

2024

LOK SABHA REPLIES

BUDGET SESSION, 2024

[2ND SESSION OF 18TH LOK SABHA]

[22ND JULY, 2024 to 09TH AUGUST, 2024]



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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *77**

Appointment

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26.07.2024

Permanent Bench of Supreme Court at Chennai

***77. DR. T SUMATHY ALIAS THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:
THIRU D M KATHIR ANAND:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any request from the legal fraternity and civil society for establishment of a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court of India at Chennai and if so, the details thereof and the stand of the Government thereon;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the clearance of pendency of cases in Supreme Court;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the transportation problems and language issues faced by the people living far away in Southern part of the country seeking justice in the Supreme Court;
- (d) whether the Government has taken an affirmative stand on making Tamil as an official court language; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) in respect of Lok Sabha Starred Question no. 77 due for answer on 26th July, 2024 regarding “Permanent Bench of Supreme Court at Chennai” asked by Dr. T Sumathy alias Thamizhachi Thangapandian and Thiru D M Kathir Anand.

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

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

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

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

5. The issues concerning disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, involvement of various stake holders viz. advocates, investigation agencies, witnesses, litigants etc.

6. In order to ensure that there is no pendency due to shortage of Judges in the Supreme Court, timely action was taken on Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) recommendations to ensure that the Supreme Court is functioning at full strength.

7. The Central Government has been fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. Several initiatives have been taken to provide an ecosystem to facilitate faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which includes enhancing judicial infrastructure and use of technology such as e-filing, Video Conferencing etc. to allow virtual access to litigants.

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

accompanied by a translation of the same in the English Language issued under the authority of the High Court.

9. The Committee of the Cabinet appointed to consider the different aspects of the Official Language Policy on 21.05.1965 stipulated that consent of the Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court.

10. Proposals had earlier been received from the Governments of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to permit use of Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada in the proceedings of the Madras High Court, Gujarat High Court, Chhattisgarh High Court, Calcutta High Court and Karnataka High Court respectively. In accordance with the decision of the Cabinet Committee appointed to consider the different aspects of the Official Language Policy, the advice of Chief Justice of India was sought on these proposals. The Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 16.10.2012 intimated that the Full Court in its meeting held on 11.10.2012, after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposals.

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

12. In order to promote access in different regional languages the Supreme Court has developed Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS), a machine assisted translation tool, trained by Artificial Intelligence (AI), with technical support from Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. This tool is specially designed for the judicial domain and currently has the capacity

of translating Judicial Documents, Orders or Judgments from English into eighteen Indian languages and vice versa. As on 15.07.2024, by using AI translation tools, 51,501 judgements of Supreme Court, have been translated into 18 languages viz. Assamese (34), Bengali (622), Garo (03), Gujarati (1,299), Hindi (36,260), Kannada (1,911), Kashmiri (0), Khasi (01), Konkani (14), Malayalam (1409), Marathi (2248), Nepali (101), Odia (190), Punjabi (3,825), Santhali (22), Tamil (2,256), Telugu (1069) and Urdu (237). The details of the judgments of Supreme Court translated into 18 languages, as on 15.07.2024, is available on the e-SCR Portal of the Supreme Court website.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 694
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH JULY, 2024**

DISPOSAL OF PENDING CASES

694. SMT. MALVIKA DEVI:

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

- (a) the steps taken to make sure that all the cases pending for many years are solved soon and justice is done;**
- (b) whether the new laws being made to make sure that child and women abuse is not taken lightly and proper punishment is given to the culprits, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) whether any new amendments are proposed to the Hindu Succession Act, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The resolution of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem for expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves improved infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary,

policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

(b): There are a number of women and child-centric changes that have been introduced in the three new criminal laws viz. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.

Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, the following relevant changes have been made:

- i. Offences against woman and child which were scattered in Indian Penal Code, 1860, have been **consolidated under Chapter-V** of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
- ii. A new offence has been introduced to protect women from deceitful sexual relationships. **Section 69** of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita ensures a woman's right to provide **informed consent**. Anyone who establishes a sexual relationship with a woman by suppressing his identity or making false promises of marriage, employment, or promotion will not be charged with rape, but such a breach of trust will be punishable by imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine.
- iii. Protection against sexual intercourse by a man on his wife is now granted to all women below the age of **18 years**. Earlier this protection was only provided to girls below the age of 15 years. Now all girls under the age of 18 years, regardless of their marital status, have protection against rape. (Exception 2 of Section 63).
- iv. Age differential for minor victims of gangrape has been removed. Earlier different punishments were prescribed for gangrape on a girl below the age of 16 years and 12 years. This provision has been modified to now be gangrape on a woman below the age of eighteen years and is punishable with imprisonment of life or death. (Section 70(2)).

Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the following relevant changes have been made:

- i. Section 66 – Women have been recognized as an adult member of family, on whom summons may be served on behalf of the person summoned. The earlier reference to ‘some adult male member’ has been replaced with ‘some adult member’.
- ii. Section 176(1) Second Proviso – In order to provide more protection to the victim and enforce transparency in investigation related to an offence of rape, the statement of the victim shall be recorded through audio video means by police.
- iii. Section 183(6)(a) Proviso 1 – For certain offences against woman, statement of the victim is to be recorded, as far as practicable, by a woman Magistrate and in her absence a male Magistrate in the presence of a woman.
- iv. Section 183(6)(a) Proviso 2 – The Magistrate shall now record the statement of a witness in case of certain offences against women that are punishable with imprisonment for ten years or more or with imprisonment for life or with death.
- v. Section 184(6) - Medical practitioners are mandated to send the medical report of a victim of rape to the investigating officer within 7 days.
- vi. Section 195(1) Proviso – Provides that no male person under the age of fifteen years or above the age of 60 years (65 years earlier) or a woman or a mentally or physically disabled person or a person with acute illness shall be required to attend at any place other than the place in which such male person or woman resides. In cases where such a person is willing to attend the police station, they may be allowed to do so.

(c): At present, there is no proposal to amend the Hindu Succession Act.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-772
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 26/07/2024

LAP

LEGAL AID CLINICS SCHEME

772. DR. BHOLA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing the Legal Aid Clinics scheme across the country, if so, the details and the status thereof;
- (b) whether the scheme has been implemented in the State of Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof particularly in Bulandshahr district and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any specific issues have been identified with regard to factors hindering the effective functioning of these clinics and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there have been any complaints regarding delays in the implementation of the scheme in the said district, if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the other corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the accessibility and awareness of the Legal Aid Clinics among the general public in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Regulation 3 of the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011 provides that subject to the financial resources available, District Legal Services Clinics can be established in;
 - i. all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending on the size of such villages, which shall be called the Village Legal Care and Support Centre; and
 - ii. jails, educational institutions, community centres, protection homes, Courts, juvenile justice boards and other areas, especially where the people face geographical, social and other barriers for access to the legal services institutions.

The details of the Legal Services Clinics functional across the country and number of persons provided with legal assistance during the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 are as follows:

Years	2023-24		2024-25 (upto May, 2024)	
Categories	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance
Law Colleges / Universities	1034	27545	1030	3677
Villages	3659	234515	3899	42949
Community Centres	971	75114	794	15099
Courts	1018	141539	1042	28268
Jails	1215	324867	1270	63141
JJB/CWC/ Observation Homes	479	48565	509	11809
For the people of North-East	47	615	45	156
Others	2961	183280	2985	32020
Total	11384	1036040	11574	197119

(b) The details of the Legal Services Clinics functioning in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on May, 2024 are as follows:

Categories	Number of Legal Services Clinics functioning
Law Colleges / Universities	155
Villages	120
Community Centres	32
Courts	58
Jails	77
JJB/CWC/ Observation Homes	16
For the people of North-East	7
Others	317
Total	782

Presently, Legal Aid Clinics are operational in 13 places under the District Legal Services Authority of Bulandshahar District.

- (c) & (d) As per available inputs, no specific issue has been identified with regard to effective functioning of Legal Aid Clinics. Besides, no complaint has been received regarding delays in implementation of the scheme in the said district, as per the District Legal Services Authority, Bulandshahar.
- (e) Regular Legal Awareness Programmes are being organised under the aegis of NALSA at Taluk, District, State and National Level to create awareness about the functioning of Legal Aid Clinics and the rights of the weaker and marginalized sections of the society. During the financial year 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto May, 2024), 4,30,306 and 54,671 Legal awareness camps/programmes were organized which were attended by 4,49,22,092 and 49,62,765 persons respectively.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

JR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 796

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH JULY, 2024

Progress in Development of Infrastructural Facilities for Judiciary

796. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any data of the progress and achievements of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary since its inception till date including the number of court halls and residential units established under the scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of fund allocated for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the State of Uttar Pradesh and also the number of court halls and residential units currently under construction in Uttar Pradesh?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The primary responsibility to provide Judicial Infrastructure for Subordinate Judiciary rests with the State Governments. The Union Government supplements the resources of the State/UT Governments, by providing financial assistance through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Judicial Infrastructure. The

scheme covers construction of Court Halls and Residential Units for Judicial officers along with Lawyer Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Room.

Monitoring of the progress of judicial infrastructure under the scheme is done through Nyaya Vikas portal 2.0. As per this portal, 23,074 number of court halls and 20,889 number of residential units have been constructed in the district and subordinate courts for Judicial Officers as on date, of which 7,256 court halls and 10,678 residential units have been constructed since the year 2014. Further, 3,022 Court Halls and 2,493 Residential Units are under construction as on date. The State/UT-wise detail of completed and under construction court halls and residential units is **annexed**.

(c): Since inception of the scheme in 1993-94, a sum of Rs. 1,656.41 crore has been released as Central Share to the State of Uttar Pradesh, of which Rs. 74.12 crores has been released during the current financial year 2024-25. Under the scheme, total number of 2,835 Court Halls and 2,555 Residential Units have been constructed as on date for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Also, 329 Court Halls and 258 Residential Units are under construction in Uttar Pradesh.

Annexure

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (A) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 796 FOR REPLY ON 26.07.2024

STATE-WISE STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS ON DATE

Sl. No.	States & Uts	Total Court Halls	Total Court Halls Under Construction*	Total Residential Units	Total Residential Units Under Construction*
1	Andaman and Nicobar	15	0	11	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	648	90	600	13
3	Arunachal Pradesh	34	5	32	2
4	Assam	421	72	385	19
5	Bihar	1541	184	1202	308
6	Chandigarh	29	1	29	0
7	Chhattisgarh	495	58	453	837
8	D & N Haveli	3	0	3	0
9	Daman & Diu	5	3	5	0
10	Delhi	699	0	348	70
11	Goa	47	32	20	0
12	Gujarat	1509	97	1360	65
13	Haryana	575	75	558	65
14	Himachal Pradesh	178	10	155	7
15	Jammu and Kashmir	202	46	138	8
16	Jharkhand	650	12	583	0
17	Karnataka	1230	166	1185	47
18	Kerala	571	67	555	30
19	Ladakh	11	0	4	0
20	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	1602	392	1769	154
22	Maharashtra	3683	531	3597	144
23	Manipur	42	8	16	6
24	Meghalaya	70	25	69	90
25	Mizoram	47	32	38	8
26	Nagaland	30	4	39	0
27	Odisha	836	156	736	97
28	Puducherry	34	0	27	0
29	Punjab	610	21	624	33
30	Rajasthan	1385	350	1175	157
31	Sikkim	20	6	15	1
32	Tamil Nadu	1242	40	1363	7
33	Telangana	549	21	472	5
34	Tripura	83	27	80	33
35	Uttar Pradesh	2835	329	2555	258
36	Uttarakhand	253	66	212	3
37	West Bengal	887	96	473	26
TOTAL		23074	3022	20889	2493

* As per Nyaya Vikas Portal

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 803**

Appointment

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26.07.2024

Delay in Appointment of High Court Judges

803. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

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

- (a) the number of recommendations for appointing high court judges pending for approval of the Government and the reasons for the delay in providing approval;
- (b) the number of recommendations of SC/ST/OBC candidates pending with the Government for approval of their appointment as High Court judges;
- (c) whether the Government has withheld approval for certain recommended candidates owing to their social media posts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The Judges of High Courts are appointed under Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their

Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As on date, 205 proposals recommended by High Court Collegiums are at various stages of processing.

2. Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of SCs, STs and OBCs among the Judges of High Courts are not centrally maintained. However, since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Hence, since 2018 the data on appointees to that extent is available. Out of 661 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 21 belong to SC category, 12 belong to ST category, 78 belong to OBC category and 499 belong to General category (till 22.07.2024). Further, the Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts.

3. Based on the information provided by the recommendees to the High Courts in the prescribed format, the number of recommendations in respect of SC, ST, OBC and Backward Community candidates, which are under process are as follows:

Sl. No.	Category (SC/ST/OBC)	Number of recommendees
1.	SC	08
2.	ST	03
3.	OBC	25
4.	BC	02

4. The Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 06.10.1993 in Supreme Court Advocate on Record Vs. Union of India (Second Judges Case) inter-alia, observed that merit selection is the dominant method for judicial selections and the candidates to be selected must possess high integrity, honesty, skill, high order of emotional stability, firmness, serenity, legal soundness, ability and endurance. Besides the above, the hallmarks of the most important personal qualifications required are moral vigour, ethical firmness and imperviousness to corrupting or venal influences, humility and lack of affiliations, judicial temperament, zeal and capacity to work.

