goa	43891
		South Goa	16056
		Total	**59947**
6.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	553280
		Amreli	29055
		Anand	50853
		Aravalli at Modasa	17974
		Banaskanth at Palanpur	62066
		Bharuch	61780
		Bhavnagar	72409
		BOTAD	12392
		Chhota Udepur	10406
		Dahod	23877
		Devbhumi Dwarka at Khambhaliya	11954
		Gandhinagar	47128
		Gir Somnath at Veraval	30042
		Jamnagar	43595
		Junagadh	33555
		Kachchh at Bhuj	68860
		Kheda at Nadiad	50910
		Mehesana	65192
		Mahisagar at Lunawada	14801
		MORBI	28401
		Narmada	8911
		Navsari	48823
		Panchmahal at Godhra	39773

		Patan	22825
		Porbandar	15157
		RAJKOT	133255
		Sabarkantha at Himmatnagar	33843
		Surat	188609
		Surendranagar	28238
		Tapi	8656
		Vadodara	162330
		Valsad	50740
		Total	**2029690**
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur	24473
		Chamba	11814
		Hamirpur	38178
		Kangra	65902
		Kinnaur	23003
		Kullu	55629
		Mandi	42264
		Shimla	86962
		Sirmaur	21513
		Solan	49198
		Una	31344
		Total	**450280**
8.	Haryana	Ambala	53465
		Bhiwani	60112
		Faridabad	102174
		Fatehabad	27592
		Gurugram	243704
		Hisar	68675
		Jhajjar	37429
		Jind	35582
		Kaithal	37420
		Karnal	81418
		Kurukshetra	53569
		Narnaul	34328
		Nuh	36783
		Palwal	39829
		Panchkula	26399
		Panipat	48011
		Rewari	41483
		Rohtak	44882
		Sirsa	39051
		Sonepat	55802
		Yamunanagar	50226
		Total	**1217934**
9.	Jharkhand	Bokaro	17571
		Chatra	16219
		Daltonganj	30681

		Deoghar	21236
		Dhanbad	53761
		Dumka	14671
		East Singhbhum at Jamshedpur	39692
		Garhwa	26895
		Giridih	39548
		Godda	15447
		Gumla	9977
		Hazaribagh	35192
		Jamtara	7259
		Khunti	4097
		Koderma	13677
		Latehar	8527
		Lohardaga	5983
		Pakur	7816
		Ramgarh	14202
		Ranchi	66909
		Sahibganj	6419
		Seraikella	10257
		Simdega	2885
		West Singhbhum at chaibasa	7866
		Total	**476787**
10.	Kerala	Alappuzha	108183
		Ernakulam	335477
		Idukki	77773
		Kannur	65668
		Kasaragod	28364
		Kollam	268594
		Kottayam	123696
		Kozhikode	84363
		Lakshwadeep	0
		Malappuram	70115
		Palakkad	78526
		Pathanamthitta	131256
		Thiruvananthapuram	366675
		Thirssur	205125
		Wayanad	28662
		Total	**1972477**
11.	Karnataka	Bagalkot	46175
		Ballari	58123
		Belagavi	127477
		Bengaluru	334241
		Bengaluru Rural	141272
		Bidar	28919
		Chamrajnagar	20646
		Chikkballapur	38453
		Chikkamagaluru	32194

		Chitradurga	34158
		Dakshina Kannada	58440
		Davangere	38808
		Dharwad	48009
		Gadag	17761
		Hassan	76301
		Haveri	33172
		Kalaburagi	42818
		Kodagu	18356
		Kolar	41702
		Koppal	30381
		Mandya	87631
		Mysuru	116688
		Raichur	35946
		Ramanagaram	46016
		Shivamogga	62080
		Tumakuru	89286
		Udupi	36825
		Uttara Kannada	37745
		Vijayapura	59490
		Yadgir	15570
		Total	**1854683**
12	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar	199074
		Akola	97505
		Amravati	136335
		Aurangabad	181436
		Beed	109104
		Bhandara	27028
		Buldhana	106130
		Chandrapur	92100
		Dhule	51831
		Gadchiroli	14060
		Gondia	28787
		Jalgaon	107222
		Jalna	68020
		Kolhapur	124104
		Latur	88418
		Mah State Cooperative Appellat	21130
		Maharashtra Industrial and Lab	61508
		Maharashtra-Family Courts	51287
		Maharashtra-School Tribunals	3599
		Mumbai City Civil Court	128187
		Mumbai CMM Courts	513848
		Mumbai Motor Accident Claims T	8983
		Mumbai Small Causes Court	28990
		Nagpur	306439
		Nanded	98776

		Nandurbar	29182
		Nashik	260905
		Osmanaabad	82586
		Parbhani	82238
		Pune	616771
		Raigad	83980
		Ratnagiri	25533
		Sangli	96080
		Satara	108531
		Sindhudurg	16338
		Solapur	192570
		Thane	380475
		Wardha	76633
		Washim	49482
		Yavatmal	128755
		Total	**4883960**
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Alirajpur	6695
		Anuppur	13276
		Ashoknagr	15955
		Balaghat	22052
		Barwani	14397
		Betul	25775
		Bhind	34721
		Bhopal	38896
		Burhanpur	10385
		Chhatarpur	32282
		Chhindwara	37147
		Damoh	22662
		Datia	16175
		Dewas	36603
		Dhar	41254
		Dindori	11961
		Guna	29245
		Gwalior	78871
		Harda	8333
		Hoshangabad	26624
		Indore	212361
		Jabalpur	124238
		Jhabua	12484
		Katni	34231
		Khandwa	18188
		Mandla	12105
		Mandleshwar	23493
		Mandsaur	36035
		Morena	45649
		Narsinghpur	21193
		Neemuch	18264

		Panna	13101
		Raisen	23304
		Rajgarh	31637
		Ratlam	40725
		Rewa	76086
		Sagar	55568
		Satna	57393
		Sehore	23247
		Seoni	22327
		Shahdol	25077
		Shajapur	27239
		Sheopur	9356
		Shivpuri	27932
		Sidhi	27687
		Singrauli	33988
		Tikamgarh	27913
		Ujjain	65349
		Umaria	9364
		Vidisha	30741
		Total	**1709584**
14.	Manipur	Bhisnupur	991
		Chandel	40
		Churachandpur	164
		Imphal East	2489
		Imphal West	6348
		Senapati	232
		Tamenglong	103
		Thoubal	1408
		Ukhrul	143
		Total	**11918**
15.	Meghalaya	East Garo Hills	330
		East Khasi Hills	6627
		Ri Bhoi	1464
		South West Garo Hills	157
		South West Khasi Hills	0
		West Garo Hills	729
		West Jaintia Hills	1099
		West Khasi Hills	343
		Total	**10749**
16.	Mizoram	Aizwal	4541
		Lunglei	391
		Total	**4932**
17.	Nagaland	Dimapur	1610
		Other Districts of Nagaland	614
		Total	**2224**
18.	Odisha	Anugul	62970
		Balangir	43231

		Balasore	108452
		Bargarh	42077
		Bhadrak	86550
		Boudh	10682
		Cuttack	131029
		Deogarh	9356
		Dhenkanal	35512
		Gajapati	8084
		Ganjam	65205
		Jagatsinghpur	37179
		Jajpur	56037
		Jharsuguda	36230
		Kalahandi	34111
		Kandhamal	14613
		Kendrapada	33444
		Keonjhar	46672
		Khurda	160012
		Koraput	32160
		Malkangiri	9015
		Mayurbhanj	68309
		Nabarangpur	22586
		Nayagarh	21011
		Naupada	11872
		Puri	68106
		Rayagada	17224
		Sambalpur	77444
		Sonepur	11436
		Sundargarh	92470
		Total	**1453079**
19.	Punjab	Amritsar	82409
		Barnala	12658
		Bathinda	47680
		Faridkot	16263
		Fatehgarh sahib	20647
		Fazilka	31610
		Ferozepur	29346
		Gurdaspur	40879
		Hoshiarpur	38973
		Jalandhar	80693
		Kapurthala	25300
		Ludhiana	169125
		Mansa	19661
		Moga	23175
		Mohali	41083
		Pathankot	15780
		Patiala	76609
		Rupnagar	24332

		Sangrur	49944
		SBS Nagar	15794
		Sri Muktsar Sahib	23710
		Tarn Taran	22127
		Total	**907798**
20.	Rajasthan	Ajmer	93005
		Alwar	127496
		Balotra Barmer	30983
		Banswara	17985
		Baran	31684
		Bharatpur	60280
		Bhilwara	69463
		Bikaner	59813
		Bundi	28560
		Chittorgarh	48702
		Churu	32398
		Dausa	34024
		Dholpur	21497
		Dungarpur	12195
		Ganganagar	63675
		Hanumangarh	40927
		Jaipur District	66167
		Jaipur Metro I	192716
		Jaipur Metro II	215176
		Jaiselmer	11502
		Jalore	18774
		Jhalawar	33422
		Jhunjhunu	30438
		Jodhpur District	26111
		Jodhpur Metro	97836
		Karauli	26195
		Kota	88780
		Merta Nagaur	40449
		Pali	56433
		Pratapgarh	11591
		Rajsamand	29268
		Sawai Madhopur	26314
		Sikar	55726
		Sirohi	21697
		Tonk	33891
		Udaipur	93644
		Total	**1948817**
21.	Sikkim	Gangtok	1206
		Gyalshing	123
		Mangan	22
		Namchi	484
		Total	**1835**

22.	Tamil Nadu	Ariyalur	13525
		Chennai	156309
		Coimbatore	83369
		Cuddalore	56158
		Dharmapuri	20731
		Dindigul	42856
		Erode	41489
		Kancheepuram	55799
		Kanniyakumari	38230
		karur	22420
		Krishnagiri	27487
		Madurai	64183
		Nagapattinam	19659
		Namakkal	23821
		Perambalur	7880
		Pudukkottai	20615
		Ramanathapuram	15135
		Salem	58527
		Sivagangai	22359
		Thanjavur	34973
		The Nilgiris	9255
		Theni	21208
		Thoothukudi	34900
		Tiruchirappalli	53445
		Tirunelveli	68732
		Tiruppur	53878
		Tiruvallur	49723
		Tiruvannamalai	35343
		Tiruvarur	14898
		Vellore	50948
		Viluppuram	55472
		Virudhunagar	28453
		Total	**1301780**
23.	Telangana	Adilabad	32539
		Hyderabad	128372
		Karimnagar	76476
		Khammam	49378
		Mahabubnagar	59810
		Medak	45046
		Nalgonda	83732
		Nizamabad	28150
		Rangareddy	165127
		Warangal	74383
		Total	**743013**
24.	Tripura	Dhalai Tripura	1884
		Gomati District	4040
		Khowai Tripura	3468