5. The Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) has inter-alia opined that expression of views by a candidate does not disentitle him to hold a constitutional office so long as the person proposed for judgeship is a person of competence, merit and integrity. The Government, as an important stakeholder in the process of appointment of Judges in the High Courts and as laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure on appointment of High Court Judges provides inputs which mainly contain information on the suitability, competence and integrity of the candidates under consideration for appointment to high constitutional post in the judiciary. The recommendations along with inputs are then submitted to the SCC for advice. It may be mentioned that only those persons, who are recommended by the SCC, are appointed.

6. Appointment of the Judges of the constitutional courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 809**

Appointment

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26.07.2024

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES IN JUDICIARY

**809. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:
SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
DR. RANI SRIKUMAR:**

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

- (a) the details of the Chief Justice and Judges in the Supreme Court (SC) and the Chief Justices and Judges in High Courts (HCs) in the country, State/UT-wise as on date;
- (b) the number of Chief Justices/Judges belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category in the said courts;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to maintain adequate number of SC/ST Judges in the Supreme Court and other High Courts of the country during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the extent to which the Government has been successful in the said endeavour?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The details of Chief Justice of India and Chief Justices of High Courts are at **Annexure-I** and those of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are at **Annexure-II**.

Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of OBCs, SCs, STs and Minorities among the Judges of High Courts are not centrally maintained.

However, since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Hence, since 2018 the data on appointees to that extent is available. Out of 661 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 21 belong to SC category, 12 belong to ST category, 78 belong to OBC category and 499 belong to General category (till 22.07.2024).

The Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts.

DETAILS OF CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA AND CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE HIGH COURTS (As on 22.07.2024)

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE COURT	NAME OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE (S/SHRI JUSTICE)
1	SUPREME COURT (CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA)	DR. D.Y. CHANDRACHUD
2	ALLAHABAD	ARUN BHANSALI
3	ANDHRA PRADESH	DHIRAJ SINGH THAKUR
4	BOMBAY	DEVENDRA KUMAR UPADHYAYA
5	CALCUTTA	T.S. SIVAGNANAM
6	CHHATTISGARH	RAMESH SINHA
7	DELHI*	MANMOHAN
8	GAUHATI	VIJAY BISHNOI
9	GUJARAT	SMT. SUNITA AGARWAL
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	M.S.SRI RAMACHANDRA RAO
11	J&K AND LADAKH*	TASHI RABSTAN
12	JHARKHAND*	SUJIT NARAYAN PRASAD
13	KARNATAKA	NILAY VIPINCHANDRA ANJARIA
14	KERALA*	MUHAMED MUSTAQUE AYUMANTAKATH
15	MADHYA PRADESH*	SANJEEV SACHDEVA
16	MADRAS*	D. KRISHNAKUMAR
17	MANIPUR	SIDDHARTH MRIDUL
18	MEGHALAYA	S. VAIDYANATHAN
19	ORISSA	CHAKRADHARI SHARAN SINGH
20	PATNA	KRISHNAN VINOD CHANDRAN
21	PUNJAB & HARYANA	SHEEL NAGU
22	RAJASTHAN	MANINDRA MOHAN SHRIVASTAVA
23	SIKKIM	BISWANATH SOMADDER
24	TELANGANA	ALOK ARADHE
25	TRIPURA	APARESH KUMAR SINGH
26	UTTARAKHAND	KUMARI RITU BAHRI

* Acting Chief Justice

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India (Including Chief Justice of India) and the High Courts (Including Chief Justices of High Courts) (As on 22.07.2024)

A.	Supreme Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		34			34			0		
B.	High Court	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	75	9	84	44	32	76
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	6	28	6	3	9
3	Bombay	71	23	94	56	10	66	15	13	28
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	34	10	44	20	8	28
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	5	15	7	0	7
6	Delhi	45	15	60	34	5	39	11	10	21
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	19	5	24	3	3	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	12	3	15	1	1	2
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	18	0	18	2	5	7
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	43	7	50	4	8	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	29	10	39	6	2	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	36	0	36	4	13	17
15	Madras	56	19	75	50	13	63	6	6	12
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	1	4	0	0	0
18	Orissa	24	9	33	20	0	20	4	9	13
19	Patna	40	13	53	34	0	34	6	13	19
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	51	4	55	13	17	30
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	33	0	33	5	12	17
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	25	3	28	7	7	14
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	7	0	7	2	2	4
	Total	840	274	1114	663	92	755	177	182	359

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

LOK SABHA

Leg. III (LS)

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 815

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26th JULY, 2024.

Definition of Minor

815. Shri Anil Yeshwant Desai:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are several fatal accidents at the hands of minors in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government will rationalise the age of minor by considering those below 14 years as minor and all others over 14 years as adult for all purposes like – liquor consumption, driving licenses, marriage, crimes against women, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any demand or suggestion have ever been received to consider trial of people over the age of 14 in the court of law as adult violators, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways collects road accident data on a calendar year basis from Police Departments of States/ Union

Territories and publishes the data in their annual publication 'Road Accidents in India'. However, specific information/ data regarding fatal road accidents at the hands of minors in the country is not available.

(b) & (c): No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-821
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 26/07/2024

A25

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

821. SHRI SELVAM G:

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

- (a) the details of authorities/institutions that are established to provide free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society viz. SC/ST;
- (b) whether Government has created awareness among poor and weaker sections of the society about the facility of free legal aid and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases taken up/free legal aid provided by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during last three years, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized by NALSA during each of the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State/UT-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor the functioning/performance of these authorities/institutions including NALSA and if so, details thereof and the other corrective step taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The following Authorities/Institutions are established to provide free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society including those belonging to SC/ST:-
 - i. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at National level
 - ii. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) at Supreme Court level
 - iii. 38 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs) at High Court level
 - iv. 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) at State level
 - v. 703 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at District level
 - vi. 2390 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) at Taluk level

- (b) In order to make people aware of their entitlements, legal awareness programmes are organised across the country by Legal Service Authorities on various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons with disabilities etc. In addition, Legal Services Authorities have also prepared booklets and pamphlets in easy language on various laws which are distributed amongst the people. More than 4.30 lakh legal awareness programmes were organised during the year 2023-24 which were attended by 4.49 crore persons.
- (c) State/UT-wise details of number of persons benefited through free Legal Services provided by the Legal Services Institutions during the last three financial years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and the current financial year 2024-25 (upto May, 2024) is at Annexure - A.
- (d) Funds under Grant-in-Aid are allocated and released to NALSA by the Government on yearly basis. During the last 3 years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, grants-in-aid of Rs. 145 crore, Rs. 190 crore and Rs. 400 crore respectively were allocated/released by the Government to NALSA. For the current year i.e. 2024-25, grants-in-aid of Rs. 200 crore have been allocated to NALSA out of which Rs. 83 crore have been released so far by the Government. The details of funds allocated by NALSA to Legal Services Authorities for organizing legal aid programmes during last three years and the current year is at Annexure - B.
- (e) In order to monitor the performance of the legal services authorities, NALSA receives monthly activity reports from all the SLSAs highlighting all the activities carried out in a particular month. Thereafter, a final activity report on monthly basis is sent by NALSA to the Government which is reviewed and compiled. Apart from monthly activity reports, NALSA also receives Annual Reports from all the SLSAs and prepares its own Annual Report, which is laid before both Houses of the Parliament.

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

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 821 for answering on 26.07.2024 raised by Shri Selvam G, MP - National Legal Services Authority.

Statement showing the details of number of persons benefited through free Legal Services provided by the Legal Services Institutions under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the last three years and the current year.

S. No.	SLSAs	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (upto May 2024)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	79	134	220	17
2	Andhra Pradesh	6371	9473	8265	1214
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2657	5559	5696	1068
4	Assam	110254	38335	63749	11763
5	Bihar	1689158	209809	151413	14474
6	Chandigarh	1781	2653	2822	616
7	Chhattisgarh	42394	44106	62164	11537
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	27	28	55	7
9	Daman and Diu	17	24	34	12
10	Delhi	79055	96433	121882	14031
11	Goa	1101	2041	1558	292
12	Gujarat	21953	32422	40569	7144
13	Haryana	23260	43098	76863	11109
14	Himachal Pradesh	4806	5998	7346	1105
15	Jammu and Kashmir	8870	7992	11396	2141
16	Jharkhand	649481	145217	269303	31855
17	Karnataka	32794	45663	53406	8546
18	Kerala	16895	23418	36498	2915
19	Ladakh	2408	711	505	65
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	1
21	Madhya Pradesh	3343800	191921	225510	42159
22	Maharashtra	22595	36663	53756	8244
23	Manipur	22651	26929	62635	5932
24	Meghalaya	2346	2769	2371	300
25	Mizoram	3201	5038	4801	780
26	Nagaland	7750	7390	4603	708
27	Odisha	8849	11880	19289	3107
28	Puducherry	884	788	621	145
29	Punjab	36404	56448	60361	11356
30	Rajasthan	13833	13472	20290	3376
31	Sikkim	986	1127	1074	136
32	Tamil Nadu	38181	49570	45180	7196
33	Telangana	6712	12615	13193	1006
34	Tripura	2671	5055	9964	1758
35	Uttar Pradesh	132629	24890	29079	2010
36	Uttarakhand	3775	5386	21339	4300
37	West Bengal	29015	49714	62354	12600
	Total	6369643	1214769	1550164	225025

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 821 for answering on 26.07.2024 raised by Shri Selvam G, MP - National Legal Services Authority.

Statement showing the amount of funds allocated (in Rupees) to Legal Services Authorities for organising legal aid programmes during the last three years and current year.

S.No.	Name of Legal Services Authorities	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (upto 18.07.2024)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	15,00,000	8,43,500	24,00,000
2	Andhra Pradesh	5,00,00,000	4,65,00,000	9,16,00,000	86,00,000
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,40,00,000	5,00,00,000	9,75,00,000	1,25,00,000
4	Assam	6,40,00,000	7,40,00,000	20,00,00,000	2,40,00,000
5	Bihar	7,60,00,000	9,25,00,000	12,50,00,000	3,06,00,000
6	Chandigarh	55,00,000	60,00,000	1,42,26,000	-
7	Chhattisgarh	5,25,00,000	6,65,00,000	17,00,00,000	2,20,00,000
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	10,00,000	2,50,000	-
9	Daman and Diu	-	-	17,50,000	3,50,000
10	Delhi	9,30,00,000	12,25,00,000	15,00,00,000	6,00,00,000
11	Goa	15,00,000	45,00,000	1,42,00,000	43,00,000
12	Gujarat	5,75,00,000	8,80,00,000	18,50,00,000	3,10,00,000
13	Haryana	6,50,00,000	7,60,00,000	13,25,00,000	1,43,00,000
14	Himachal Pradesh	2,45,00,000	3,90,00,000	8,50,00,000	4,50,00,000
15	Jammu and Kashmir	4,65,00,000	6,60,00,000	9,50,00,000	2,35,00,000
16	Jharkhand	7,35,00,000	7,00,00,000	16,50,00,000	2,65,00,000
17	Karnataka	7,50,00,000	9,20,00,000	17,50,00,000	2,90,00,000
18	Kerala	9,90,00,000	8,00,00,000	19,75,00,000	2,00,00,000
19	Ladakh	65,00,000	45,00,000	1,18,65,000	50,00,000
20	Lakshadweep	-	5,00,000	2,75,000	-
21	Madhya Pradesh	5,00,00,000	7,40,00,000	26,50,00,000	4,00,00,000
22	Maharashtra	8,25,00,000	9,60,00,000	26,50,00,000	5,40,00,000
23	Manipur	1,05,00,000	1,90,00,000	6,23,30,730	1,12,00,000
24	Meghalaya	50,00,000	2,60,00,000	2,46,35,500	16,00,000
25	Mizoram	1,15,00,000	2,15,00,000	4,28,00,000	1,38,00,000
26	Nagaland	1,15,00,000	2,75,00,000	2,20,00,000	42,00,000
27	Odisha	4,25,00,000	7,60,00,000	9,32,00,000	2,60,00,000
28	Puducherry	20,00,000	92,00,000	70,10,000	23,00,000
29	Punjab	6,40,00,000	6,16,00,000	18,25,00,000	2,75,00,000
30	Rajasthan	7,00,00,000	8,40,00,000	15,25,00,000	1,80,00,000
31	Sikkim	65,00,000	1,65,00,000	1,55,00,000	34,00,000
32	Tamil Nadu	6,00,00,000	8,10,00,000	18,00,00,000	4,15,00,000
33	Telangana	4,10,00,000	5,05,00,000	14,00,00,000	2,20,00,000
34	Tripura	2,65,00,000	3,40,00,000	6,50,00,000	55,00,000
35	Uttar Pradesh	6,00,00,000	11,80,00,000	29,50,00,000	5,50,00,000
36	Uttarakhand	2,55,00,000	3,55,00,000	4,25,00,000	1,26,00,000
37	West Bengal	7,00,00,000	8,80,00,000	16,25,00,000	3,35,00,000
38	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	1,00,00,000	90,00,000	1,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
39	Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC)	-	1,25,00,000	50,00,000	50,00,000
	TOTAL	1,45,30,00,000	1,92,08,00,000	3,94,49,85,730	74,61,50,000

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

Notary Cell (LA)

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 840
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 26.07.2024**

Appointment of Notary Public

840. Shri Govind Makthappa Karjol:

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

- (a) whether many advocates who submitted online applications for the Notary public posts in the year 2022-23 from Karnataka are still waiting for their appointment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which all the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Online interviews for appointment of Notaries by the Central Government in the State of Karnataka for the applications received till 31.08.2022 were held in February – March, 2023. However, due to administrative reasons, the process of appointment was cancelled. A public notice in this regard was published on the official website of the Department of Legal Affairs on 26.05.2023.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 843

JR

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH JULY, 2024

Allocation of Funds for Judicial Infrastructure

843. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

- (a) whether Rs. 9,000 crores have been allotted for Centrally Sponsored Scheme of providing judicial infrastructure in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether so far just Rs. 1,000 crores has been spent on the above scheme;
- (c) if so, the details of expenditure made and assets created so far, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) whether new components have been added under the above scheme and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities in District and Subordinate Courts by providing financial assistance to State/UT Governments in the prescribed fund sharing pattern. The Government has approved the continuance of this CSS for a further period of 5 years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, at an outlay of Rs.9000 Crore, including Central share of Rs.5307 Crore.