		North Tripura	3111
		Sepahijala Tripura	4661
		South Tripura	3142
		Unakoti Tripura	3645
		West Tripura	17235
		Total	**41186**
25.	Uttarakhand	Almora	1987
		Bageshwar	657
		Chamoli	1442
		Champawat	2032
		Dehradun	107814
		Haridwar	75797
		Nainital	24168
		Pauri Garhwal	6219
		Pithoragarh	2832
		Rudraprayag	857
		Tehri Garhwal	3989
		Udham Singh Nagar	51367
		Uttarkashi	2519
		Total	**281680**
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	232204
		Aligarh	163608
		Allahabad	309864
		Ambedkar Nagar	74860
		Auraiya	59106
		Azamgarh	156530
		Baghpat	51505
		Bahraich	153114
		Ballia	106812
		BalramPur	69526
		Banda	56451
		Barabanki	113105
		Bareilly	196493
		Basti	119343
		Bhadohi SR Nagar	45587
		Bijnor	114782
		Badaun	113135
		Bulandshahr	138420
		Chandouli	73029
		Chitrakoot	25243
		Deoria	144793
		Etah	74200
		Etawah	63979
		Faizabad	139663
		Farrukhabad	98260
		Fatehpur	100640
		Firozabad	127194

Gautam Buddha Nagar	207476
Ghaziabad	235170
Ghazipur	127781
Gonda	136760
Gorakhpur	242969
Hamirpur	47021
Hapur	63476
Hardoi	135898
Hathras	67743
Jalaun	65099
Jaunpur	196163
Jhansi	97620
Jyotiba Phule Nagar	64974
Kannauj	78925
Kanpur Dehat	108363
Kanpur Nagar	378087
Kanshi Ram Nagar	43546
Kaushambi	60937
Kushinagar	153794
Lakhimpur	153188
Lalitpur	54262
Lucknow	372559
Maharajganj	96969
Mahoba	29359
Mainpuri	75410
Mathura	141032
Mau	101238
Meerut	219961
Mirzapur	90141
Moradabad	122158
Muzaffarnagar	146444
Pilibhit	86419
Pratapgarh	158491
Raebareli	139058
Rampur	70219
Saharanpur	160501
Sambhal at Chandausi	73336
Santkabir Nagar	73782
Shahjahanpur	116083
Shamli	47366
Shravasti	37449
Siddharthnagar	92627
Sitapur	159292
Sonbhadra	69005
Sultanpur	199276
Unnao	104233
Varanasi	190351

		Total	**9013457**
27.	West Bengal	Bankura	34831
		Bhirbum	59770
		Calcutta	636245
		Coochbehar	33013
		Darjeeling	31371
		Hooghly	101142
		Howrah	110423
		Jalpaiguri	73182
		Jhargram	12831
		Kalimpong	1316
		Malda	42378
		Murshidabad	174764
		Nadia	119132
		North Twenty Four Parganas	252835
		North Dinajpur	36707
		Paschim Bardhaman	83070
		Paschim Medinpur	81463
		Purba Bardhaman	68647
		Purba Medinipur	89161
		Purulia	28515
		South Dinajpur	29214
		South Twenty Four Parganas	376649
		Total	**2476659**
28.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	63867
		Total	**63867**
29.	Delhi	Central	158488
		East	53750
		New Delhi	107481
		North	69653
		North East	29763
		North West	117798
		Shahdara	61153
		South	102228
		South East	102520
		South West	154497
		West	87511
		Total	**1044842**
30.	Puducherry	Karaikal	6417
		Mahe	763
		Puducherry	26603
		Yanam	354
		Total	**34137**
31.	Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair	0
		Total	**0**
32.	Daman & Diu	Daman	2182
		Diu	718

		Total	**2900**
33.	Ladakh	Kargil	327
		Leh	474
		Total	**801**
34.	Jammu & Kashmir	Anantnag	13031
		Bandipora	4124
		Baramulla	17138
		Budgam	9588
		Doda	6366
		Ganderbal	4000
		Jammu	57520
		Kathua	8014
		Kishtwar	3607
		Kulgam	4745
		Kupwara	10771
		Poonch	5347
		Pulwama	8219
		Rajouri	9556
		Ramban	3842
		Reasi	4344
		Samba	6322
		Shopian	4771
		Srinagar	53367
		Udhampur	9417
		Total	**244089**
35.	DNH at Silvasa	Silvasa	3621
		Total	**3621**

* Data Source – National Judicial Data Grid Portal(NJDG) of DoJ

eCourts

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 417
TO BE ANSWERED ON THRUSDAY, THE 22nd JULY, 2021

Computerization of courts

417Shri K. C. Venugopal :
Shri Sanjay Seth:

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

(a) the target fixed by the Government for computerization of all courts in the country under e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-I and Phase II ;
(b) whether Government has achieved the target and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this regard;
(c) the amount allocated and spent during each of the last three years while implementing the project; and
(d) the other steps taken/being taken by Government to reduce paper wastage and eliminate the burden of court cases in the Indian judiciary?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) & (b):The eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project is one of the National e-Governance projects being implemented in District and Subordinate Courts of the country. The achievements under eCourts Phase I are as under:

The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-I was implemented during 2011 – 2015. At the end of Phase-I, out of the total target of computerization of 14,249 district and subordinate courts, sites for all 14,249 courts (100%) were made ready for computerization, out of which LAN was installed at 13,643 courts, hardware was provide in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise was completed in all the High Courts. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System and more than 4,000 court staff have been trained as System Administrators in Case Information System (CIS). Video Conferencing facility was operationalized between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding jails.

The Phase II of the eCourts MMP is being implemented since 2015. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores in the phase II of the project, the Government has released Rs. 1582.11 crore as on 08.07.2021 for implementation of the project which includes a sum of Rs. 1150.56 crore released to all High Courts.

Towards further enhancement of ICT enablement of Courts, the salient initiatives include:

i. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, 2945 sites have been commissioned with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed. This forms the backbone for ensuring data connectivity in courts across the length and breadth of the country.

ii. Case Information Software (CIS) which forms the basis for the e court services is based on customized Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. 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.

iii. A new software patch and user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed to help in smart scheduling of cases.

iv. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 18.77 crore cases and more than 14.61 crore orders/ judgments pertaining to these computerized courts (as on 01.07.2021). Open APIs has been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.

v. 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.

vi. 12 Virtual Courts in 9 States have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 72 lakh cases have been handled by 12 virtual courts and online fine of Rs. 159 Crore has been realised till 08.07.2021. The Delhi High Court has set up 34 Digital Courts dealing with Negotiable Instruments Act cases.

vii. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 96,239 virtual hearings (as on 09.07.2021 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (36,47,381 hearings) and Subordinate Courts (67,85,877 hearings) have conducted 1.04 crore virtual hearings till 31st May 2021. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes

and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses (VidyoConnect) have been procured to promote virtual hearings.

viii. To promote Live Streaming of court proceedings, Model Live Streaming Rules have been circulated amongst all the High Courts across the country for their suggestions before adoption. Gujarat High Court has commenced Live Streaming proceedings already.

ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features like new dashboard including the options of my partners, Case Filing, Vakaltnama, pleading, e-payments, applications and portfolio.

x. To bridge the digital divide, funds have been released for setting up 235 eSewa Kendras to facilitate e-filing and virtual hearing of cases in High Courts and District Courts across the country.

xi. Seven platforms have been created for disseminating real time information on case status, cause list, judgments etc. to lawyers and litigants viz. a multilingual and disabled-friendly eCourts Portal, eCourts Mobile App and JustIS App for judges, Automated emails, SMS Push and Pull Service, Judicial Service Centres and Information Kiosks.

xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons.

xiii. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 29 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks. have been installed in 20 High Courts.

(c): The amount allocated and spent during each of the last three years while implementing the project is as under:

Amount in Rs. Crores

Financial Year	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Actual Expenditure
2018-19	480.00	300.00	282.76
2019-20	256.53	180.00	179.26
2020-21	250.00	180.00	179.31

(d) : The following steps have been taken towards reduction of paper wastage:

i. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court has designed and rolled out in the year 2018, an e-filing system Version 1.0 and created a portal (e-Filing.ecourts.gov.in) for this purpose. The portal enables electronic filing of legal papers.Upgraded version of e-filing 3.0 has been inaugurated and is being rolled out pan India. In the new version, new tab is provided which allows Advocates and litigants to record their oath with in-system video recording while uploading documents. The new version has also provided new dashboard including the options of joining by partners, Case Filing, online filing of Vakalatnama and pleadings, e-payments, applications and portfolio management. Help section provided in the new version provides tutorial videos, FAQ and user manual. The new portal also provides the option of indexing of the documents for the Advocates. This new paperless efiling system will reduce paper consumption in the courts.

ii. Establishment of Virtual Courts have also helped to reduce paper wastage and to eliminate the burden of court cases. Virtual Courts have been rolled out to try traffic challan cases and have met with appreciable results. Presently there are 12 such courts in 9 States. Environment-friendly, these Virtual Courts enable adjudication of cases in paperless manner including

facility of e-payment of the fine imposed. The litigants can file the complaint electronically through e-filing, appears before a Judge virtually and also pay the court fees or fine online. Over 72 lakhs cases have been handled by these 12 Virtual Courts and in more than 14 lakhs (14,64,305) cases online fine of more than Rs. 159 (159.47) Crore has been realised till 08.07.2021. In November 2020, Delhi High Court has issued "Digital NI Act Courts-Project Implementation Guidelines" and set up 34 Digital Courts dealing with Negotiable Instruments Act cases.

Further to reduce the burden of court cases, the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia,* involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure and setting up of Fast Track Courts for quick disposal of cases, use of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism and emphasis on human resource development.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Justice-II

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.419

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22nd JULY, 2021

Fast Track Courts in the country

419. Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of convictions by Fast Track Courts, State-wise;

(c) the number of pending cases, State-wise, in Fast Track Courts; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that timelines are strictly adhered to in view of the above ?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a to d): Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning fall within the domain of the respective State Governments in consultation with the High Courts. As per information made available by High Courts, there are 956 functional FTCs in the country. State-wise number of functional FTCs along with State-wise case pendency status is given at Annexure – A. Data in respect of

convictions by FTCs is not centrally maintained. Disposal of cases and adherence of timelines is primarily the responsibility of the judiciary.

ANNEXURE-A

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 419 FOR 22.7.2021
STATE-WISE CASE PENDENCY STATUS AND NUMBER OF FUNCTIONAL FAST TRACK COURTS (AS ON 31.5.2021)

S.No	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Fast Track Court	No. of Cases pending
1	Andhra Pradesh *	21	6153
2	Assam	15	8744
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4	Mizoram	2	201
5	Nagaland *	1	30
6	Bihar **	33	12252
7	Chhattisgarh	23	6829
8	Delhi	13	4638
9	Goa	3	1836
10	Maharashtra	114	163112
11	Gujarat	35	5682
12	Haryana	6	724
13	Punjab	7	431
14	Chandigarh	0	0
15	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
16	Jammu & Kashmir	7	2261
17	Jharkhand	41	5986
18	Karnataka	16	3346
19	Kerala	28	6477
20	Lakshadweep	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
22	Manipur	6	435
23	Meghalaya	0	0

S.No	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Fast Track Courts	No. of Cases pending
24	Odisha	0	0
25	Rajasthan	0	0
26	Sikkim	2	20
27	Tamil Nadu	74	94252
28	Puducherry	0	0
29	Tripura	11	1560
30	Uttar Pradesh	372	526704
31	Uttarakhand	4	664
32	West Bengal	88	58955
33	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	N.A.	N.A.
34	Telangana	34	12200
35	Diu & Daman	0	0
36	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0
37	Ladakh	N.A.	N.A.
	Total	**956**	**923492**

*Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland data is as on 30.09.2020

**Data in respect of Bihar is as on 31.03.2021.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE) eCourts

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 420

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22nd JULY, 2021

IT based systems in High Courts and the Supreme Court

420. **Smt. Ambika Soni:**

Will the Ministerof *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure made so far for implementing Information and Communication Technology based system in High Courts and Supreme Court;

(b) the achievements of Supreme Court e-committee during last 16 years of its existence ; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for making virtual hearing as a permanent feature of judicial system?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) The Government of India is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts.The total expenditure during eCourts Project Phase- I was Rs. 639.41 crore. During Phase-II of eCourts Project, total outlay was Rs. 1670 crore out of which a sum of Rs. 1150.56 crore has been

released to the High Courts till 31st May 2021. Details of High Court wise fund released is attached at Annexure-I.

In so far as Supreme Court of India is concerned, the expenditure made from the Financial Year 2019-20, FY 2020-21 and from 1/4/2021 to 06/7/2021 for implementing information and communication technology based system in Supreme Court of India is as under:

S.No	Financial Year	Expenditure of IT Head (in Rs.)
1	2019-20	Rs. 2,52,29,949/-
2	2020-21	Rs. 5,78,12,909/-
3	01.04.2021 to 06.07.2021	Rs. 1,13,32,983/- approx. (subject to reconciliation)

(b) The achievements of e-committee of the Supreme Court during last 16 years of its existence are as follows:

i. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, 2945 sites have been commissioned with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.

ii. Case Information Software (CIS) which forms the basis for the e court services is based on customized Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. 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.

iii. A new software patch and user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed to help in smart scheduling of cases.

iv. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides

information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 18.77 crore cases and more than 14.61 crore orders/ judgments pertaining to these computerized courts (as on 01.07.2021). Open APIs has been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.

v. 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.

vi. 12 Virtual Courts in 9 States have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 72 lakh cases have been handled by 12 virtual courts and online fine of Rs. 159 Crore has been realised till 08.07.2021.The Delhi High Court has set up 34 Digital Courts dealing with Negotiable Instruments Act cases.

vii. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 96,239 virtual hearings (as on 09.07.2021 since the beginning of lockdown period).The High Courts (36, 47,381 hearings) and Subordinate Courts (67, 85,877hearings) have conducted 1.04 crore virtual hearings till 31stMay 2021. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses (VidyoConnect) have been procured to promote virtual hearings.

viii. To promote Live Streaming of court proceedings, Model Live Streaming Ruleshave been circulated amongst all the High Courts across the country for their

suggestions before adoption. Gujarat High Court has commenced Live Streaming proceedings already.

ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features like new dashboard including the options of my partners, Case Filing, Vakaltnama, pleading, e-payments, applications and portfolio. For making the payment process easy and transparent, online payment (e-Payments) of court fees, fines, penalties and judicial deposits has been enabled.

x. To bridge the digital divide, funds have been released for setting up 235 eSewaKendras to facilitate e-filing and virtual hearing of cases in High Courts and District Courts across the country.

xi. Seven platforms have been created for disseminating real time information on case status, cause list, judgments etc. to lawyers and litigants viz. a multilingual and disabled-friendly eCourts Portal, eCourts Mobile App and JustIS App for judges, Automated emails, SMS Push and Pull Service, Judicial Service Centres and Information Kiosks.

xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons.

xiii. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public, 29 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 20 High Courts.

xiv. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted 30 training and awareness programmes on the ICT services provided under the eCourts project, from May 2020 to May 2021. These programmes have covered nearly 2.03

lakh stakeholders, including High Court Judges, District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers, Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates.

xv. As on 28 May 2021, 30,781 Advocates and Advocate Clerks and 4006 advocate Master trainers were trained by e-Committee in coordination with the respective State Judicial Academies.

xvi. The manuals, brochures, and video tutorials on e-filing have been translated into various regional languages to expand its availability to benefit advocates and litigants.

xvii. e-Committee ,Supreme Court of India released manual for its citizen-centric service "e-Courts Services Mobile App" in 14 languages.

xviii. To create greater awareness through social media, a YouTube channel of e-Courts Services has been created by the e-Committee, which hosts video tutorials on e-Filing in various regional languages. E-Courts services YouTube channel has reached 1, 02,360 views as of 18 September 2020.

xix. eCommittee has launched its website on S3WaaS (Secure, Scalable &Sugamya website as a Service) platform provide by NIC. Web site is in compliance with GIGW guidelines (Government of India guidelines for website). It has been developed on Open-Source Technology.

xx. The eCommittee has resumed its newsletter's digital publication from May 2020, which is hosted on the e-Committee website.

xxi. Model rules framed during pandemic:

i. Model rules of video conferencing for courts have been framed and circulated to High Courts for their adoption. Till now, several High Courts have implemented the video conference rules.

ii. Model rules of e-Filing for courts have been framed and circulated to the High Courts. Till now, 9 High Courts and 1 Bench of Gauhati High Court have implemented the video conference rules.

xxii. Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) : Live electronic exchange of data between courts and police through ICJS has been implemented in most High Courts.

c) During the pre COVID period, the virtual hearing set up was used primarily for conduct of remand matters so as to reduce movements of prisoners between court and jails. During the post COVID period, due to lockdown and social distancing protocols, judiciary was forced to seek solutions in technology which gave impetus to virtual hearings. Legal sanctity was given to video-conference hearings by the Apex Court by invoking Article 142 of the Constitution. Video conference emerged as mainstay of the courts during the COVID lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. However, whether open physical courts will operate along with virtual hearings in hybrid model is an administrative matter which falls within the purview and domain of the judiciary for taking a decision. Towards streamlining virtual hearings, the eCommittee of the Supreme Court has also formulated Model Video Conferencing Rules which have been adopted by several High Courts with

local contextualization. Since COVID lockdown started, the District Courts have heard over 67 lakh cases, while the High Courts have heard over 36 lakh cases through virtual hearings. In addition virtual courts for hearing petty traffic offences have also been set up where the court proceedings are conducted in virtual mode. One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including Taluka Level Court Complexes in rural areas under the Phase II of the e-Courts Project for virtual hearings. To further augment the Video Conferencing (VC) infrastructure, funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms have also been released. Funds have also been released for procuring 1732 Document Visualisers. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes & 1272 corresponding jails.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 420 for 22/07/2021 regarding funds released to High Courts.

Sr.No	High Court	Total Funds released under eCourts Phase-II (in Rs. crore)
1.	Allahabad	109.48
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1.96
3.	Bombay	125.24
4.	Calcutta	37.09
5.	Chhattisgarh	27.31
6.	Delhi	26.80
7.	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	11.64
8.	Gauhati (Assam)	67.28
9.	Gauhati (Mizoram)	7.57
10.	Gauhati (Nagaland)	7.15
11.	Gujarat	72.82
12.	Himachal Pradesh	11.19
13.	Common High Court for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	18.98
14.	Jharkhand	24.25
15.	Karnataka	65.38
16.	Kerala	36.03
17.	Madhya Pradesh	74.05
18.	Madras	70.15
19.	Manipur	8.52
20.	Meghalaya	10.94
21.	Orissa	46.41
22.	Patna	55.82
23.	Punjab & Haryana	54.13
24.	Rajasthan	72.94
25.	Sikkim	6.81
26.	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	70.29
27.	Telangana	1.79
28.	Tripura	16.90
29.	Uttarakhand	11.65
	Total	1,150.56

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

A2J|LHP

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 421

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 22ND JULY, 2021

Lok Adalats in the country

421. Dr. Banda Prakash:

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

(a) whether Government has proposed to set up more Lok Adalats to clear pending cases in High Courts and lower courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of Lok Adalats presently functioning in various States;

(c) the number of cases cleared / cases settled by the Lok Adalats during the last five years, State-wise and especially in Telangana;

(d) the details of Lok Adalats organised in rural areas during the last five years in Telangana; and

(e) the extent to which it has reduced the number of pending cases in High Courts and lower courts, State-wise details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (c) Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. In order to reduce the pendency of cases in courts and also to settle the disputes at pre-litigation stage, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions at such intervals as it

deems fit. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. However, as per Section 19 of the LSA Act, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions as per requirement. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

In addition, Section 22B of the LSA Act also provides for establishment of Permanent Lok Adalat by every State Authority to deal with cases of public utility services at pre-litigation stage. 355 Permanent Lok Adalats are functioning in various States & UTs. State-wise Permanent Lok Adalats and cases settled is at Annexure-A. State-wise cases settled (both at pre-litigative stage and pending cases) by State Lok Adalats and National Lok Adalats during the last five years is at Annexure B and C respectively.