(b) & (c): Since 2021-22 till date, the Central Government has released Rs. 269.55 crore under this Scheme to States/UTs, of which, a sum of Rs. 72.32 crore has been released to Andhra Pradesh. State-wise expenditure of funds since 2021-22 is at *Annexure-I*.

Since inception of the scheme in 1993-94, 23,074 number of court halls and 20,889 number of residential units have been constructed in the District and Subordinate Courts, against the working strength of 20,371 Judicial Officers as on date. In case of State of Andhra Pradesh, 648 court halls and 600 residential units have been constructed under the scheme as on date. The state-wise availability of Court Halls and Residential Units along with court halls and residential units under construction are at *Annexure-II*.

(d): The scheme aims at progressively improving the physical infrastructure of the Subordinate Courts as also the housing needs for judicial officers of District and Subordinate Courts in the country, with a view to facilitate improved justice delivery. Till 2021, there were only two components covered under the scheme i.e. construction of Court Halls and Residential Units for Judicial Officers. However, while giving extension to the scheme in 2021, three additional components were added to the scheme, which are (i) construction of lawyers' halls, (ii) toilet complexes and (iii) digital computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants.

ANNEXURE-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (C) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 843 FOR REPLY ON 26.07.2024****STATEMENT SHOWING FUNDS SANCTIONED/ALLOCATED AND UTILIZED AS ON DATE**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Funds Sanctioned/Allocated (since 2021-22 to as on date) (Rs. in Crore)	Funds utilized (since 2021-22 to as on date) (Rs. in Crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	72.32	47.65
2	Bihar	106.44	85.47
3	Chhattisgarh	83.87	77.39
4	Goa	33.25	29.73
5	Gujarat	101.84	70.15
6	Haryana	20.10	9.85
7	Himachal Pradesh	11.62	5.69
8	Jharkhand	63.32	55.32
9	Karnataka	242.18	230.28
10	Kerala	72.89	55.28
11	Madhya Pradesh	320.40	284.74
12	Maharashtra	267.64	267.64
13	Odisha	78.81	77.83
14	Punjab	47.42	38.71
15	Rajasthan	222.75	194.09
16	Tamil Nadu	169.51	134.61
17	Telangana	26.61	12.26
18	Uttar Pradesh	396.08	318.88
19	Uttarakhand	109.89	101.63
20	West Bengal	40.22	21.27
Total(A)		2,487.12	2,118.47
1	Arunachal Pradesh	36.47	16.02
2	Assam	105.41	91.71
3	Manipur	14.56	12.67
4	Meghalaya	120.53	112.76
5	Mizoram	18.36	17.98
6	Nagaland	17.66	14.30
7	Sikkim	4.96	1.88
8	Tripura	40.48	24.45
Total(B)		358.43	291.77
1	A & N Islands	0.95	0.95
2	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00
3	Dadra & NH	0.00	0.00
4	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00
5	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00
6	Ladakh	2.40	2.40
Total(C)		3.35	3.35
1	Delhi	46.50	29.84
2	Puducherry	9.55	3.01
3	Jammu & Kashmir	64.60	43.78
Total(D)		120.65	76.63
Grand Total(A+B+C+D)		2,969.55	2,490.22

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (C) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 843 FOR
REPLY ON 26.07.2024**

STATE-WISE STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS ON DATE

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Total Court Halls	Total Court Halls Under Construction*	Total Residential Units	Total Residential Units Under Construction*
1	Andaman and Nicobar	15	0	11	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	648	90	600	13
3	Arunachal Pradesh	34	5	32	2
4	Assam	421	72	385	19
5	Bihar	1541	184	1202	308
6	Chandigarh	29	1	29	0
7	Chhattisgarh	495	58	453	837
8	D & N Haveli	3	0	3	0
9	Daman & Diu	5	3	5	0
10	Delhi	699	0	348	70
11	Goa	47	32	20	0
12	Gujarat	1509	69	1360	65
13	Haryana	575	75	558	65
14	Himachal Pradesh	178	10	155	7
15	Jammu and Kashmir	202	46	138	8
16	Jharkhand	650	12	583	0
17	Karnataka	1230	166	1185	47
18	Kerala	571	67	555	30
19	Ladakh	11	0	4	0
20	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	1602	392	1769	154
22	Maharashtra	3683	531	3597	144
23	Manipur	42	8	16	6
24	Meghalaya	70	25	69	90
25	Mizoram	47	32	38	8
26	Nagaland	30	4	39	0
27	Odisha	836	156	736	97
28	Puducherry	34	0	27	0
29	Punjab	610	21	624	33
30	Rajasthan	1385	350	1175	157
31	Sikkim	20	6	15	1
32	Tamil Nadu	1242	40	1363	7
33	Telangana	549	21	472	5
34	Tripura	83	27	80	33
35	Uttar Pradesh	2835	329	2555	258
36	Uttarakhand	253	66	212	3
37	West Bengal	887	96	473	26
TOTAL		23074	2994	20889	2493

Source: As per Nyaya Vikas 02 Portal

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-847
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 26/07/2024

LAP

PARALEGAL VOLUNTEERS

847. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
DR. RANI SRIKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps towards training of paralegal volunteers to represent the needy and to give legal aid and assistance to their respective jurisdiction, State wise including Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government along with the Legal services authorities are working towards strengthening paralegal volunteers since they play crucial role to literate unprivileged and marginalised peoples of society; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d): The Para-legal Volunteers Scheme was introduced by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in the year 2009, with an aim to impart legal training to the volunteers, who are selected from different walks of life so as to ensure legal aid reaching all sections of people ensuring access to justice. The said scheme was revised in 2017 and re-named as 'Scheme for Para-legal Volunteers (Revised)'. The Para-legal Volunteers (PLVs) are expected to act as intermediaries between the common citizens and the Legal Services Institutions to bridge the gap in ensuring access to justice.

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

Under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), PLVs undergo training programmes at a common place. The number of PLVs to be trained at any given point of time in a training programme does not exceed 50. In addition to orientation and induction trainings, periodical refresher training is also provided to the PLVs in order to enhance their skill from time to time. The Legal Services Authorities periodically assess the work of PLVs and assist them in identifying the deficits and to tackle the problems in the field. The DLSAs resolve their doubts and facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and upgradation of their skills as per the module. The exemplary services of PLVs are given recognition and are rewarded for providing the best services to the beneficiaries.

A statement containing the details of training programmes conducted for PLVs by the Legal Services Authorities including Rajasthan during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto May 2024) is at **Annexure-A**.

Annexure-A

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 847 for answering on 26.07.2024 raised by Shri Dushyant Singh and Dr. Rani Srikumar, MPs - Paralegal Volunteers.

Statement containing the details of training programmes conducted for PLVs by the Legal Services Authorities during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto May, 2024)			
S. No	Name of the SLSAs	No of Training Programmes conducted for PLVs	
		2023-24	2024-25 (upto May 2024)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7	0
4	Assam	38	3
5	Bihar	95	6
6	Chandigarh	7	1
7	Chhattisgarh	253	38
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
9	Daman and Diu	0	0
10	Delhi	39	6
11	Goa	2	1
12	Gujarat	22	9
13	Haryana	268	45
14	Himachal Pradesh	74	16
15	Jammu and Kashmir	19	0
16	Jharkhand	182	33
17	Karnataka	58	3
18	Kerala	9	3
19	Ladakh	2	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	145	0
22	Maharashtra	126	38
23	Manipur	18	1
24	Meghalaya	4	6
25	Mizoram	9	0
26	Nagaland	1	0
27	Odisha	53	23
28	Puducherry	3	1
29	Punjab	226	37
30	Rajasthan	47	14
31	Sikkim	18	2
32	Tamil Nadu	63	14
33	Telangana	19	3
34	Tripura	10	1
35	Uttar Pradesh	8	6
36	Uttarakhand	42	3
37	West Bengal	79	19
	Total	1983	332

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 853
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH JULY, 2024

e-Courts Projects

e-court

853. Shri Chudasama Rajeshbhai Naranbhai:

Shri Manoj Tiwari:

Shri Murari Lal Meena:

Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram:

Shri Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy:

Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi:

Shri Biplab Kumar Deb:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government under the various phases of the e-Courts project;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilized for e-Court project, year and State-wise;
- (c) the details of the implementation status of the e-Courts project, State-wise including Rajasthan;
- (d) the number of e-Court have been opened/functioning in Tripura and Rajasthan;
- (e) the number of courts having requisite digital infrastructure and those still to be digitalized during the said period, State-wise; and
- (f) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the impact of the e-Courts project on improving judicial efficiency and transparency, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) :As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication

Technologies (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary”. This project is being implemented by the Department of Justice, in close coordination with the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India.

2. The phase I of the eCourts Mission Mode Project was implemented during 2011-2015, which focused on the basics of computerisation like setting up computer hardware, ensuring internet connectivity, and operationalizing the e-Courts platform. Against the financial outlay of Rs.935 crore, a total expenditure of Rs.639.41 crore was incurred. The Following initiatives were undertaken in this phase:

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

3. The Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project was implemented during 2015-2023, which focused mainly on ICT enablement of District & Subordinate Courts and various citizen centric initiatives. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores, an amount of Rs. 1668.43 crore was spent. Till 2023, 18,735 courts have been computerized. The following initiatives have been undertaken to make justice accessible and available for all stakeholders through

digitization of legal procedures, thereby enhancing efficiency and transparency in the legal system: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2977 out of earmarked 2992) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 26.044 crore cases and more than 26.047 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.07.2024).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 2.42 crore downloads till 31.05.2024) and JustIS app for judges (19,893 downloads till 31.05.2024).
- v. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,33,67,497 cases while the High Courts heard 86,35,710 cases (totalling 3.20 crore) till 31.05.2024 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India 7,54,443 hearings through video conferencing till 04.06.2024.

- vi. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in 8 High Courts & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- vii. 28 Virtual Courts in 21 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. Over 5.08 crore cases have been handled by 28 virtual courts and in over 54 lakhs (54,72,772) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 561.09 crore has been realized till 31.05.2024.
- viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 25 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.05.2024.
- ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 22 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 23 High Courts till 31.05.2024.
- x. To bridge the digital divide, 1057 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online eCourts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large and provides benefits in terms of saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- xi. 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.

- xii. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public, LED Display Message Sign Board System called “Justice Clock” have been installed. The purpose of Justice Clock is to bring awareness to the public about the Justice Sector. A total of 39 Justice Clocks in 25 High Courts have been installed. A Virtual Justice Clock is also hosted online.

4. As Phase II of eCourts Mission Mode Project was coming to an end, the Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved Phase-III of eCourts Project, with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore for a period of 4 years starting from 2023 onwards. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts through digitization of the entire court records including legacy records and by bringing in universalization of e-Filing/ e-Payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras. eCourts Phase III intends to put in place intelligent smart systems enabling data-based decision making for judges and registries while scheduling or prioritizing cases. The main objective of the Phase-III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary, thus providing a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. The project envisages a smoother user experience by building a “smart” ecosystem. The eCourts Phase-III may thus prove to be a game changer in ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country. The various components of eCourts Phase III including digitization of 3108 crore pages of legacy records, cloud infrastructure, 4400 fully functional eSewa Kendras in all court complexes, and use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning. The

funds allocated and utilized under eCourts project for Phase-II (2015-2023) are given at Annexure I and Phase-III (FY 2023-24) is given at Annexure II.

(c) to (e) : The details of implementation status of eCourts project (including Rajasthan and Tripura) are given at Annexure III. As per the approved DPR of the eCourts Phase III, there is a provision for computerization of 2500 new courts at a cost estimate of Rs. 426.25 crore.

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

- The eCourts Project has led to an increase in the total number of cases filed in the courts and helped with easier access to information through online portals and mobile applications.
- A high level of satisfaction was expressed with the access and quality of the various ICT facilities provided under the eCourts project.
- The procurement process by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India is well planned and all payments are received on time.
- Judges are satisfied with the improvement in court time management and transparency of information that has resulted from implementation of eCourts project.
- 90-100% of sample courts have provision of computers hardware and have installed Case Information System (CIS).
- High proportion of judges and court officials had received training in the use of CIS, NJDG and hardware. Almost all respondents were of the opinion that the trainings were very useful.
- Services like Case Information System (CIS), JustIS mobile app and The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) website are used very often and have an easy user interface.

- Majority of judges and court official feels that eCourts project has reduced pendency of cases because of easy access to cases laws resulting in better research.
- The pendency of cases over 5 years have displayed slow but steady decline over the years.
- Since 2017, a sharp increase in the clearance rate of district courts is also noticed.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.853 for 26/07/2024 regarding e-Courts projects. The details of fund released/utilized under eCourts Project Phase-II (2015-2023) are as under:

1	Allahabad	31.14	31.14	20.88	20.88	20.57	20.27	8.07	7.96	15.04	13.63	13.79	10.22			0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh											1.96	1.96			0	0
3	Bombay	30.39	30.39	38.25	38.24	47.22	47.18	0.52	0.52	0	0	8.86	8.86			0	0
4	Calcutta	12.14	11.06	9.17	8.89	10.72	3.95	0.13	0.12	0	0	4.93	2.79			0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	3.82	3.82	6.03	6.03	9.34	9.34	1.33	1.33	4.44	4.44	2.34	2.34			0	0
6	Delhi	5.87	5.87	5.41	5.41	8.97	8.95	3.54	3.54	0	0	3	2.85			0	0
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.59	0.59	4.33	4.29	1.37	1.37	2.85	2.85	0.98	0.98	1.52	1.52	1.26	1.18	0	0
8	Gauhati (Assam)	5.19	5.19	25.47	25.47	8.13	8.13	8.7	8.7	13.68	13.68	6.11	6.02	3.49	3.48	0	0
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.71	0.71	3.01	2.95	2.47	2.47	0.15	0.15	0.51	0.43	0.72	0.69	0.3	0.25	0	0
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.77	0.77	2.31	2.31	1.83	1.83	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.84	0	0
11	Gujarat*	11.23	11.23	18.32	17.17	29.06	23.84	10.73	9.88	0	0	3.48	3.09			0	0
12	Himachal Pradesh	1.79	1.79	3.21	3.21	4.05	4.03	0.13	0.13	0	0	2	1.78			0	0
13	Jammu & Kashmir	1.84	1.84	5.29	5.29	10.59	10.59	0.26	0.26	0	0	1	1			0	0
14	Jharkhand	3.2	3.2	5.09	5.09	2.92	2.92	4.53	4.53	5.53	5.53	2.98	2.84			0	0
15	Karnataka	11.86	11.86	17.43	17.43	22.04	22.04	0.61	0.61	9.15	9.15	4.29	4.29			0	0
16	Kerala	5.53	5.53	8.32	8.32	14.73	14.73	4.61	4.61	0	0	2.83	2.83	1.58	1.58	0	0
17	Madhya Pradesh	9.73	9.73	23.93	23.93	22.51	22.51	0.39	0.39	11.21	11.07	6.28	6.21			0	0
18	Madras	10.24	10.24	24.62	24.62	25.45	24.32	5.11	4.26	0	0	4.73	4			0	0
19	Manipur	0.53	0.53	4.24	4.23	1.19	1.18	0.65	0.65	0.61	0.6	1.3	1.28	0.76	0.75	0	0
20	Meghalaya	0.19	0.19	3.26	3.26	3.65	3.65	0.62	0.62	0.92	0.88	2.32	2.11	2.23	1.76	0	0
21	Orissa	7.57	7.57	7.71	7.71	12.7	12.47	1.59	1.48	13.46	13.09	3.37	3.31			0	0
22	Patna	8.04	8.04	26.41	26.38	8.72	8.27	0.13	0.07	7.08	6.4	5.44	5.26			0	0
23	Punjab & Haryana	11.63	11.63	17.92	17.92	11.54	11.54	8.49	8.49	0	0	4.55	4.55			0	0
24	Rajasthan	9.97	9.97	23.04	23.03	25.05	25.05	3.01	3.01	1.29	1.29	10.58	10.57	1.62	1.62	0	0
25	Sikkim	0.18	0.18	1.8	1.75	1.4	1.39	0.8	0.78	1.61	1.18	1.01	0.97	0.77	0.6	0	0
26	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh**	13.9	13.9	14.31	14.24	33.95	32.37	8.13	8.13	0	0	0	0			0	0
27	Telangana											1.79	1.6			0	0
28	Tripura	1.2	1.2	4.38	4.38	2.86	2.86	1.77	1.77	2.24	2.23	4.44	4.25	0.96	0.87	0	0
29	Uttarakhand	2.98	2.98	2.66	2.66	4.6	4.49	0.13	0.13	0	0	1.28	1.12			0	0

*Gujarat High Court surrendered Rs.13.12 Cr. Total utilization included surrender funds.

**Funds released erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court, and both the states shared the available funds in the ratio of 58:42 respectively

Funds under the eCourts Phase-II were exhausted and the DPR was under preparation by the eCommittee, SCI. Hence, no funds were released during FY 2022-23.

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.853 for 26/07/2024 regarding e-Courts projects. The details of fund released/utilized under eCourts Project Phase-III (FY 2023-24) is as under:

1	Allahabad	95.87	95.87
2	Andhra Pradesh	25.44	25.44
3	Bombay	69.54	69.54
4	Calcutta	16.73	16.73
5	Chhattisgarh	16.27	16.27
6	Delhi	17.89	17.89
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	2.03	2.03
8	Gauhati (Assam)	24.97	24.97
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	3.12	3.12
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	1.79	1.79
11	Gujarat	27.72	27.72
12	Himachal Pradesh	6.06	6.06
13	Jammu & Kashmir	6.52	6.52
14	Jharkhand	10.59	10.59
15	Karnataka	32.37	32.37
16	Kerala	15.40	15.40
17	Madhya Pradesh	22.90	22.90
18	Madras	90.69	90.69
19	Manipur	11.12	11.12
20	Meghalaya	3.33	3.33
21	Orissa	6.77	6.77
22	Patna	32.43	32.43
23	Punjab & Haryana	14.58	14.58
24	Rajasthan	19.80	19.80
25	Sikkim	1.71	1.71
26	Telangana	22.03	22.03
27	Tripura	0.53	0.53
28	Uttarakhand	13.68	13.68

Annexure-III

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.853 for 26/07/2024 regarding implementation Status of e-Courts project. The details of court complex and implementation of eCourts including Rajasthan and Tripura are as under:

S.No	High Court	State	Court Complexes	Courts
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	180	2222
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	218	617
3	Bombay	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3
		Daman and Diu	2	2
		Goa	17	39
		Maharashtra	471	2157
4	Calcutta	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	14
		West Bengal	89	827
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	93	434
6	Delhi	Delhi	6	681
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	14	28
		Assam	74	408
		Mizoram	8	69
		Nagaland	11	37
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	376	1268
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	50	162
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	86	218
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	28	447
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	207	1031
13	Kerala	Kerala	158	484
		Lakshadweep	1	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	213	1363
15	Madras	Puducherry	4	24
		Tamil Nadu	263	1124
16	Manipur	Manipur	17	38
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	7	42
18	Orissa	Odisha	185	686
19	Patna	Bihar	84	1142
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	1	30
		Haryana	53	500
		Punjab	64	541
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	247	1240
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	8	23
23	Telangana	Telangana	129	476
24	Tripura	Tripura	14	84
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	69	271
	Total		3452	18735

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †854
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH JULY, 2024**

PENDING CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS

†854. **Shri Rahul Kaswan:**
Shri Hibi Eden:
Shri Khalilur Rahaman:

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

- (a) whether there is a huge backlog of cases in different courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts and Lower Courts, District Courts, State/UT-wise including West Bengal;
- (c) the number of cases disposed by different courts in Rajasthan during the last five years;
- (d) the reasons identified for the increasing backlog of cases; and
- (e) the details of steps being taken for speedy disposal of cases pending in different courts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the backlog of cases in different courts of the country is as follows:

S. No.	Name of Court	Total no. of pending cases
1.	Supreme Court	84,045
2.	High Courts	60,11,678
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,53,51,913

The detailed statement showing State/UT-wise pending cases in District Courts including West Bengal is placed at *Annexure-I*.

(c): The detailed statement showing number of cases disposed by different courts in Rajasthan during the last five years is placed at *Annexure-II*.

(d): There are several reasons that lead to pendency of cases in courts which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. Moreover, in case of pendency of criminal cases, the criminal justice system functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Delay in providing assistance by allied agencies also entails delay in disposal of cases.

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) AND (B) OF LOK
SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. +854 FOR ANSWER ON 26.07.2024
REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS'.**

Detailed statement showing State/UT-wise pending cases in District Courts

S.No.	State/UT	Total no. of pending cases
1	Uttar Pradesh	11848518
2	Maharashtra	5461530
3	Bihar	3567635
4	West Bengal	3125326
5	Rajasthan	2332551
6	Karnataka	2032978
7	Madhya Pradesh	2013541
8	Kerala	1798695
9	Odisha	1630601
10	Gujarat	1538469
11	Tamil Nadu	1489128
12	Haryana	1426887
13	Delhi	1321447
14	Telangana	929450
15	Punjab	871930
16	Andhra Pradesh	870348
17	Himachal Pradesh	648736
18	Jharkhand	550013
19	Assam	466775
20	Chhattisgarh	413499
21	Uttarakhand	369534
22	Jammu and Kashmir	321212
23	Chandigarh	111488
24	Goa	59121
25	Tripura	49625
26	Puducherry	34829
27	Meghalaya	15516
28	Manipur	12798
29	Arunachal Pradesh	11291
30	Andaman and Nicobar	8962
31	Mizoram	5456
32	DNH at Silvassa	4460
33	Diu and Daman	3140
34	Nagaland	2946
35	Sikkim	1774
36	Ladakh	1538
37	Lakshadweep	166
	TOTAL	45351913

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (C) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1854 FOR ANSWER ON 26.07.2024
REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS'.**

Number Of Cases Disposed by Different Courts in Rajasthan during the last 5 years

Sl. No.	Name of Court	No. of Cases disposed in last 5 years				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.	High Court of Rajasthan	1,72,329	84,300	1,24,930	1,52,310	1,81,945
2.	District and Subordinate Courts in Rajasthan	15,08,232	7,86,604	11,92,950	10,49,961	10,25,735

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

LOK SABHA

e-Court

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 856
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26th JULY, 2024

e-Court Mission

**856. SHRI C N ANNADURAI:
SHRI NAVASKANI K:
SHRI SELVAM G:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented Phase-II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, if so, the financial outlay and the total expenditure incurred for implementation of this project;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to develop e-Courts through Phase-III for operation of various courts;
- (c) if so, details thereof including the total outlay in Phase-III of the e-Courts project including virtual hearings, establishment of virtual benches of the High Courts etc., State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted an assessment of usefulness of Phase-I and Phase-II of the E-courts Mission Mode Project, if so, the details and outcome of the assessment and steps taken thereon; and
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any standard operating procedure for the implementation of the Phase-III of e-Courts project, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has implemented eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II during 2015-2023, which focused mainly on ICT enablement of

District & Subordinate Courts and various citizen centric initiatives. Against an outlay of Rs.1670 crore, a sum of Rs. 1668.43 crore was spent.

(b) & (c) : On 13.09.2023, the Union Cabinet has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project, at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore for a period of 4 years starting from 2023. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts through digitization of the entire court records including legacy records and by bringing in universalization of e-Filing/ e-Payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras. The eCourts Project Phase-III intends to put in place intelligent smart systems enabling data-based decision making for judges and registries while scheduling or prioritizing cases. The main objective of the Phase-III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary, thus providing a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. The project envisages a smoother user experience by building a “smart” ecosystem. The eCourts Phase-III may thus prove to be a game changer in ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country. The various components of eCourts Phase-III includes digitization of 3108 crore pages of legacy records, cloud infrastructure, 4400 fully functional eSewa Kendras in all court complexes, and use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, etc. Under the eCourts Project funds are released to various High Courts on the recommendation of the eCommittee Supreme Court of India and not to specific States. The details of component-wise allocation, including in respect of High Court of Madras are at Annexure I.

During FY 2024-25, a sum of Rs. 1500 crore has been allocated in BE under eCourts Project Phase-III, of which Rs. 465.74 crore has been released, till July 2024.