To facilitate access to justice during COVID times, the Legal Services Authorities have ingeniously integrated technology into conventional methods of justice delivery and moved Lok Adalat to the Virtual Platform on 27.06.2020. From June, 2020 to May, 2021, more than 4.42 lakh cases, including 9954 cases in Telangana, have been disposed of by these E-Lok Adalats.

(d) No separate data with regard to number of Lok Adalats held in rural areas is maintained. However, in the State of Telangana, 11062 Lok Adalat benches were constituted under Section 19 of the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, wherein 1,00,002 cases were settled during 2016 to 2020, including rural areas.

(e) State-wise details of cases disposed of (both Pre-litigative and pending cases of High Courts and Lower courts) in State Lok Adalats and National Lok Adalats are at Annexure B and C respectively.

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Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 421 for 22.07.2021 raised by Dr. Banda Prakash - Lok Adalats in the country

A Statement containing the information of number of cases settled in Permanent Lok Adalats (PUS) during last five financial years viz. 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

S. No	SLSA	PLA functioning as in March, 2021	Cases settled during the year				
			2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	9	707	1404	1805	1608	1283
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	10	509	312	99	38	12
5	Bihar	9	0	78	491	688	203
6	Chhattisgarh	5	105	163	122	96	32
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	3	5724	11922	16897	19439	14765
10	Goa	2	99	93	107	57	30
11	Gujarat	4	0	439	365	120	105
12	Haryana	21	44476	40966	39930	45839	9654
13	Himachal Pradesh	4	57	75	70	112	10
14	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Jharkhand	24	1448	3137	6414	10517	1943
16	Karnataka	6	4780	8673	4014	6399	3869
17	Kerala	3	570	818	544	442	248
18	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	50	3519	12094	951	510	270
20	Maharashtra	4	10546	10089	2981	3304	249
21	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Mizoram	2	3	0	0	0	0
24	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Odisha	22	1892	1583	1352	1870	1350
26	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Punjab	22	12425	19626	9427	8391	3987
28	Rajasthan	35	2256	3208	4423	5254	806
29	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Tamil Nadu	32	0	0	0	47	80
31	**Telengana**	**6**	**1229**	**4856**	**6243**	**3546**	**549**
32	Tripura	6	29	49	245	208	0
33	Chandigarh	1	1920	3205	1653	582	108
34	Uttar Pradesh	71	1760	1663	2340	1230	383
35	Uttarakhand	4	0	5	151	379	522
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	**355**	**93555**	**124458**	**102624**	**110676**	**40458**

Note: Ladakh Legal Services Authority was constituted in the month of February, 2021

Annexure-B

Statement as referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 421 for 22.07.2021 raised by Dr. Banda Prakash - Lok Adalats in the country

A Statement containing the information of cases disposed of (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in the State Lok Adalats during last five years viz. 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

S.No.	Name of the State Authority	Cases Disposed of				
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	144	437	75	290	90
2	Andhra Pradesh	29433	16212	13731	11400	30461
3	Arunachal Pradesh	640	48	26	118	25
4	Assam	3424	109151	58278	33084	1
5	Bihar	28531	2283	1361	1256	97
6	Chhattisgarh	25270	11448	5687	1662	3475
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	10	5	0	0
8	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	6215	3685	4393	16340	195359
10	Goa	493	623	132	81	777
11	Gujarat	54305	19074	18662	20611	21880
12	Haryana	169612	149528	143703	174952	52789
13	Himachal Pradesh	11750	52899	75180	68651	3205
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8060	4485	10611	16774	9469
15	Jharkhand	20076	7906	12468	14341	79649
16	Karnataka	405448	114272	89616	45165	121884
17	Kerala	37926	27038	31732	21408	4837
18	Lakshadweep	0	13	198	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	15059	7877	3561	10675	14903
20	Maharashtra	143753	1117	798	7932	605
21	Manipur	196	0	28	0	21
22	Meghalaya	63	10	166	0	0
23	Mizoram	417	526	477	552	147
24	Nagaland	4	0	0	0	0
25	Odisha	216939	267324	82717	45210	4628
26	Puducherry	1317	1111	1011	699	392
27	Punjab	18190	6980	29266	4742	0
28	Rajasthan	100153	73277	10673	6522	34514
29	Sikkim	917	677	729	550	158
30	Tamil Nadu	19187	19024	17144	16621	13117
31	**Telengana**	**18658**	**14435**	**13032**	**12352**	**24327**
32	Tripura	48080	73882	57069	7353	6938
33	Chandigarh	584	43	88	28	1
34	Uttar Pradesh	3510	9569	41576	3916	100305
35	Uttarakhand	10974	16868	7808	27258	6166
36	West Bengal	324989	916855	315654	25598	13853
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	**1724312**	**1928682**	**1047655**	**545751**	**744073**

Note: Ladakh Legal Services Authority was constituted in the month of February, 2021

Annexure-C

Statement as referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 421 for 22.07.2021 raised by Dr. Banda Prakash - Lok Adalats in the country

A Statement containing the information of cases settled (both pre-litigative and pending cases) in National Lok Adalats during the year viz, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (upto July,21).

S.No.	Name of the State Authority	Cases Disposed of				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1113	0	0	248	905
2	Andhra Pradesh	147565	95017	97415	37896	34835
3	Arunachal Pradesh	981	1338	588	104	309
4	Assam	58664	31197	21596	12188	11406
5	Bihar	217400	170983	164984	66451	39684
6	Chandigarh	12559	11783	11188	2569	2282
7	Chhattisgarh	46130	70362	57648	24464	37277
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	97	170	2021	1768	0
9	Daman & Diu	127	107	249	31	57
10	Delhi	31398	75546	71377	83006	26324
11	Goa	2466	2704	1565	351	217
12	Gujarat	195842	137105	193150	41584	303042
13	Haryana	74065	91141	103298	30298	39157
14	Himachal Pradesh	23596	20298	25432	5971	13586
15	Jammu & Kashmir	74845	59330	32177	13258	28241
16	Jharkhand	84087	72058	49228	53152	47331
17	Karnataka	85270	99957	281849	334681	332936
18	Kerala	39193	106013	128729	15010	32697
19	Lakshadweep	134	109	4	8	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	333811	310569	284433	108365	108773
21	Maharashtra	511349	808625	428376	215837	0
22	Manipur	1969	1689	1994	204	303
23	Meghalaya	1903	936	695	303	425
24	Mizoram	999	1075	495	218	296
25	Nagaland	465	2328	973	251	134
26	Odisha	149265	41288	43197	18329	13541
27	Puducherry	4993	4745	4194	1738	2361
28	Punjab	105206	111771	89016	32528	40562
29	Rajasthan	179613	165621	219098	103060	76138
30	Sikkim	278	233	165	30	47
31	Tamil Nadu	540718	475753	340594	88819	49539
32	**Telengana**	**172923**	**88135**	**110838**	**47560**	**96769**
33	Tripura	5249	2845	3354	382	109
34	Uttarakhand	16990	34487	26058	8088	5246
35	Uttar Pradesh	1855099	2724616	2484405	1171022	1216773
36	West Bengal	429505	62637	62890	28596	0
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	493
	Grand Total	**5405867**	**5882561**	**5293273**	**2548368**	**2561790**

Note: Ladakh Legal Services Authority was constituted in the month of February, 2021

A2J/LAP

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1209

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 29th JULY, 2021

Tele-Law Mobile App for Para Legal Volunteers

1209 Shri John Brittas:

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

(a) whether Tele Law initiative has succeeded in mainstreaming legal aid to the marginalized by connecting them with a dedicated pool of panel lawyers either free of cost or at nominal fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and a State-wise break up thereof, of the frontline Para Legal Volunteers (PLV's) and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE's);

(c) whether Government has developed Tele-Law Mobile App for Para Legal Volunteers recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Tele-Law programme of Government of India was initiated in 2017 with an aim to provide legal advice at pre-litigation stage to the beneficiary by connecting them with Panel Lawyers via video conferencing and telephone facilities available at the Common Service Centers (CSC) at Panchayat level. This service is free for persons entitled under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities(LSA), Act 1987 and for others by paying Rs 30/- only per consultation. Tele-law is currently operational in 51,434 CSCs across 34 States/UTs in 633 Districts of the country. As on 23.07.2021 out of 10,32,551 beneficiaries registered, advice has been enabled to 10,23,171 beneficiaries. State-wise details of Para

Legal Volunteers (PLV's) and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE's) is available at Annexure A.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. Tele-Law Mobile App for Para Legal Volunteers was developed in 2019 to enable them to pre-register a Tele-law applicant and schedule his appointment with the panel lawyer on a preferred date and time. The mobile application is integrated with Tele-law dashboard to confirm and register the pre-registered cases enabling online interface between the beneficiary and the panel lawyer through video conferencing and telephone facility.

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Annexure A

Statement as referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1209 for answering on 29.07.2021 raised by Shri John Brittas, regarding Tele-Law Mobile App for Para legal Volunteers.

A Statement containing the information of State-wise break up of Para Legal Volunteers(PLVs) and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE's) as on 23rd July 2021

Sr.no	State/UT	Total PLVs	Total VLEs
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	2
2	Andhra Pradesh	1119	1748
3	Arunachal Pradesh	4	49
4	Assam	2116	2242
5	Bihar	4090	4585
6	Chhattisgarh	2734	4679
7	Dadra And Nagar Haveli & Daman And Diu	0	4
8	Goa	0	2
9	Gujarat	1710	3423
10	Haryana	2639	2839
11	Himachal Pradesh	586	855
12	Jammu & Kashmir	966	1253
13	Jharkhand	2799	2999
14	Karnataka	590	753
15	Kerala	408	559
16	Ladakh	13	13
17	Lakshadweep	0	2
18	Madhya Pradesh	3980	5680
19	Maharashtra	2595	2595
20	Manipur	106	130
21	Meghalaya	210	311
22	Mizoram	112	112
23	Nagaland	114	114
24	Odisha	1798	1989
25	Puducherry	8	11
26	Punjab	1097	1139
27	Rajasthan	815	914
28	Sikkim	32	35
29	Tamil Nadu	579	637
30	Telangana	676	715
31	Tripura	268	524
32	Uttar Pradesh	7616	8270
33	Uttarakhand	898	1195
34	West Bengal	981	1056
	Total	**41659**	**51434**

eCourts

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1211
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 29th JULY, 2021

Utilization of funds for 'eCourts Project Phase-II'

1211 Dr. Amar Patnaik:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that out of the ₹180 crore allocations in RE 2019-20 for 'eCourts Project Phase-II', only ₹37.71 crore was spent by the Department as on 31st January, 2020;
(b) if so, the reasons for under-utilization of allocated funds; and
(c) the steps taken to improve the ratio of fund allocations vis-à-vis utilizations as under-utilisation implies under-performance of the project?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) & (b): The total budget allocation for the eCourts Project Phase-II in RE 2019-2020 was ₹180.00 crore. Initial delay in the expenditure flow was due to time-taken in finalization of the works program and project proposals by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court. Subsequently, ₹179.26 crore has been released for implementation of the various components of the eCourts Phase-II in the financial year 2019-2020 which amounts to 99.58% expenditure.