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

- The eCourts Project has led to an increase in the total number of cases filed in the courts and helped with easier access to information through online portals and mobile applications.
- A high level of satisfaction was expressed with the access and quality of the various ICT facilities provided under the eCourts project.
- The procurement process by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India is well planned and all payments are received on time.
- Judges are satisfied with the improvement in court time management and transparency of information that has resulted from implementation of eCourts project.
- 90-100% of sample courts have provision of computers hardware and have installed Case Information System (CIS).
- High proportion of judges and court officials had received training in the use of CIS, NJDG and hardware. Almost all respondents were of the opinion that the trainings were very useful.
- Services like Case Information System (CIS), JustIS mobile app and The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) website are used very often and have an easy user interface.
- Majority of judges and court official feels that eCourts project has reduced pendency of cases because of easy access to cases laws resulting in better research.

- The pendency of cases over 5 years have displayed slow but steady decline over the years.
- Since 2017, a sharp increase in the clearance rate of district courts is also noticed.

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

The Detailed Project Report of the e-Courts Project Phase-III was approved by the eCommittee on 21st October 2022 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud. The said Detailed Project Report formed the basis for approval of Phase-III by the Union Cabinet on September 13th, 2023. In addition, the eCommittee has issued various Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for activities like Video Conferencing, e-Filing, Digitization, etc. and circulated to all the High Courts for their guidance.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 856 for 26/07/2024 regarding e-Courts. The components and financial details of eCourts Phase-III are as below:

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

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

LOK SABHA

WM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 863
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH JULY, 2024**

PENDING CASES BEFORE SUPREME COURT BENCH

863. SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that several cases having serious consequences for the legal system of the country are pending before various Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of such cases, type of constitution bench and period of pendency;**
- (c) whether it is true that the reason for pendency of the above mentioned cases is the lack of interest shown by the Government in expediting the same, if so, the remedial action taken in this regard; and**
- (d) the number of cases heard and disposed by the Constitutional Benches of the Supreme Court since its inception till date, decade-wise?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The pending cases before the Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court are not categorized on the basis of "having serious consequences for the legal system of the country". As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of cases pending before the Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court, as on date, are as follows:

Constitution Bench	No. of Pending Cases
Five-Judge Bench	35
Seven-Judge Bench	8
Nine-Judge Bench	7
Eleven-Judge Bench	0
More than 11 Judges	0

Based on information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the detailed statement of pending cases before Supreme Court, Constitution Bench-wise, including name and date of filing are placed at *Annexure*.

(c): The disposal of above mentioned cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, as per information provided by the Supreme Court, the Constitution Bench cases, often involve intricate legal issues and the arguments can span from several days to months. These matters require extensive analysis and detailed examination of the law. Consequently, it is impractical to define stringent parameters or fixed timelines for expediting the adjudication of such cases.

(d): The decade-wise list of cases heard and disposed by the Constitutional Benches of the Supreme Court since its inception and till date, is as under:

Sl. No.	Period	No. of cases disposed by Constitution Benches
1	1950-1959	440
2	1960-1969	956
3	1970-1979	292
4	1980-1989	110
5	1990-1999	157
6	2000-2009	138
7	2010-2019	70
8	2020-2024 (till date)	29
	TOTAL	2,192

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) AND (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 863 FOR ANSWER ON 26.07.2024 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES BEFORE SUPREME COURT BENCH'.

Diary no.	Case Number	Date of Filing	Party Name
Five-Judge Bench			
25700 / 2023	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 678 / 2023	01-07-2023	GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF D Vs UNION OF INDIA
31429 / 2013	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 921 / 2013	01-10-2013	SAMA-RESOURCE GROUP FOR WOMEN AND HEALTH Vs UNION OF INDIA
11168 / 2014	CURATIVE PETITION(CIVIL) / 106 / 2014	02-04-2014	DR. SHEKHAR SESHADRI Vs SURESH KUMAR KOUSHAL
3658 / 2022	CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) / 91 / 2022	03-02-2022	PIYALI RAY CHOWDHURY Vs NARAYAN SWAROOP NIGAM
25917 / 2023	-	03-07-2023	ANJALI SHARMA Vs UNION OF INDIA
26252 / 2023	-	03-07-2023	THE ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA Vs UNION OF INDIA
46079 / 2023	REVIEW PETITION (CIVIL) / 1866 / 2023	03-11-2023	SUPRIYO @ SUPRIYA CHAKRABORTY Vs UNION OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
27935 / 2017	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 880 / 2017	04-09-2017	ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATICS REFORMS Vs UNION OF INDIA
7808 / 2018	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 202 / 2018	05-03-2018	ASHWINI KUMAR UPADHYAY Vs UNION OF INDIA
22311 / 2016	CRIMINAL APPEAL / 1003 / 2017	05-07-2016	PYARE LAL Vs STATE OF HARYANA
30032 / 2009	CIVIL APPEAL / 5965 / 2010	05-10-2009	FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA Vs NAV DURGA RICE MILLS .
10730 / 2022	SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) / 1 / 2022	06-04-2022	IN RE: FRAMING GUIDELINES REGARDING POTENTIAL Vs
17223 / 2015	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 311 / 2015	06-05-2015	DEPAK KUMAR NATH Vs UNION OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS REPRE
18396 / 2007	CIVIL APPEAL / 9935 / 2014	06-07-2007	RANCHI ASSOCIATION Vs UNION OF INDIA AND ORS .
3900 / 2008	SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) / 3660 / 2008	08-02-2008	THE STATE OF PUNJAB Vs SAHIL MITTAL
28531 / 2019	CIVIL APPEAL / 9486 / 2019	09-08-2019	CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICAT Vs M/S ECI SPIC SMO MCML (JV) A

			JOINT VENTURE CO
41794 / 2023	-	09-10-2023	SYDNA MUFADDAL SAIFUDDIN Vs CENTRAL BOARD OF DAWOODI BOHRA COMMUNITY
12551 / 2020	-	10-06-2020	SUVARNA PAKA JAGGA RAO Vs CHEBROLU LEELA PRASAD RAO
10865 / 2000	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 546 / 2000	10-07-2000	IN RE ARTICLE 334 OF THE CONSTITUTION Vs ...
18450 / 2021	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 887 / 2021	10-08-2021	GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI Vs UNION OF INDIA
38134 / 2009	CIVIL APPEAL / 1214 / 2011	11-12-2009	UNION OF INDIA Vs VINOD KUMAR
1543 / 2016	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 36 / 2016	12-01-2016	V. VASANTHAKUMAR Vs H.C. BHATIA AND ORS. MINISTRY OF LAW AND JU
27156 / 2016	WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) / 113 / 2016	12-08-2016	KAUSHAL KISHOR Vs THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH GOVT. OF U.P. HOME
28033 / 2005	CIVIL APPEAL / 7513 / 2005	14-12-2005	STATE OF A.P. Vs B. ARCHANA REDDY .
29686 / 2017	CIVIL APPEAL / 841 / 2018	16-09-2017	M/S. BAJAJ ALLIANCE GENERAL INSURANCE CO.LTD. Vs RAMBHA DEVI
42134 / 2016	SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) / 804 / 2017	17-12-2016	KARMANYA SINGH SAREEN Vs UNION OF INDIA
76079 / 1996	CIVIL APPEAL / 16879 / 1996	18-12-1996	STATE OF W B Vs PASCHIM BANGA B.K.SAMITY .
16155 / 2022	-	19-05-2022	CHEBROLU LEELA PRASAD RAO Vs SOMESH KUMAR
47928 / 2023	CRIMINAL APPEAL / 3589 / 2023	19-11-2023	HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION ALLAHABAD Vs THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH
13164 / 2011	CIVIL APPEAL / 2634 / 2013	21-04-2011	TEJ PRAKASH PATHAK Vs RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT
38037 / 2022	-	23-11-2022	JAYA THAKUR Vs UNION OF INDIA
16113 / 2009	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 274 / 2009	25-05-2009	IN RE SECTION 6A OF THE CITIZENSHIP ACT 1955 Vs
23064 / 2018	CIVIL APPEAL / 9228 / 2022	26-06-2018	HARIHARAN Vs HARSH VARDHAN SINGH RAO
10061 / 2017	TRANSFER PETITION (CIVIL) / 582 / 2017	30-03-2017	KHUDALA GRAM SEVA SHAKARI SAMITI LTD Vs UNION OF INDIA
21589 / 2005	CRIMINAL APPEAL / 375 / 2006	30-09-2005	UNION OF INDIA . Vs PREETI AGGARWAL
Seven-Judge Bench			
/ 2021	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 682 / 2021	24-06-2021	S.G. VOMBATKERE Vs UNION OF INDIA
15235 / 2015	SPECIAL LEAVE	07-05-2015	REGISTRAR GENERAL, HIGH

	PETITION (CIVIL) / 14842 / 2015		COURT OF JUDICATURE A Vs TAMIL NADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
20234 / 2022	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 493 / 2022	08-07-2022	SUBHASH DESAI Vs PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA
23338 / 2003	WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) / 206 / 2003	09-11-2003	N. RAVI Vs SPEAKER,LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,CHENNAI&ORS
25536 / 2010	CIVIL APPEAL / 2317 / 2011	13-08-2010	THE STATE OF PUNJAB Vs DAVINDER SINGH
71852 / 1994	CIVIL APPEAL / 8763 / 1994	11-02-1994	ARJUN FLOUR MILLS Vs THE STATE OF ODISHA FINANCE DEPARTMENT SECRET
9287 / 2006	CIVIL APPEAL / 2286 / 2006	08-04-2006	ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY THROUGH ITS REGISTR Vs NARESH AGARWAL
9680 / 2017	CIVIL APPEAL / 8588 / 2019	28-03-2017	ROJER MATHEW Vs SOUTH INDIAN BANK LTD AND ORS CHIEF MANAGER
Nine-Judge Bench			
2996 / 2005	CIVIL APPEAL / 151 / 2007	05-07-2005	STATE OF U.P. . Vs M/S. LALTA PRASAD VAISH
16528 / 2001	WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) / 419 / 2001	24-09-2001	AHMED HABIB INDIAN INHABITANT Vs STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH THE SECRETARY IN
28032 / 2006	CIVIL APPEAL / 673 / 2008	01-11-2006	STATE OF U.P. Vs M/S KESAR ENTERPRISES LTD.
38452 / 2018	REVIEW PETITION (CIVIL) / 3358 / 2018	10-10-2018	KANTARU RAJEEVARU Vs INDIAN YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION THR.ITS GENE
78629 / 1992	CIVIL APPEAL / 1012 / 2002	31-12-1992	PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION Vs STATE OF MAHARASHTRA .
9012 / 1999	CIVIL APPEAL / 4056 / 1999	26-05-1999	MINERAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ETC. Vs M/S STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA .
9099 / 2001	CIVIL APPEAL / 897 / 2002	24-05-2001	STATE OF U.P. Vs JAI BIR SINGH

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 864**

Leg. II (LD)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 26th JULY, 2024

WOMEN RESERVATION IN LEGISLATURE

864. Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy:
Dr. Gumma Thanuja Rani:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the practice of Pradhan Pati that exist in rural India and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that such practices do not repeat in Union and State Legislatures post the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill?

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): No.

(b): Does not arise.

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

e-court

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 866
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26th JULY, 2024

Funds For E-courts

866. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:

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

- (a) the details of sub-heads under the Budget allocated for the e-Courts project;
- (b) the details of actual utilisation of the funds allocated in the last three years;
- (c) the details of distribution of the funds between Supreme Court, High Court and Lower courts; and
- (d) the details of distribution of the funds allocated for the project, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The eCourts Mission Mode Project is a National eGovernance project for ICT enablement of Indian Judiciary of the country with a view to facilitate faster disposal of cases by speeding up court processes and providing transparent on-line flow of information on case status, orders/judgments etc. to the judiciary as well as litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders. The eCourts Phase I (2011-15) was aimed at basic computerization of courts and providing local network connectivity. Phase II (2015-23) of the project focused on citizen-centric e-services besides

computerising 18735 courts and interconnecting these with wide area network (WAN). The Union Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore for a period of 4 years starting from 2023 onwards. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts through digitization of the entire court records including legacy records and by bringing in universalization of e-Filing/ e-Payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras. The component wise budget allocation under eCourts Phase III is at Annexure I.

(b): The details of actual utilisation of funds allocated in last three years is as under:

Year	Revised Estimate (Rs. Crore)	Total Expenditure (Rs. Crore)
Phase II		
2021-22	98.82	98.30
2022-23	0.01*	0.00
Phase III		
2023-24	825.00	768.25

*Funds under the eCourts Phase II were exhausted and the DPR for eCourts Phase III was under preparation by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. Therefore, only a token amount was allotted in BE 2022-23.

(c) to (d): The eCourts Phase I and Phase II were meant for the ICT development of the District & Subordinate Courts only. The Supreme Court and the High Courts did not form part of the project. However, funds to all Subordinate Courts were provided through the concerned High Courts only, as they are the implementing agency under the eCourts Project. Statement of High Court wise fund release and utilization is placed at Annexure II.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 866 for 26/07/2024 regarding Funds For E-courts. The components and financial details of eCourts Phase III are as below:

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

Annexure II

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 866 for 26/07/2024 regarding Funds For E-courts. Details of High Court wise release and utilization of funds is as below:

S. No.	High Courts	Phase II				Phase III	
		2021-22		2022-23 [#]		2023-24	
		Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized
1	Allahabad			0	0	95.87	95.87
2	Andhra Pradesh			0	0	25.44	25.44
3	Bombay			0	0	69.54	69.54
4	Calcutta			0	0	16.73	16.73
5	Chhattisgarh			0	0	16.27	16.27
6	Delhi			0	0	17.89	17.89
						2.03	2.03
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	1.26	1.18	0	0		
8	Gauhati (Assam)	3.49	3.48	0	0	24.97	24.97
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.30	0.25	0	0	3.12	3.12
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.84	0.84	0	0	1.79	1.79
11	Gujarat			0	0	27.72	27.72
12	Himachal Pradesh			0	0	6.06	6.06
13	Jammu & Kashmir			0	0	6.52	6.52
14	Jharkhand			0	0	10.59	10.59
15	Karnataka			0	0	32.37	32.37
16	Kerala	1.58	1.58	0	0	15.40	15.40
17	Madhya Pradesh			0	0	22.90	22.90
18	Madras			0	0	90.69	90.69
19	Manipur	0.76	0.75	0	0	11.12	11.12
20	Meghalaya	2.23	1.76	0	0	3.33	3.33
21	Orissa			0	0	6.77	6.77
22	Patna			0	0	32.43	32.43
23	Punjab & Haryana			0	0	14.58	14.58
24	Rajasthan	1.62	1.62	0	0	19.80	19.80
25	Sikkim	0.77	0.60	0	0	1.71	1.71
26	Telangana			0	0	22.03	22.03
27	Tripura	0.96	0.87	0	0	0.53	0.53
28	Uttarakhand			0	0	13.68	13.68
Total		13.81	12.92	0	0	611.88	611.88

[#] Funds under the eCourts Phase II were exhausted and the DPR for eCourts Phase III was under preparation by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. Hence, no funds were released during FY 2022-23.

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 906

Impl. Cell (LA)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH JULY 2024

Health Insurance for Advocates

906. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh:

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

- (a) whether the Bar Council of India (BCI) has urged the Government to devise a medical and health insurance scheme for advocates and their families in the country;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is intending to bring advocates under any existing healthcare scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): The need to frame a Medical and Life Insurance Scheme for Advocates and their dependents was proposed by delegation of advocates led by Chairman of BCI to Hon'ble Union Law Minister in year 2019. Thereafter a committee comprising the representatives from BCI/State Bar Council and senior officials of Government of India was constituted by the Central Government to work out a comprehensive Medical and Life Insurance Scheme for advocates and their dependents. The Committee has sought certain details such as number of advocates to be enrolled and practicing along with data such as age, total members of family etc from the BCI. After the receipts of these details, the Insurance Companies will be in a position to offer a scheme of insurance.

(c) and (d): There is no such proposal of the Government.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 911
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH JULY, 2024**

PENDING CASES IN COURTS

911. SHRI E T MOHAMMED BASHEER:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there are around 50 million Civil and Criminal cases pending in the country;**
- (b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address this backlog of cases and deliver justice to common man; and**
- (c) the number of cases pending with the High courts and Supreme Court in the country as on 30 June 2024?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The resolution of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem for expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves improved infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of

subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

(c): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of cases pending with the High courts and Supreme Court, as on 30th June 2024 is as under:-

S. No.	Name of Court	Number of Cases pending
1.	Supreme Court	84,306
2.	High Courts	61,58,665

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *169
ANSWERED ON - 02/08/2024

J-II

COURTS FOR WOMEN

***169. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:**

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

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

ANSWER

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

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *169 FOR THE 02nd AUGUST,
2024 REGARDING 'COURTS FOR WOMEN'**

(a) For disposal of cases related to atrocities on women in the country, several special courts have been established. The details of such courts are as follows:

- i. As per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (2015-2020), Fast Track Courts (FTCs) have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. The FTCs are set up by the State/UT Governments in consultation with their respective High Court, as per their needs and resources. As of 31.05.2024, 866 Fast Track Courts are functional for trial of heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. The State/UT-wise list of FTCs are at *Annexure-I*.
- ii. Further, to provide for stringent provisions and expeditious trial and disposal of cases involving incidents of rape and gang rape of minor girls and women, the Central Government enacted "The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018" that led to the setting up of the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs). A Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme has been implemented by the Government since October, 2019 for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under the erstwhile Indian Penal Code (present Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023) and crimes under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. As on 31.05.2024, a total of 755 FTSCs including 410 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of over 2,53,000 cases. The Scheme was initially implemented for one year, which was extended upto March, 2023. The Scheme has now been extended till 31.03.2026, at an outlay of Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund. As per the Financial Outlay approved, the recommended total cost per FTSC per year for the FY 2024-25 is ₹ 82.31 Lakh. The funds are released on CSS pattern (Central share : State share, 60:40, 90:10) to cover the salaries of 1 Judicial Officer along with 7

support Staff and a Flexi Grant for meeting the day-to-day expenses.

The establishment of Fast Track Special Courts demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Government towards women security, combating sexual and gender-based violence, reducing the backlog of pending cases related to Rape & POCSO Act, and providing enhanced access to justice for survivors of sexual crimes. With professional and experienced judges and support staff specialized in handling sensitive sexual offence cases, these courts ensure consistent and expert-guided legal proceedings offering victims of sexual offences swift resolution in mitigating the trauma and distress, and enabling them to move forward in life. Fast Track Special Courts have notably adopted the approach of setting up Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres within the courts to facilitate trial of the victims and to make the courts into Child-Friendly Courts for providing crucial support for a compassionate legal system. The State/UT-wise list of FTSCs are at *Annexure-II*.

- iii. Empowerment and protection of women and children who constitute 67.7% of India's population and ensuring their wholesome development in a safe and secure environment is crucial for sustainable and equitable development of the country and for achieving transformational economic and social changes. The Government of India strives to ensure well-nourished and happy children and confident, self-reliant women by providing them with an environment which is accessible, affordable, reliable and free from all forms of discrimination and violence. To achieve the above objectives, the Government of India has approved 3 key Umbrella Schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to be implemented in mission mode, viz., Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya.

Mission Shakti envisages a unified citizen-centric lifecycle support for women through integrated care, safety, protection, rehabilitation and empowerment to unshackle women as they progress through various stages of their life. Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'. While the "Sambal" sub-

scheme is for safety and security of women, the “Samarthya” sub-scheme is for empowerment of women. One of the components included in Sambal sub-scheme is “Nari Adalat” which aims to provide women with an alternate Grievance Redressal Mechanism for resolving cases of petty nature (harassment, subversion, curtailment of rights or entitlements) faced by them at Gram panchayat level. The major function of the “Nari Adalat” is to raise awareness about legal rights and entitlements of women. The component of “Nari Adalat” is being implemented in a phased manner. Assam and Jammu & Kashmir have been selected to implement the new component of “Nari Adalat” on a pilot basis.

Jammu & Kashmir has chosen 2 districts, viz., Kupwara and Baramulla covering 50 Gram Panchayats with 9 members in each panchayat in the initial phase during the year 2023-24. The State Government of Assam has selected 11 districts covering 50 Gram panchayats with 7 members in each panchayat in the initial phase during the year 2023-24.

The details of districts chosen by Assam and Jammu & Kashmir are as under:

Sl. No.	Jammu & Kashmir	Assam
1	Kupwara	Nalbari
2	Baramulla	Darrang
3		Morigaon
4		Dhubri
5		Udalguri
6		South Salmara
7		Goalpara
8		Kamrup
9		Barpeta
10		Tamulpur
11		Baksa

In respect of Jammu & Kashmir, funds to the tune of Rs. 21.60 Lakhs and for Assam funds to the tune of Rs.20.80 Lakhs were released during the Financial Year 2023-24.

(b) & (c): At present, no proposal is pending with the Government of India for establishment of ‘Nari Adalats’ in other States/UTs.

Annexure-I

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *169 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024
REGARDING 'COURTS FOR WOMEN'.**

STATUS OF STATE/UT-WISE FAST TRACK COURTS (AS ON 31.05.2024)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	22
2	Andaman & Nicobar island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	15
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9	Delhi	25
10	Diu & Daman	0
11	Goa	6
12	Gujarat	54
13	Haryana*	6
14	Himachal Pradesh	3
15	Jammu & Kashmir	8
16	Jharkhand	39
17	Karnataka	0
18	Kerala	0
19	Ladakh	0
20	Lakshadweep	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	0
22	Maharashtra	104
23	Manipur	6
24	Meghalaya	0
25	Mizoram	2
26	Nagaland	0
27	Odisha	0
28	Puducherry	0
29	Punjab	7
30	Rajasthan	0
31	Sikkim	7
32	Tamil Nadu	72
33	Telangana	0
34	Tripura	3
35	Uttar Pradesh	372
36	Uttarakhand	4
37	West Bengal	88
	Total	866
*Data available till the month of April'2024		

Annexure-II**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *169 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024
REGARDING 'COURTS FOR WOMEN'.****STATE/UT-WISE STATUS OF FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS (AS ON 31.05.2024)**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO Courts	Number of Functional Exclusive POCSO Courts
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16
2	Assam	17	17
3	Bihar	46	46
4	Chandigarh	1	0
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11
6	Delhi	16	11
7	Goa	1	0
8	Gujarat	35	24
9	Haryana	16	12
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3
11	J&K	4	2
12	Jharkhand	22	16
13	Karnataka	31	17
14	Kerala	55	14
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57
16	Maharashtra	14	7
17	Manipur	2	0
18	Meghalaya	5	5
19	Mizoram	3	1
20	Nagaland	1	0
21	Odisha	44	23
22	Puducherry	1	1
23	Punjab	12	3
24	Rajasthan	45	30
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14
26	Telangana	36	0
27	Tripura	3	1
28	Uttarakhand	4	0
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74
30	West Bengal	5	5
TOTAL		755	410

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

JK

STARRED QUESTION NO. *172

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02ND AUGUST, 2024

Setting up of Rural Courts

***172. COM. SELVARAJ V:
SHRI SUBBARAYAN K:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government had enacted a Law to set up gram nyayalayas (Rural Courts) in the country about 16 years ago to provide affordable justice at door steps and help clearing the huge pending cases in trial courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the requirement of gram nyayalayas and the number of rural courts that have been set up and are functional as on date; and
- (d) the reasons for the slow progress in setting up the rural courts and measures proposed to be taken by the Government to set up more rural courts in the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *172 FOR ANSWER ON 02ND AUGUST, 2024.**

(a) & (b): The Law Commission of India, in its 114th Report, had suggested establishment of Gram Nyayalayas for providing affordable and quick access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps. The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 came into effect from 02nd October, 2009. The Act provides for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass roots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities. The details of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, are available at https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/19258/1/gram_nyayalay_act_2008.pdf.

(c): The budget estimates for 2009-10 provided for a Plan Scheme viz., “Assistance to State Governments for establishing and operating Gram Nyayalayas”. While approving the proposal of the Ministry of Law and Justice for introducing the Gram Nyayalayas Bill in the Parliament, the Union Cabinet decided that the Central Government would meet all the non-recurring expenses related to the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in the country. It also decided that the Central Government would share the recurring expenses of the Gram Nyayalayas with the states for the first 3 years and thereafter the states would bear the entire recurring expenditure.

As per the extant guidelines, the Central Government provides Rs. 18.00 lakhs per Gram Nyayalaya to meet non-recurring expenditure as a one time measure and

bears 50% of the recurring expenses of these courts, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3.20 lakhs per courts per annum during the first 3 years. So far 481 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by 15 States, of which 309 Gram Nyayalayas have been made operational in 10 States.

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

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

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

LOK SABHA

WM

**STARRED QUESTION NO. †*178
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02ND AUGUST, 2024**

DISPOSAL OF PENDING CASES

†*178. SMT. DHANORKAR PRATIBHA SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the suggestion made by Justice RM Lodha that the courts should function on all 365 days of the year to dispose off the pending cases;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of courts and its working, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether the Government has consulted the concerned institutions/organisations in this regard, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) 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. +*178 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING 'DISPOSAL OF PENDING CASES'.

(a) & (b): The Government is aware of the suggestion made by Justice RM Lodha that the courts should function on all 365 days of the year to dispose off the pending cases.

The Rajya Sabha Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law And Justice (DRPSC) in its 133rd Report, on the subject "Judicial Processes and their Reform" while examining the issue "Vacations in the Supreme Court and High Courts" had referred to the suggestion of former Chief Justice of India Shri R.M. Lodha on court vacations that instead of all judges going on vacations, all at one time, individual judges should take their leave at different times through the year so that the courts are constantly open and they are always present to hear cases. This Committee opined that this suggestion of former Chief Justice of India Shri R.M. Lodha on court vacations should be considered by Judiciary. Accordingly, the recommendation of the Rajya Sabha DRPSC in respect of the aforementioned subject was forwarded by the Government to the Secretary General, Supreme Court and all Registrars General of the respective High Court for appropriate consideration.