(c): Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1212
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 29TH JULY, 2021

CASES OF REGULAR AND URGENT NATURE

1212. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) details of cases filed, heard and pending in various High Courts as on date, High Courts-wise;
(b) the details of cases categorized as regular and of urgent nature pending in High Courts of Delhi and Allahabad, separately as on date;
(c) the details of year of categorization of regular cases being listed for hearing at present by High Courts of Delhi and Allahabad and year of cases which are likely to be taken up during 2022, High Court-wise; and
(d) the details of measures Government would take to expedite the regular cases which have been filed by common people of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

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

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Appointment DVR

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1215

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 29.07.2021

SC/ST Judges in Courts

1215. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD:

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

(a) the details and number of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court against the sanctioned strength;

(b) the details and number of vacancies of Judges in High Courts across the country , State-wise details thereof;

(c) the total number of SC/ST Judges in the Supreme Court and the percentage of representation of SCs/STs; and

(d) the details and number of SC/ST Judges in High Courts across the country, State-wise details with percentage of SCs/STs representation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (b) : A Statement showing sanctioned strength of Judges and vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 20.07.2021 is at **Annexure.**

: 2 :

(c) to (d) : Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Hence no class/category wise date is maintained centrally. 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 appointment of Judges in High Courts.

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Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (b) of Unstarred Question No. 1215 to be answered in Rajya Sabha on 29.07.2021 regarding 'SC/ST Judges in Courts" by Shri K. Somaprasad

(Position as on 20.07.2021)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
A.	**Supreme Court of India**	**34**	**26**	**08**
B.	**High Courts**			
1	Allahabad	160	94	66
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	19	18
3	Bombay	94	63	31
4	Calcutta	72	31	41
5	Chhattisgarh	22	14	08
6	Delhi	60	30	30
7	Gauhati	24	20	04
8	Gujarat	52	28	24
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	10	03
10	J & K and Ladakh	17	11	06
11	Jharkhand	25	15	10
12	Karnataka	62	47	15
13	Kerala	47	37	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	29	24
15	Madras	75	58	17
16	Manipur	05	05	0
17	Meghalaya	04	04	0
18	Orissa	27	13	14
19	Patna	53	19	34
20	Punjab& Haryana	85	46	39
21	Rajasthan	50	23	27
22	Sikkim	03	03	0
23	Telangana	42	14	28
24	Tripura	05	04	01
25	Uttarakhand	11	07	04
Total		**1098**	**644**	**454**

APPOINTMENT DUR

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1216

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 29.07.2021

Impact of vacancies

1216. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

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

(a) the number of vacant posts of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) the average duration of vacancy in these posts;

(c) whether Government has identified candidates to fill these posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to expedite the filling of vacant posts;

(e) whether Government has assessed the impact of such vacancies on speedy and efficient delivery of justice to citizens of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, including remedial measures taken?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (d) : A Statement showing vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 23.07.2021 is at **Annexure.**

Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are appointed as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. As per the existing MoP, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal for filling up of vacancies of a Judge in a High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies. However, this timeline is often not adhered to by the High Courts.

As on 23.07.2021, there are 08 posts of Judges vacant in the Supreme Court of India. The duration of these vacancies range between 01 month and 20 months. The recommendations for filling up of the vacancies are yet to be received from the Supreme Court Collegium. In the High Courts, there are 454 posts of judges vacant, out of which recommendations for 214 vacancies are yet to be received from the respective High Courts Collegiums. Most of these vacancies have arisen from 2016 onwards.

Government has received recommendations in respect of 240 vacancies for appointment as Judges in various High Courts. As filling up of vacancies is a continuous integrated and collaborative process and requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities, the recommendations are under various stages of processing as per the procedure prescribed in MoP. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges.

(e) & (f) : It may be mentioned that the pendency of cases in courts is not only due to shortage of judges in High Courts but also due to various other factors i.e. (i) Increase in number of state and central legislations, (ii) Accumulation of first appeals, (iii) Continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, (iv) Appeals against orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, (v) Number of revisions/appeals, (vi) Frequent adjournments, (vii) Indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction, (viii) Lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, tracking and bunching of cases for hearing, (ix) vacation period of Courts, (x) assigning work of administrative nature to the Judges, etc.

Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

The major steps taken during the last six years under various initiatives are as follows:

i. Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 23.07.2021, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 602 new Judges were appointed and 551 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1098 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
22.07.2021	24,368	19,236

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

ii. Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 8,644.00 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 20,218 as on 22.07.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,815 as on 22.07.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,693 court halls and 1,852 residential units are under construction.

iii. Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 (in 2014) to 18,735 as on 01.07.2021, registering an increase of 5,063. 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 01.07.2021, litigants can access case status of over 18.77 crore cases and 14.61 crore order/judgements pertaining to these courts. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centers (JSC) in all computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID- 19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, funds have been provided for setting up 235 e-Sewa Kendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and efiling facilities. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings.

Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help Desk counters for efiling in various court complexes.

Twelve Virtual Courts have been set up at Delhi (2 courts), Faridabad (Haryana), Pune & Nagpur (Maharashtra) Kochi (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Guwahati (Assam) and Bengaluru (Karnataka) to try traffic offences. As on 12.07.2021, these courts have handled 75 lakh cases and realised Rs.160.05 crores in fines. 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 74,15,989 cases while the High Court heard 40,43,300 cases (totaling to 1.14 crore) till 30.06.2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had 96,239 hearings since the lockdown period upto 09.07.2021.

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 Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. Further communications have been addressed by Minister of Law & Justice to Chief Justices of High Courts and to Chief Ministers on 20.06.2014 and 14.08.2018 drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign.

v. Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

vi. Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution form 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 30.04.2021, 870 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 842 FTSCs including 363 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20 and Rs. 160.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. Rs. 39.77 crore has been released till June 2021 for Financial Year

2021-22. 640 FTSCs are functional including 338 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 50484 cases as on 31.05.2021.

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

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Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 1216 to be answered in Rajya Sabha on 29.07.2021 regarding 'Impact of vacancies" by Shri Anand Sharma

(Position as on 23.07.2021)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Vacancies
A.	Supreme Court of India	08
B.	High Courts	
1	Allahabad	66
2	Andhra Pradesh	18
3	Bombay	31
4	Calcutta	41
5	Chhattisgarh	08
6	Delhi	30
7	Gauhati	04
8	Gujarat	24
9	Himachal Pradesh	03
10	J & K and Ladakh	06
11	Jharkhand	10
12	Karnataka	15
13	Kerala	10
14	Madhya Pradesh	24
15	Madras	17
16	Manipur	0
17	Meghalaya	0
18	Orissa	14
19	Patna	34
20	Punjab& Haryana	39
21	Rajasthan	27
22	Sikkim	0
23	Telangana	28
24	Tripura	01
25	Uttarakhand	04
	Total	454

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

Appointment

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1219

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 29.07.2021

Female participation in judicial process

1219. SHRI SANJAY SETH:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

(a) the details of the number of women who are currently serving as Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and at the district level, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government gives reservation to women while appointing Judges in courts and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a shortage of female Judges in the courts at all levels including the Supreme Court in the country;

(d) if so, the measures being taken by Government to increase female participation in judicial process; and

(e) whether Government would consider implementing reservations to increase the representation of women in the judiciary?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e) : A Statement showing working strength of female Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 20.07.2021 is at **Annexure.** As per Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of Judges in Subordinate Courts is the

responsibility of the concerned High Courts and State Governments and data on female judges is not centrally maintained.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Hence no class/category wise date is maintained. 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 appointment of Judges in High Courts.

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Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 1219 to be answered in Rajya Sabha on 29.07.2021 regarding 'Female Participation in Judicial Process" by Shri Sanjay Seth and Shri K.C. Venugopal

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Working Strength of Female Judges as on 20.07.2021
A.	**Supreme Court of India**	01
B.	**High Courts**	
1	Allahabad	07
2	Andhra Pradesh	03
3	Bombay	08
4	Calcutta	04
5	Chhattisgarh	02
6	Delhi	06
7	Gauhati	01
8	Gujarat	05
9	Himachal Pradesh	01
10	J & K and Ladakh	01
11	Jharkhand	01
12	Karnataka	06
13	Kerala	04
14	Madhya Pradesh	03
15	Madras	13
16	Manipur	0
17	Meghalaya	0
18	Orissa	01
19	Patna	0
20	Punjab& Haryana	07
21	Rajasthan	01
22	Sikkim	01
23	Telangana	02
24	Tripura	0
25	Uttarakhand	0
Total		77

(90)

Justice-II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1220

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 29th JULY, 2021

Criteria for Fast Track Courts

1220# Dr. Ashok Bajpai:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by Government to setup Fast Track Courts in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of Fast Track Courts setup in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(c) the action plan of Government for these courts; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a): Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and its functioning fall within the domain of the respective State Governments in consultation with the High Courts. FTCs were created during 11th Finance Commission for disposal of long pending cases based on the findings of a study that one such court can dispose upto 168 cases in a year. Subsequently the 14th Finance Commission had recommended that the number of FTCs to be

established should be 10% of the sanctioned strength of Judicial officers of the State.