The Supreme Court of India, in exercise of the powers conferred on it under Article 145 of the Constitution of India, makes rules for regulating the Court's practice and procedures which includes its sittings and vacations, etc. Accordingly, the Supreme Court has framed the 'Supreme Court Rules, 2013 which was notified on 27.05.2014. Order II of Part I of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 provide for sittings of the Supreme Court, length of summer vacation and the number of holidays of the Court and also the Benches of the Hon'ble Judges during summer vacation and winter holidays.

Similarly, the High Courts in exercise of the powers conferred on them under Article 225 of the Constitution of India frame rules for regulating their practice & procedures, including sittings and vacations.

(c) & (d): Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled "The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look", submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai. The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. **The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.**

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

The setting up of more courts at district and subordinate level is in the domain of the concerned High Courts and respective State Governments.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1864
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02nd AUGUST, 2024

Impl. Cell (LA)

Comprehensive Law Courses

1864. Shri Dushyant Singh:

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

- (a) whether the Government is overseeing the curriculum of the law courses across country ensuring comprehensive inclusion of the emerging areas in the curriculum, and taking steps to make law courses more practical;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is making any policy towards compulsory stipend to the students or law graduates who are working under the seniors as per specified norms;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has directed to the Bar Council of India to take urgent and effective measures to curb the proliferation of substandard law colleges in India and to ensure the quality and excellence of legal education and profession in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken on the colleges which are not adhering to the standards prescribed during the previous year?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): As per the provisions of Sections 7(l)(h) and (i) of the Advocates Act, 1961, the Bar Council of India (BCI), is entrusted with the function *inter-alia* of promoting and laying down the standards of legal education in the country. The legal Education Rules, 2008 lay down the mandatory minimum standards and requirements for legal education in India. The BCI has informed that it periodically reviews and updates the curriculum to ensure that it remains relevant and comprehensive, and that it addresses the changing needs of the legal

profession. The BCI has encouraged the law schools to include emerging areas of law, such as Intellectual Property Law, Cyber Law, and Environmental Law, in their curriculum. To make law courses more practical, the BCI has also introduced clinical legal education, which requires students to participate in internships, moot courts, and legal aid clinics. This helps students gain practical experience and develop their skills in a real-world setting. As per provision of Hon'ble Prime Minister the BCI has issued circular to all Universities and Centres of Legal Education to incorporate subjects such as block chains, electronic discovery, cyber-security, robotics, Artificial Intelligence and bio-ethics etc. in their curricula. Requisite Circular has also been issued to include the recently introduced three Criminal Laws *i.e.* Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 in the curriculum. Overall, the BCI is aware that curriculum of law courses in India remains comprehensive, practical and relevant to the needs of the legal profession and ensures that the graduates are well equipped to handle contemporary legal challenges.

(c) and (d): Although, the BCI oversees the legal profession in India but it does not determine the fees for Advocates or Senior Advocates. Therefore, the matter of providing stipends to the junior advocates are totally at the discretion of the individual advocates and senior advocates. The BCI has further informed that the Delhi High Court vide order dated 25th July, 2024 in the case of *Simran Kumari vs BCI & Anrs.*, {W.P. (c) 10159/2024} has directed to consider representations regarding payment of minimum stipend to junior lawyers hired by advocates and senior advocates.

(e) and (f): The BCI as a regulatory body, maintains the standards of legal education. Several circulars have been issued by BCI to State Governments and Universities to meticulously scrutinise the applications of new law Colleges before granting them NOCs and affiliations. If any deficiencies are found on the part of any Centres of Legal Educations (CLEs), the approval of affiliation are not granted. Moratorium to grant NOCs and affiliation to new law colleges and additional sections in existing centres was issued *vide* resolution dated 11.08.2019 which was subsequently overturned by Punjab and Haryana High Court in its order dated 04.12.2020. The BCI has also constituted a High-Level Committee headed by a former Chief Justice of High Court to identify such Centres of Legal Education which are not complying with the infrastructural, faculty, library and other requirements of Rules of Legal Education by conducting surprise inspections of these Centres of Legal Education without their knowledge. On the basis of the Report of High-Powered Surprise Inspection Committee, the BCI conducts rigorous inspections of Centres of Legal Educations (CLEs). Further, based on not meeting the standard, several CLEs have been barred from admitting students for the academic year 2024-25. The BCI has also launched Legal Education portal in December 2023, which has detected numerous irregularities committed by these CLEs which invite stringent action by BCI.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1865
ANSWERED ON – 02/08/2024

J-II

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURT

1865. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:
SHRI RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI:
SHRI SHANKAR LAL WANI:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to implement the Fast Track Courts Scheme; and

(b) the details of the major achievements and outcomes of the said scheme?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO Courts since October, 2019 for expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases pertaining to Rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in a time-bound manner.

The Scheme was initially implemented for one year, which was extended upto March, 2023. The Scheme has now been extended till 31.03.2026, at an outlay of Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund. The funds are released on CSS pattern (60:40, 90:10) to cover the salaries of 1 Judicial

Officer along with 7 support Staff and a Flexi Grant for meeting the day-to-day expenses.

As per the information received from the High Courts up to May, 2024, 755 FTSCs including 410 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country, which have disposed of over 2,53,000 cases. The State-wise details of number of functional Fast Track Special Courts along with the number of cases disposed of as on 31.05.2024 is at **Annexure**.

The establishment of Fast Track Special Courts demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Government towards women security, combating sexual and gender-based violence, reducing the backlog of pending cases related to Rape & POCSO Act, and providing enhanced access to justice for survivors of sexual crimes. With professional and experienced judges and support staff specialized in handling sensitive sexual offense cases, these courts ensure consistent and expert-guided legal proceedings offering victims of sexual offences swift resolution in mitigating the trauma and distress and enabling them to move forward. Fast Track Special Courts have notably adopted the approach of setting up Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres within the courts to facilitate the victims and to make the courts into Child-Friendly Courts for providing crucial support for a compassionate legal system.

Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha UnStarred Question No. 1865
for 02nd August, 2024

State/UT-wise details of number of functional Fast Track Special Courts along with the number of cases disposed as of May, 2024

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme		
		FTSCs including exclusive POC SO	exclusive POC SO	FTSCs	exclusive POC SO	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	0	4899	4899
2	Assam	17	17	0	5893	5893
3	Bihar	46	46	0	11798	11798
4	Chandigarh	1	0	265	0	265
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	924	4044	4968
6	Delhi	16	11	555	1262	1817
7	Goa	1	0	32	34	66
8	Gujarat	35	24	2263	9793	12056
9	Haryana	16	12	1572	4675	6247
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	416	1126	1542
11	J&K	4	2	91	101	192
12	Jharkhand	22	16	2279	4537	6816
13	Karnataka	31	17	3740	6657	10397
14	Kerala	55	14	13530	6123	19653
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	3894	22456	26350
16	Maharashtra	14	7	7258	11530	18788
17	Manipur	2	0	146	0	146
18	Meghalaya	5	5	0	462	462
19	Mizoram	3	1	148	55	203
20	Nagaland	1	0	61	3	64
21	Odisha	44	23	4992	9521	14513
22	Puducherry*	1	1	0	83	83
23	Punjab	12	3	2055	2061	4116
24	Rajasthan	45	30	4502	10138	14640
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	0	7225	7225
26	Telangana	36	0	5993	2731	8724
27	Tripura	3	1	203	186	389
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	1614	0	1614
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	34091	34998	69089
30	West Bengal	5	5	0	106	106
	TOTAL	755	410	90624	162497	253121

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1869
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 02/08/2024

Awareness for Legal Rights

LAP

1869. Shri Chavda Vinod Lakhamshi:
Dr. Rajeev Bharadwaj:
Shri Ravindra Shukla Alias Ravi Kishan:
Shri Vijay Baghel:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to popularize the understanding of the Constitution and to increase the awareness about the legal rights;
- (b) the results and major achievements thereof; and
- (c) the details of the further measures proposed to be taken in this regard in future?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) The Government of India has taken various steps to popularize the understanding of the Constitution and to increase the awareness about the legal rights. The Government of India, through the Department of Justice as the nodal department, launched the Citizens' Duties Awareness Programme (CDAP) on November 26, 2019, aiming to increase awareness of the Constitution with a focus on Fundamental Duties. CDAP was able to reach over 48.6 crore citizens through effective implementation of various programmes by various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, States/UTs, Judiciary and NSS/NYK Volunteers. The program utilized tools such as online Preamble reading (21.86 lakh), online Pledge taking (1.90 lakh), Webinars (10,600), messaging through E-tickets (14.5 Cr), and social media (10.95 Cr). Over 86 Ministries/Departments engaged in the year-long CDAP activities. Additionally, 31 lakh elected Gram Panchayat representatives and 14,500 Special

Gram Sabhas promoted the concept of Fundamental Duties among citizen. The DoJ launched a grassroots campaign in 1000 digital villages through the CSC network, covering 310 districts across 16 states. This effort included 2409 awareness sessions, reaching over 4,84,000 villagers, 9000 wall paintings, and signature banners displayed on fundamental duties in all digital villages.

During the current year, the Department of Justice has initiated a pan-India, year-long nationwide campaign titled 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' to celebrate the 75th year of India as a Republic and the adoption of India's Constitution. The campaign was launched on January 24, 2024, by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India. Following this, regional events were organized in Bikaner, Rajasthan, on March 9, 2024, and in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, on July 16, 2024, to ensure decentralized outreach of the campaign. This campaign aims to reaffirm our collective commitment to the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India and to celebrate the shared values that bind our nation. This nationwide initiative provides opportunities for every citizen to participate in various ways, empowering them to contribute meaningfully through its sub-campaigns: Sabko Nyaya HarGhar Nyaya, Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp, and Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyaan.

Through the network of Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) of the Common Service Centres (CSCs), over 2.5 lakh gram panchayats have been engaged in reading the Panch Pran Pledge in regional languages. In 25 States/Union Territories, citizen-centric service fairs called "Nyaya Sewa Melas" have been organized. Online competitions such as the Samvidhan Quiz, Panch Pran Rangotsav (poster-making), and Panch Pran Anubhav (reel-making) were launched on the MyGov platform. To enhance constitutional education, the campaign has involved law students and partnered with agencies like Doordarshan and IGNOU's Gyan Vani and Gyan Darshan platforms. As of June 30, 2024, 1.60 lakh citizens have participated in the 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' campaign nationwide. Information to popularize the understanding of the Constitution as part of this campaign is regularly updated on the Department of Justice website <https://doj.gov.in/>.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) is also implementing a dedicated program for legal literacy and legal awareness under the scheme of the "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice" (DISHA), introduced in 2021. As of June 30, 2024, the legal awareness has reached 15.30 lakh individuals through community engagement, webinars, and the dissemination of educational materials on the Constitution, legal rights, and duties.

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), through its Legal Services Authorities at the state, district, and taluk levels, conducts legal literacy and awareness programs and campaigns to educate the general public about their rights, benefits, and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution and other enactments. NALSA through the Legal Services Authorities has undertaken the following steps to popularize the understanding of the Constitution and to increase the awareness about the legal rights:

- (i) A six-week-long Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign was organized from October 2 to November 14, 2021, as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Conducted in four phases, the campaign reached 6.7 lakh villages and 4100 municipal towns across the country to raise awareness about the availability of free legal services. Additionally, 1623 Legal Services Mega Camps (NALSA Module) were held in 735 districts, benefiting 75,64,236 people.
- (ii) A nationwide legal awareness and outreach program titled "Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach" was conducted from October 31 to November 13, 2022. The campaign aimed to bridge the gap between institutions and the underprivileged by spreading legal awareness and ensuring the delivery of legal entitlements to eligible beneficiaries. It was organized across all villages and subdivisions of every district in India. Concurrently, the "Haq_humara_bhi_to_hai@75" campaign was launched, focusing on providing basic legal assistance to individuals confined in prisons and child care institutions.

The Legal Services Authorities have conducted a range of legal awareness programs covering various laws and schemes related to children, laborers, disaster victims, SC/ST communities, and persons with disabilities. Additionally, they have created and distributed booklets and pamphlets in accessible language to inform the public about these laws. To effectively reach vulnerable sections of society, NALSA has developed and implemented a Module for Legal Services Camps through Legal Services Institutions. This approach marks a shift from traditional methods of general legal awareness to a model focused on true empowerment, grounded in need-based analysis and targeted action. The Legal Empowerment Camps are designed to serve not only the weak and marginalized sections but also those residing in remote and far-flung areas, aiming to bridge information gaps and ensure access to citizens' rightful entitlements. Since the framework's approval in December 2017, these camps have been organized nationwide with a three-fold objective: firstly, to spread awareness about various welfare legislations and schemes; secondly, to identify and reach out to individuals who need

legal assistance; and lastly, to provide tailored solutions to legal issues. In 2023-2024 alone, 30,043 legal awareness camps were organized, benefiting 11.46 lakh citizens. To further enhance and educate citizens on existing awareness programs, campaigns, and other legal aid avenues, NALSA leverages mass media platforms and Legal Services Institutions.