(b) to (d) : Accordingly, FTCs were set up for the State of Uttar Pradesh for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; civil cases involving senior citizens, women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV-AIDS and other terminal ailments and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than five years. The 14th Finance Commission also urged the State Government to use the additional fiscal space provided in the tax devolution to meet the fund requirements of FTCs. Union Government has asked States to set up requisite number of FTCs. The number of FTCs set up in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is as under:

Year*	Cumulative figures of Functional FTCs
2018	206
2019	368
2020	389

*As per data provided by the Allahabad High Court for December of each year.

A2J/LAP

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 189
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 5th AUGUST, 2021.

Fund allocation to NALSA

189.Shri BinoyViswam:

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

(a) the funds allocated and sanctioned by the Ministry to National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during last three years;
(b) whether NALSA provide funds to all State/UT Legal Aid Authorities for implementation of legal aid schemes;
(c) the expenditure details on all schemes offered by NALSA, either directly or through State/UT, especially on Tele-Law, Nyaya Mitra, Central Victim Compensation Scheme and Pro-bono Legal;
(d) the funds allocated and sanctioned by NALSA to different State Legal Aid Authorities during the last three years, State-wise; and
(e) whether the Ministry has considered increasing the budget allocation for NALSA in order to expand legal aid services?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

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

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 189 FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2021 REGARDING 'FUND ALLOCATION TO NALSA'.

(a)The funds allocated and sanctioned by the Government to National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during the last three financial years is as under:

(in Rs crore)

Year	Grant-in-Aid allocated by the Government	Grant-in-Aid sanctioned by the Government
2018-19	150	150
2019-20	140	140
2020-21	100	100

(b) Yes Sir. NALSA provides funds to all the State Legal Services Authorities including Supreme Court Legal Services Committee for implementation of various legal aid schemes/programmes framed under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

(c)The expenditure details on all activities of NALSA during last three years is placed at Annexure-A. Further, Legal Services Authorities awards compensation to victims under u/s 357 A of Criminal Procedure Code as per the Victim Compensation Schemes prepared by respective State Governments. This expenditure incurred in awarding victim compensation is borne by the respective State Governments. Details of compensation awarded during last three years are as follows:

Years	Compensation Awarded (in Rs)
2018-19	168,43,92,746
2019-20	215,31,48,146
2020-21	145,62,36,012

As far as Tele-Law, Nyaya Mitra and Pro-bono (Nyaya Bandhu) are concerned, these are implemented by Department of Justice. The expenditure in respect of these programmes during last three years is as follows:

S.No	Programme	Annual Expenditure (in Rs crore)			
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
1	Tele Law	3.92	17.21	28.01	49.14
2	Nyaya Mitra	0.09	0.27	0.03	0.39
3	Pro-bono legal (Nyaya Bandhu)	0.22	0.62	0.48	1.32

(d) A statement showing the details of the funds allocated to Legal Services Authorities during last three financial years is at Annexure-B.

(e) Based on the resources available and other relevant factors, allocation of funds is decided by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance after making an objective assessment of the needs and requirements projected by the Department. During the financial year 2020-21, inspite of an overall reduction of BE allocation at RE stage by the Department of Expenditure due to COVID pandemic, in the case of NALSA, the BE allocation of Rs. 100 crore was not reduced at the RE stage so that the legal aid services provided by NALSA could progress smoothly.

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Annexure - A

Statement as referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 189 for 05.08.2021 raised by Shri Binoy Viswam - Fund allocation to NALSA

Statement showing activity wise expenditure incurred by the State Legal Services Authorities during last three financial years (in Rs.)

Activity	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Payment made to lawyers	47,59,26,734	49,32,60,248	34,31,12,409
Payment made to PLVs	46,40,24,786	42,84,58,801	26,26,15,047
Expenses on training and honorarium	3,10,54,474	4,34,43,662	42,34,912
Expenses on awareness programme (excluding lawyers and PLVs)	18,09,19,878	13,07,93,443	4,19,07,436
Expenses for Legal Services Clinics	2,79,47,430	3,43,09,833	1,43,74,107
Expenses for Lok Adalats & honorarium to Judges & Staff	24,57,62,768	21,12,63,365	10,87,99,994
Expenses incurred for mediation & honorarium to Mediators	3,48,13,207	5,76,37,093	1,81,63,639
Other Activities	30,75,30,010	25,97,79,446	19,76,95,588
Total (including carry forward amount)	176,79,79,287	165,89,45,891	99,09,03,132

Annexure-B

Statement as referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 189 for 05.08.2021 raised by Shri Binoy Viswam - Fund allocation to NALSA

Statement showing the details of the fund allocated to State/UT Authority during the last three financial years (in Rs.)

S. No.	Name of State/UT Authority	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Andhra Pradesh	4,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	3,40,00,000
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
3	Assam	6,00,00,000	3,00,00,000	3,70,00,000
4	Bihar	2,50,00,000	4,50,00,000	3,70,00,000
5	Chhattisgarh	8,00,00,000	6,00,00,000	3,95,00,000
6	Goa	0	0	50,00,000
7	Gujarat	3,50,00,000	3,50,00,000	3,45,00,000
8	Haryana	8,50,00,000	9,00,00,000	4,50,00,000
9	Himachal Pradesh	4,00,00,000	4,00,00,000	1,85,00,000
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4,50,00,000	6,00,00,000	3,50,00,000
11	Jharkhand	7,00,00,000	4,00,00,000	4,00,00,000
12	Karnataka	8,50,00,000	7,00,00,000	6,25,00,000
13	Kerala	10,50,00,000	11,00,00,000	5,25,00,000
14	Madhya Pradesh	3,00,00,000	4,50,00,000	3,00,00,000
15	Maharashtra	6,00,00,000	6,00,00,000	6,25,00,000
16	Manipur	3,50,00,000	4,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
17	Meghalaya	0	1,00,00,000	50,00,000
18	Mizoram	4,00,00,000	2,50,00,000	50,00,000
19	Nagaland	3,00,00,000	2,50,00,000	50,00,000
20	Odisha	7,00,00,000	6,00,00,000	3,25,00,000
21	Punjab	9,50,00,000	10,00,00,000	3,25,00,000
22	Rajasthan	18,00,00,000	6,50,00,000	4,55,00,000
23	Sikkim	0	2,50,00,000	50,00,000
24	Tamil Nadu	6,00,00,000	5,00,00,000	4,20,00,000
25	Telangana	2,00,00,000	3,50,00,000	3,50,00,000
26	Tripura	3,00,00,000	3,00,00,000	2,80,00,000
27	Uttar Pradesh	1,00,00,000	3,00,00,000	6,50,00,000
28	Uttarakhand	2,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	2,50,00,000
29	West Bengal	9,00,00,000	9,00,00,000	5,20,00,000
30	Chandigarh	0	1,00,00,000	80,00,000
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	2,50,000
32	Daman & Diu	0	0	2,50,000
33	Delhi	0	8,00,00,000	5,00,00,000
34	Puducherry	10,00,00,000	0	10,00,000
35	Ladakh	0	0	0
36	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	0	0	1,00,00,000
	Total	**155,00,00,000**	**142,00,00,000**	**100,00,00,000**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appointment Dvn

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2021

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 05.08.2021

All India Judicial Services

2021. SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI:
SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA:
SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI :

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

(a) whether Government has made any progress towards the creation of an All India Judicial Services;
(b) whether there is any information on the proposal of setting up of All India Judicial Service after the meeting chaired by Minister of Law and Justice on 16th January, 2017;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the steps taken on recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries in 2012 and the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e) : In Government's view, a properly framed All India Judicial Service is important to strengthen overall justice delivery system. This will give an opportunity for induction of suitably qualified fresh legal talent selected through a proper all-India merit selection system as well as address the issue of social inclusion by enabling suitable representation to marginalized and deprived sections of society.

A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of All India Judicial Service. While some State Governments and High Courts favoured the proposal, some were not in favour of creation of All India Judicial Service while some others wanted changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government.

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 included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held on 05th April, 2015. However, no progress was made on the subject.

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 Minister of Law and Justice on 16th January, 2017 in the presence

of Minister of State for Law and Justice, Attorney General of India, Solicitor General of India, Secretaries of Department of Justice, 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.

In view of the existing divergence of opinion amongst the stakeholders, the Government is engaged in a consultative process with the stakeholders to arrive at a common ground.

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Justice-I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2023

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 05th AUGUST, 2021

Holidays in Judiciary

2023# Dr. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

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

(a) whether there are more holidays in the Judiciary in comparison to Legislature and Executive and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether initiatives like reducing the number of holidays, opening of courts on sundays, filling up vacancies of Judges and limiting the number of hearing would help in clearing all pending cases; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to settle pending cases?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (c) : Working days/hours and duration of vacations in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts. The working days as well as working hours of the District/Subordinate Courts are regulated by the respective High Court in consultation with the State Government.

....2/-

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

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

eCourts

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2025
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 5th AUGUST, 2021

Video conferencing facility at Magistrate Courts and Session Courts

2025 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha

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

(a) the details of Magistrate Courts and Session Courts in the country which have fully functional video-conference systems for the purpose of conducting proceedings;
(b) whether the system(s) is/are available per court or court complex as a whole ; and
(c) the complete details of Magistrate and Session Courts in the country which still do not have functional video conference systems for the purpose of conducting proceedings?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (c): Video conferencing systems are usually provided to a court complex as a whole. All courts, including Magistrate Courts and Sessions Courts, functioning in a Court Complex, are using/sharing the common video conference system provided to the Court Complex as per their requirements and the available timings. Funds have been provided to procure one video conferencing equipment for 3477 Court Complexes under the eCourts project.

NM

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2026
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 05th AUGUST, 2021

NORMS FOR JUDGES TO POPULATION RATIO

2026. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

(a) whether any norms have been laid down regarding the ratio of the number of Judges to the total population of the country, if so, the details thereof along with the present ratio in this regard;
(b) whether the Judge-population ratio has deteriorated in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether Government has made/proposes to make any assessment of the Judge-population ratio in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the Judge-population ratio in the country?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a): In order to calculate 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 as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the particular year. Using the above criterion, the judge-population ratio works out to be 21.03 Judges per million population for the year 2020.

The sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court increased from 31 in 2014 to 34 in the year 2020. The sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts increased from

906 judges in June 2014 to 1079 judges in December, 2020 and the sanctioned strength of Judges of District/Subordinate Courts increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 24,225 in the year 2020.

(b):The judge-population ratio in the country for the last three years is as follows :

Year	Judge- Population Ratio (per million population)
2018	19.78
2019	20.39
2020	21.03

As per the increase in the sanctioned strength of the respective courts, the judge-population has increased accordingly in the last three years.

(c) & (d): In the case of Imtiyaz Ahmed *versus* State of Uttar Pradesh and others, the Supreme Court had asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts required to clear the backlog of cases. In 245th Report (2014), the Law Commission observed that filing of cases *per capita* varies substantially across geographical units as filings are associated with economic and social conditions of the population. As such the Law Commission did not consider the judge population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in the country. The Law Commission found that in the absence of complete and scientific approach to data collection across various High Courts in the country, the "*Rate of Disposal*" method, to calculate the number of additional judges required to clear the backlog of cases as well as to ensure that new backlog is not created, is more pragmatic and useful.

In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS Committee) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission and to furnish its recommendations in this regard. NCMS

Committee submitted its report to the Supreme Court in March, 2016. The report, *inter-alia*, observes that in the long term, the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of "*Judicial Hours*" required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, the Committee has proposed a "*weighted*" disposal approach *i.e.* disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions.

As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 02.01.2017, the Department of Justice has forwarded a copy of interim report of the NCMS Committee to all the State Governments and High Courts to enable them to take follow up action to determine the required Strength of district and subordinate judiciary.

Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process, between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. Initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also the increase in the strength of Judges.

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of High Court and State Government concerned. In September, 2016, Union Minister of Law & Justice wrote to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts to enhance the cadre strength of the District and Subordinate Courts and provide physical infrastructure to the State judiciary. The same was reiterated in May, 2017. In August, 2018, in the context of increasing pendency of cases, the Union Minister of Law & Justice has written to all

Chief Justices of High Courts to monitor the status of the vacancies regularly and to ensure proper coordination with the state Public Service Commission to fill up vacant posts as per time schedule prescribed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case. The filling up of vacancies is also being monitored by the Supreme Court in a *suo-motu* Writ Petition (Civil) No. 2 of 2018.

A series of meetings were held with Registrars General of all High Courts and Law Secretaries of all State Governments / UTs in January 2018, July 2018 and November 2018 to follow up on filling up posts of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts. The Department of Justice has hosted a web-portal on its website for reporting and monitoring of sanctioned and working strength, and vacancies of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts on monthly basis.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2027
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 05th AUGUST, 2021

VACANCIES IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

2027. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

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

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of existing vacancies in District Courts and High Courts in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof particularly with reference to North Eastern States;
(c) whether Government propose to take up measures to fill up the vacancies in the Courts; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) & (b): The details of existing vacancies in Subordinate Courts and High Courts, including North Eastern States, is at ***Annexure-I*** and ***Annexure-II*** respectively.

(c) & (d): As per the Memorandum of Procedure, for the appointment of Judges of High Courts, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposals in consultation with two senior-most Judges from amongst the eligible candidates from the Bar and concerned State Judicial Service six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at the State and Centre

level. Every effort is made to expedite the process of appointment of Judges following the due procedure.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vest with the concerned High Court. Further, 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 issue of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. Hence, in so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States.

The Union Government does not have a role under the Constitution in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District/ subordinate judiciary. The Supreme Court, in its orders of 04th January, 2007 in Malik Mazhar case, has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary which stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments / High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions.

Further, in compliance of the above directions of the Supreme Court, Department of Justice forwarded a copy of the Malik Mazhar judgement to Registrars General of all High Courts for necessary action. Department of Justice is writing from time to time to Registrars General of all High Courts to expedite the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary mandated by Malik Mazhar case.

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Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2027 FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2021 REGARDING VACANCIES IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

(As on 30.07.2021)

S. No.	State & UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	-13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	607	494	113
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	41	23	18
4.	Assam	467	410	57
5.	Bihar	1936	1403	533
6.	Chandigarh	30	27	3
7.	Chhattisgarh	482	419	63
8.	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
9.	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
10.	Delhi	862	679	183
11.	Goa	50	40	10
12.	Gujarat	1523	1138	385
13.	Haryana	772	488	284
14.	Himachal Pradesh	175	161	14
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	296	251	45
16.	Jharkhand	675	530	145
17.	Karnataka	1328	1062	266
18.	Kerala	541	496	45
19.	Ladakh	16	9	7
20.	Lakshadweep	3	2	1
21.	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1586	435
22.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
23.	Manipur	59	43	16
24.	Meghalaya	97	49	48
25.	Mizoram	64	43	21
26.	Nagaland	33	26	7
27.	Odisha	957	749	208
28.	Puducherry	26	11	15
29.	Punjab	692	589	103
30.	Rajasthan	1540	1283	257
31.	Sikkim	25	20	5
32.	Tamil Nadu	1312	1041	271
33.	Telangana	474	378	96
34.	Tripura	121	97	24
35.	Uttar Pradesh	3634	2581	1053
36.	Uttarakhand	298	254	44
37.	West Bengal	1014	918	96
Total		**24368**	**19259**	**5109**

Source MIS portal of DoJ.

Annexure-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2027 FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2021 REGARDING VACANCIES IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

(As on 01.07.2021)

S. No.	Name of High Court	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Allahabad	160	95	65
2.	Andhra Pradesh	37	19	18
3.	Bombay	94	63	31
4.	Calcutta	72	31	41
5.	Chhattisgarh	22	14	08
6.	Delhi	60	31	29
7.	Gauhati	24	20	04
8.	Gujarat	52	28	24
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13	10	03
10.	High Court for UTs of J & K and Ladakh	17	11	06
11.	Jharkhand	25	15	10
12.	Karnataka	62	48	14
13.	Kerala	47	347	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53	29	24
15.	Madras	75	58	17
16.	Manipur	05	05	0
17.	Meghalaya	04	04	0
18.	Orissa	27	14	13
19.	Patna	53	20	33
20.	Punjab& Haryana	85	46	39
21.	Rajasthan	50	23	27
22.	Sikkim	03	03	0
23.	High Court for the State of Telangana	42	14	28
24.	Tripura	05	04	01
25.	Uttarakhand	11	07	04
Total		**1098**	**649**	**449**

Source MIS portal of DoJ.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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A2J/LAP

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2028

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 5th AUGUST, 2021

Accessibility to legal aid

2028.Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that according to reports, while legal aid is accessible and ensured to the poor on paper, on ground it proves to have a number of hurdles like corruption, hesitant and unambitious lawyers, among others;

(b) if so, whether Government has a plan of action to put these reports to rest; and

(c) if not, the details to back up the counterclaim?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) No Sir, the Government has not received any such report.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above..

(c) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker and marginalized sections of the society with the aim of reaching out to the diverse milieu of people belonging to different socio-economic background. In carrying out all these responsibilities, NALSA works in close coordination with the State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities and other agencies. There are currently 47,027 panel lawyers empaneled with Legal

Services Institutions across the county out of which 30,687 panel lawyers have a law practice of 10 years or more.

48,61,325 persons have availed free legal aid and advice during the last five years whose details are as under:

Categories of persons assisted	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (upto June)
SC	43806	66304	96744	118777	33335	6484
ST	34065	67586	137260	104213	39064	6491
Women	121050	199307	247789	269787	95654	19101
Children	19230	27726	63405	54211	18490	3379
In custody	112948	147662	176700	205350	141925	42541
Persons with Disability	2282	6420	7274	5671	10117	800
Industrial Workmen	1941	7120	10626	5312	36599	923
Transgender	341	216	348	189	165	136
Victim of Trafficking in Human Beings or Begar	454	643	692	1739	554	9
Victim of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	2179	3747	448131	15961	74489	4240
General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	111398	143475	130199	157837	47595	7508
Others	106995	152650	186048	273090	133771	41057
TOTAL	**556689**	**822856**	**1505216**	**1212137**	**631758**	**132669**

As far as panel lawyers are concerned, 'The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010' provides for criteria and procedure for selection of legal practitioners as panel lawyers. The selection of the panel lawyers is made by the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution in consultation with the Attorney General [for the Supreme Court], Advocate General [for the High Court], District Attorney or Government Pleader [for District and Taluka level] and the Monitoring and Mentoring

Committee set up under Regulation 10 of the aforesaid Regulations. The Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution may also suo moto empanel any legal practitioner as panel lawyer. The regulations provides for a minimum of three years' experience at the Bar for a legal practitioner to be empanelled to enable proper selection of lawyers.

As per Regulation 8 (16) of the National Legal Services Authority (Free And Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010, the panel lawyers cannot ask for or receive any fee, remuneration or any valuable consideration in any manner, from the person to whom he has rendered legal services. Under Regulation 8 (17) of these regulations, if the panel lawyer engaged is not performing satisfactorily or has acted contrary to the object and spirit of the Act and these regulations, the Legal Services Institution are empowered to take appropriate steps including withdrawal of the case from such lawyer and his removal from the panel.

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eCourts

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2029
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 5th AUGUST, 2021

eCourts compliance in subordinate courts

2029 **Smt. Roopa Ganguly:**

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

(a) the number of courts that has been digitised under the eCourt Mission Mode Project, the details thereof;
(b) the State-wise list of compliance for the subordinate courts, the data thereof; and
(c) the plans of the Ministry to increase the adoption of eCourts, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) & (b): The number of courts digitized so far under eCourts Mission Mode project are 18,735. The State-wise list of digitized courts is placed at Annexure I.

(c): The eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, headed by a Supreme Court Judge, is responsible for the policy planning, strategic direction and guidance for implementation of eCourts project. Department of Justice releases funds to High Courts on the recommendation of eCommittee of Supreme Court of India.

Towards enhancement of ICT enablement of Courts, following digitization initiatives have been taken under eCourts project:

i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, 2947 courts sites have been commissioned (as on 02.08.2021) with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed. This forms the backbone for ensuring data connectivity in courts across the length and breadth of the country.

ii. Case Information Software (CIS) which forms the basis for the e court services is based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. 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.

iii. A new software patch and user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed to help in smart scheduling of cases.

iv. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 18.95 crore cases and more than 14.87 crore orders/ judgments pertaining to these computerized courts (as on 02.08.2021). Open APIs has been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.

v. 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.

vi. 12 Virtual Courts in 9 States have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 75 lakh cases have been handled by 12 virtual courts and online fine of Rs. 160 Crore has been realised till 14.07.2021.The Delhi High Court has set up 34 Digital Courts dealing with Negotiable Instruments Act cases.

vii. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 96,239 virtual hearings (as on 09.07.2021 since the beginning of lockdown period).The High Courts (40,43,300 hearings) and Subordinate Courts (74,15,989 hearings) have conducted 1.14 crore virtual hearings till 30thJune 2021. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses (VidyoConnect) have been procured to promote virtual hearings.

viii. To promote Live Streaming of court proceedings, Model Live Streaming Rules have been circulated amongst all the High Courts across the country for their suggestions before adoption.

ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features like new dashboard including the options of my partners, Case Filing, Vakalatnama, pleading, e-payments, applications and case portfolio management.

x. To bridge the digital divide, funds have been released for setting up 235 eSewa Kendras to facilitate e-filing and virtual hearing of cases in High Courts and District Courts across the country.

xi. Seven platforms have been created for disseminating real time information on case status, cause list, judgments etc. to lawyers and litigants viz. a multilingual and disabled-friendly eCourts Portal, eCourts Mobile App and JustIS App for judges, Automated emails,

SMS Push and Pull Service, Judicial Service Centres and Information Kiosks.

xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons.

xiii. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 29 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 20 High Courts.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2029 for 5/8/2021 regurdingeCourts compliance in subordinate courts. The State-wise list of digitized courts are as under:

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

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

eCourts

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2031
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 5th AUGUST, 2021

Phase-III of eCourts Mission Mode Project

2031 **Shri Binoy Viswam**:

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

(a) the present status of Phase-III of the eCourts Mission Mode Project;
(b) whether the Ministry has considered the Draft Vision Document for Phase-III as prepared by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India, if so, whether this document has been accepted;
(c) whether the Ministry is considering the use of virtual courts in criminal trial proceedings as a special category of proceedings requiring additional safeguards, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the Ministry's stand on the live streaming of court proceedings, whether there has been any development on the same?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) & (b): A draft Vision Document has been formulated by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court for eCourts Project Phase III. The Vision Document has been prepared in consultation with domain

experts from within the judiciary and private sector experts. This document had been put in the public domain for inviting suggestions and feedback for preparation of Detailed Project Report for Phase-III.

(c): The use of virtual courts in criminal trial proceedings is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the judiciary and the Ministry has no role in the matter.

(d): Live streaming of proceedings enables direct access to people to first hand information about court proceedings and opinion of the judges and watch the justice delivery system in action. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court has formulated Draft Rules for live streaming of court proceedings, which has been circulated amongst all the High Courts and placed in the public domain for inputs and suggestions.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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A2J/LHP

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2035

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 5th AUGUST, 2021

Lok Adalats in the country

2035. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:

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

(a) the details of Lok Adalats organised in different States/ UTs during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases disposed off in these Lok Adalats during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by Government to make the Lok Adalats more effective; and

(d) the number of Lok Adalats proposed to be organised in the country during the current financial year, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) and (b) State/UT-wise and year-wise detail of number of Lok Adalats organised and cases disposed of by State Lok Adalats, National Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) during the last three years is 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 physically 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 24 States / UTs wherein 8.64 lakh cases were taken up and more than 4.42 lakh cases disposed of.

(d) Every year, NALSA issues calendar for the year for organising National Lok Adalats. During 2021, National Lok Adalats were organized on 10th April and 10th July and is further scheduled to be held on 11th September and 11th December. State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per local conditions and needs.

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Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2035 for answering on 05.08.2021 raised by Smt. Jharna Das Baidya, MP - Lok Adalats in the country.

Statement containing the information of cases disposed of in the State Lok Adalats during the last three financial year viz. 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and the current financial year 2021-22 (upto June 2021).

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22 (upto June)	
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	75	2	290	1	90	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	9860	13731	8493	11400	3585	30461	717	5509
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3	26	47	118	6	25	0	0
4	Assam	576	58278	419	33084	6	1	0	0
5	Bihar	1041	1361	931	1256	28	97	0	0
6	Chhattisgarh	629	5687	610	1662	491	3475	22	65
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	5	0	0	0.	0	0	0
8	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	69	4393	52	16340	300	195359	1	1
10	Goa	8	132	5	81	8	777	4	21
11	Gujarat	5555	18662	4542	20611	2851	21880	555	4210
12	Haryana	69880	143703	66040	124952	33774	52789	9313	6407
13	Himachal Pradesh	2088	75180	1865	68651	90	3205	1	14
14	Jammu & Kashmir	107	10611	145	16774	125	9469	2	27
15	Jharkhand	870	12468	743	14341	607	79649	349	586
16	Karnataka	8898	89616	3890	45165	1912	121884	100	504
17	Kerala	2356	31732	1972	21408	721	4837	23	931
18	Lakshadweep	11	198	2	0	0	0	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	1541	3561	1166	10675	1714	14903	135	714
20	Maharashtra	47	798	592	7932	22	605	1	2
21	Manipur	2	28	0	0	1	21	0	0
22	Meghalaya	23	166	0	0	0	0	4	4
23	Mizoram	85	477	112	552	27	147	0	0
24	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)
25	Odisha	361	82717	101	45210	239	4628	0	0
26	Puducherry	56	1011	49	699	24	392	5	3
27	Punjab	1034	29266	803	4242	0	0	0	0
28	Rajasthan	4185	10673	3689	6522	607	34514	45	36
29	Sikkim	110	729	120	560	110	158	30	80
30	Tamil Nadu	3259	17144	2181	16621	767	13117	119	443
31	Telangana	1956	13032	1862	12352	1501	24327	658	1051
32	Tripura	116	57069	35	7353	12	6938	4	169
33	Chandigarh	12	88	12	28	26	1	3	13
34	Uttar Pradesh	280	41576	197	3916	200	100305	19	82
35	Uttarakhand	41	7808	72	27258	121	6166	0	0
36	West Bengal	1650	315654	1307	25698	575	13853	124	15611
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	**116711**	**1047655**	**102056**	**545751**	**50451**	**744073**	**12234**	**36483**

Note: Ladakh Legal Services Authority was constituted in the month of February, 2021

Annexure-B

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2035 for answering on 05.08.2021 raised by Smt. Jharna Das Baidya, MP - Lok Adalats in the country.

Statement containing the information of cases disposed of in National Lok Adalats during last three years.

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2018	2019	2020	2021 (upto July)
		Cases Disposed Of	Cases Disposed Of	Cases Disposed Of	Cases Disposed Of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	248	905
2	Andhra Pradesh	95017	97415	37896	34835
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1338	588	104	309
4	Assam	31192	21596	12188	11406
5	Bihar	170983	164984	66451	39684
6	Chandigarh	11783	11188	2569	2282
7	Chhattisgarh	70362	57648	24464	37277
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	170	2021	1768	52
9	Daman & Diu	107	249	31	57
10	Delhi	75546	71377	83006	26324
11	Goa	2704	1565	351	217
12	Gujarat	137105	193150	41584	303042
13	Haryana	91141	103298	30298	39157
14	Himachal Pradesh	20298	25432	5971	13586
15	Jammu & Kashmir	59330	32177	13258	28241
16	Jharkhand	72058	49228	53152	47331
17	Karnataka	99957	281849	334681	332936
18	Kerala	106013	128729	15010	32692
19	Lakshadweep	103	4	8	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	310569	234433	108365	108773
21	Maharashtra	808625	428376	215837	0
22	Manipur	1689	1994	204	303
23	Meghalaya	936	695	303	425
24	Mizoram	1076	495	218	296
25	Nagaland	2328	973	251	134
26	Odisha	41288	43197	18329	13541
27	Puducherry	4745	4194	1738	2361
28	Punjab	111771	89016	32528	40562
29	Rajasthan	165621	219098	103060	76138
30	Sikkim	233	165	30	47
31	Tamil Nadu	475753	340594	88819	49539
32	Telangana	88135	110838	47560	96928
33	Tripura	2845	3354	382	109
34	Uttarakhand	34487	26058	8088	5246
35	Uttar Pradesh	2724616	2484405	1171022	1216773
36	West Bengal	62637	62890	28596	31812
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	493
	Grand Total	**5882561**	**5293273**	**2548368**	**2593813**

Note: Ladakh Legal Services Authority was constituted in the month of February, 2021

Annexure-C

Statement as referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2035 for answering on 05.08.2021 raised by Smt. Jharna Das Baidya, MP - Lok Adalats in the country.

Statement containing the information of number of sittings of Permanent Lok Adalats (PUS) and cases settled in these sittings during the financial years viz. 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 (upto June, 2021)

		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22 (upto June)	
S. No	Name of the State/UT Authority	Sittings during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sittings during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sittings during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sittings during the year	Cases settled during the year
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1204	1805	1384	1608	431	1283	215	327
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	350	99	263	38	99	12	74	14
5	Bihar	1688	491	1754	688	977	203	157	17
6	Chhattisgarh	995	122	918	96	346	32	135	1
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	502	18897	516	19439	532	14765	209	1670
10	Goa	19	107	21	57	24	30	2	0
11	Gujarat	23	365	9	120	1	105	2	1224
12	Haryana	3501	39930	3578	45839	3413	9654	885	3277
13	Himachal Pradesh	35	70	38	112	6	10	7	2
14	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Jharkhand	1668	6414	2738	10517	3554	1943	1058	867
16	Karnataka	1615	4014	1578	6399	1069	3869	213	211
17	Kerala	273	544	276	442	336	248	23	22
18	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	304	951	368	510	455	270	77	13
20	Maharashtra	723	2981	797	3304	541	249	195	38
21	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Odisha	705	1352	935	1870	583	1350	122	330
26	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

S. No	Name of the State/UT Authority	Sittings during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sittings during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sittings during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sittings during the year	Cases settled during the year
27	Punjab	3336	9427	4504	8391	2868	3987	647	757
28	Rajasthan	3765	4423	4545	5254	1123	806	212	126
29	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Tamil Nadu	0	0	245	47	236	80	65	24
31	Telangana	222	6243	181	3546	66	549	23	200
32	Tripura	189	245	147	208	1	0	0	0
33	Chandigarh	247	1653	246	582	246	108	57	76
34	Uttar Pradesh	4956	2340	4274	1230	2714	383	467	66
35	Uttarakhand	314	151	461	379	156	522	38	6
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	**26634**	**102624**	**29776**	**110676**	**19777**	**40458**	**4828**	**9268**

Note: Ladakh Legal Services Authority was constituted in the month of February, 2021.