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

LOK SABHA

N/M

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1872
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02ND AUGUST, 2024**

SC/ST/OBC VACANCIES IN SUBORDINATE COURTS

1872. ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the number of posts belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs lying vacant in the subordinate courts, State-wise;
- (b) the number of judges belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs recruited in subordinate courts during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the reasons for the shortfall, if any?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Filling up of vacant positions in the Subordinate Courts of the country is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. Accordingly, the details regarding the number of post of Judges belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs in Subordinate Courts and their recruitment during the last five years is not maintained by the Central Government. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. In some States, the respective High Court undertakes the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Court does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commission.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1905**

Appointment

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02.08.2024

Procedure for Appointment of Judge

1905. Smt. Mala Roy:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to finalise the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for the appointment of the Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): The Supreme Court vide order dated 16.12.2015 in the WP(C) 13 of 2015 directed that the existing Memoranda of Procedure (MoPs) be finalized by supplementing them in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) taking into consideration eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of secretariat and mechanism to deal with complaints. Accordingly, changes were proposed to the existing MoPs and the draft MoPs were sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 22.03.2016.

2. The response from the SCC were received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016.

The comments in response to the views of SCC were conveyed to the Chief Justice of India on 03.08.2016. The SCC provided their comments on the draft MoP on 13.03.2017. Subsequently, the Supreme Court in judgement dated 04.07.2017 in Suo-Motu Contempt proceedings against a Judge of the Calcutta High Court inter-alia highlighted the need to revisit the process of selection of judges. The views of the Government on points raised therein were conveyed to the Secretary General, Supreme Court vide letter dated 11.07.2017. The Supreme Court in WP(C) 1236 of 2019 order dated 20.04.2021 laid down fresh criteria for appointment of retired judges. Accordingly, the views of the Government on supplementing Para 24 of existing MoP, which provides for the appointment of retired judges at the sitting of High Courts, were communicated to the Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 18.08.2021.

3. The Chief Justice of India was requested to look into various issues raised earlier on the MoP vide letter dated 06.01.2023.

(c): Does not arise.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1912**

Appointment

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02.08.2024

Circuit Bench of High Court in Rajasthan

†1912. Dr. Manna Lal Rawat:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a circuit bench of Rajasthan High Court in Udaipur;
- (b) if so, the time by which the said bench is likely to be set up; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): No Sir.

(b) & (c): Do not arise.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1977**

Leg. # (LD)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 02nd AUGUST, 2024

ONE VOTER LIST

1977. Shri Anand Bhadauria:

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

- (a) the reasons for having separate voter lists for various elections like Lok Sabha, Assembly and local bodies' elections in the country;
- (b) whether the Election Commission of India proposes to adopt single voter list for all elections to be held in the country;
- (c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be adopted; and
- (d) if not, the manner in which the Government can hold 'One Nation, One Election' without 'One Nation, One Voter list' in the country?

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per section 13D of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the electoral roll for every parliamentary constituency shall consist of electoral rolls for all the assembly constituencies comprised within that parliamentary constituency and it shall not be necessary to prepare or revise separately the electoral roll for both Lok Sabha and the State Assembly Elections as of now. Electoral rolls for

conduct of elections to the urban local bodies and panchayati raj institutions are prepared by the respective State Election Commissions (SECs). Presently, various State Governments and Union territories are using the electoral roll data prepared by the Election Commission of India for preparing the electoral roll for local bodies/ panchayat elections. As per article 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats and Municipalities vests in the respective SECs.

(b): No.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): One Nation, One Voter List would require amendments to the Constitution of India.

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

Lok Sabha

Judl. Sec. (LA)

Unstarred Question No. 1982

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02nd August
2024

Advocates in Solicitor General Office

1982. Shri Charanjit Singh Channi:

Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE**

be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Advocates in the office of the Solicitor General; and
- (b) the number of those belonging to the SC, ST and OBC separately?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) & (b) The Government of India does not engage/assign advocates/government panel counsels in the Office of Ld. Law Officers' of the India.

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

LOK SABHA

JR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2001

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02ND AUGUST, 2024

Court Infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh

2001. SHRI KRISHNA PRASAD TENNETI:

SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI:

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

- (a) the total number of District Courts which have more than one districts under their jurisdiction, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the total number of vacancies in District Courts at present, State and district-wise especially in Bapatla and B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema districts of Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the total number of courts that have been upgraded/are under construction in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, district-wise and year-wise; and
- (d) the total amount of funds allocated/utilised for the purpose of upgrading/constructing new courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the said years, district-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The information with respect to District Courts having more than one District under their jurisdiction is not maintained by the Ministry of Law and Justice in the manner sought for. However, as per information provided by the,

High Court of Andhra Pradesh, the jurisdiction of a District Court is generally confined within the District or may overlap with the Mandals in a District in Andhra Pradesh. The State of Andhra Pradesh had 13 Districts to begin with. Subsequently, the number of Districts (on Revenue side) has increased to 26 Districts in the year 2022. Whereas, there was no re-organisation of Districts on the judicial side. Therefore, as far as judiciary in Andhra Pradesh is concerned, there are 13 Districts only.

(b): The total number of vacancies in District Courts at present in the State of Andhra Pradesh is as under:

Sl. No.	Judges Level	Vacancies
1.	District Judge (Entry Level) under direct recruitment (25% quota)	07
2.	District Judge under Accelerated Recruitment transfer (10 % quota)	02
3.	District Judge under Promotion (65% quota)	13
4.	Civil Judge (Junior Division)	39
5.	Civil Judge (Senior Division)	09
Total		70

As informed by the State of Andhra Pradesh, the Judicial Districts are not bifurcated for the judiciary. The vacancies lying in the Guntur and East Godavari Districts (which includes Bapthla and Konaseema area respectively) are detailed as under:

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Vacancies (As on 01.07.2024)	
		Guntur	East Godavari
1.	District Judge	5	Nil
2.	Civil Judge (Senior Division)	1	Nil
3.	Civil Judge (Junior Division)	5	4

(c) & (d): The total number of courts that have been upgraded or are in the process of construction in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last five years are 13. The status of the aforesaid works including utilization of allocated funds, in this behalf in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last five years (District-wise/year-wise) is at *Annexure*.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (D) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2001 FOR REPLY ON 02.08.2024

S. No	District	Name of work	Estimate cost as per DPR/ Administrative sanction (Rs. in lakhs)	Revised cost	Year of Sanction	Tentative date of competition	Funds utilised		Total amount of funds utilized (Rs. in lakhs)
							Central Share (Rs. in lakhs)	State Share (Rs. in lakhs)	
1	Vizianagaram	Construction of Addl Court building (Two addl court halls with chambers and one hall to the Bar Association, Bobbili) in the premises of Court complex building, Bobbili.	3120	Nil	2023	Tenders to be called for	0	0	0
		Construction of New court building consisting of Stilt + 6 floors to accomodate 17 court halls at Vizianagaram	9920	Nil	2023	Tenders to be called for	0	0	0
2	East Godavari	Construction of first floor over the existing family court building in the district court compound at Rajamahendravaram	37.8	Nil	2019	Work Completed	20.796	13.864	34.66
		Construction of Ten Court Building Complex at Rajamahendravaram	3680	Nil	2019	31.05.2025	216.9	144.6	361.5
3	Kakinada	Construction of 2 floors over the existing Excise court building at Kakinada to accommodate the III Addl. Senior Civil Judge's Court in the 3rd floor and V Addl. Judl. Magistrate of First Class Court in the 4th floor.	375	Nil	2020	Work Completed	240.438	160.29	400.73

	West Godavari	Construction of 1st floor over the existing Senior Civil Judge's Court Building at Tanuku	135	Nil	2019	Work Completed	53.136	35.424	88.56
5	Krishna	Construction of first floor on the fast track court building in the District Court Complex at Machilipatnam, to provide accommodation to the VI Additional District Judge's Court and repairs to ground floor.	45	Nil	2019	Work Completed	22.896	15.264	38.16
6	NTR district	Construction of multistoried court building complex after demolishing the old sub-court building at Vijayawada (stilt + 7 floors)	8660	9260	2022	31.08.2024	3504.29	2336.2	5840.48
7	SPSR Nellore	Construction of 6 court buildings in the Prl. District Complex at Nellore	1345	Nil	2019	Work Completed	772.512	515.008	1287.52
8	Tirupathi	Construction of court building for Junior Civil Judge at Pakala in Chittoor District.	307	Nil	2019	Work Completed	213.54	142.36	355.9
9	Kurnool	Construction of six court building at Adoni in Kurnool district	1500	Nil	2019	31.12.2024	97.824	65.216	163.04
10	Nandyal	Construction of four Court building (G+3 floors) at Dhone.	2350	Nil	2023	12.09.2025	0	0	0
11	Srikakulam	Construction of single court building for Jr. Civil judge at Ponduru	400	Nil	2024	Tenders to be called for	0	0	0
Total			31874.8				5142.33	3428.2	8570.55

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02ND AUGUST, 2024**

NM

VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY

**2011. ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE:
SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:
SHRI MURARI LAL MEENA:
SHRI HIBI EDEN:
SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:
SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY:
SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT:
SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT:**

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

- (a) the total sanctioned strength and vacancies of judges in district/lower courts and high courts, court, State and district-wise including Rajasthan;**
- (b) the details of posts of judges filled up during the last five years in various courts, court, State, district and year-wise;**
- (c) the details of measures taken to expedite the recruitment process and ensure timely filling up these positions in the said courts;**
- (d) whether the Union Government has assessed the impact of vacancies on the huge pendency of cases in the country, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The status of sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judges across the country is as under:

S. No.	Name of Court	Sanctioned Strength as on date	Vacancy as on date
1	High Courts	1,114	359
2.	District and Subordinate Courts	25,609	5,238

Further, the details of State-wise Sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judges in High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts including in respect of Rajasthan are at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

(b) to (e): The statement showing posts of Judges filled up during the last five years in High Courts and Supreme Court is as under:

Sl No.	Name of the Court	Year					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (as on 29.07.2027)
1	Supreme Court	10	--	09	03	14	03
2	High Court	81	66	120	165	110	11

A statement of vacancies of Judges filled up during the last five years in High Courts is at *Annexure-III*.

Further, filling up of vacant positions in the in case of District & Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the issues of appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. In some States, the respective High Court undertakes the recruitment process, whereas in other States, the High Court does it in consultation with the State Public Service Commission. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide judicial order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has stipulated certain timelines which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for initiating the recruitment process of judges in subordinate courts. A statement showing sanctioned strength and vacancies over the last five years in district and subordinate courts, State wise is at *Annexure-IV*.

The Judges of High Courts are appointed under Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October

6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case).

As per the MoP, the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. For appointments to the High Courts, under the MOP, the views of concerned State Government are also obtained. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons are appointed as Judges of High Courts, whose names have been recommended by the SCC.

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

The Government is aware of the impact of the vacancies on the status of pendency in the country. However, the vacancy of judges is not the sole reason, affecting the disposal of cases in courts. The disposal of cases in courts is also affected by several other factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY'.

Statement showing Sanctioned strength, Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts as on 29.07.2024

S. No	Name of High Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	75	9	84	44	32	76
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	22	6	28	6	3	9
3	Bombay	71	23	94	56	10	66	15	13	28
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	34	10	44	20	8	28
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	5	15	7	0	7
6	Delhi	45	15	60	37	2	39	8	13	21
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	19	5	24	3	3	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	12	3	15	1	1	2
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	18	0	18	2	5	7
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	43	7	50	4	8	12
13	Kerala	35	12	47	29	10	39	6	2	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	36	0	36	4	13	17
15	Madras	56	19	75	50	13	63	6	6	12
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	1	4	0	0	0
18	Orissa	24	9	33	20	0	20	4	9	13
19	Patna	40	13	53	34	0	34	6	13	19
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	51	4	55	13	17	30
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	33	0	33	5	12	17
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	25	3	28	7	7	14
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	7	0	7	2	2	4
Total		840	274	1114	666	89	755	174	185	359

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024
REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY'.**

Vacant Positions of Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Court as on 29.07.2024

Sl. NO.	State/Uts	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	618	544	74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	33	11
3.	Assam	485	460	25
4.	Bihar	2019	1536	483
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	612	417	195
7.	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
8.	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
9.	Delhi	887	806	81
10.	Goa	50	40	10
11.	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
12.	Haryana	772	555	217
13.	Himachal Pradesh	179	160	19
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	317	217	100
15.	Jharkhand	703	500	203
16.	Karnataka	1375	1131	244
17.	Kerala	608	542	66
18.	Ladakh	17	9	8
19.	Lakshadweep	4	2	2
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1709	319
21.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
22.	Manipur	62	49	13
23.	Meghalaya	99	56	43
24.	Mizoram	74	45	29
25.	Nagaland	34	24	10
26.	Odisha	1015	848	167
27.	Puducherry	29	10	19
28.	Punjab	797	724	73
29.	Rajasthan	1641	1321	320
30.	Sikkim	35	23	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	1364	1025	339
32.	Telangana	560	445	115
33.	Tripura	133	109	24
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3698	2725	973
35.	Uttarakhand	298	270	28
36.	Andaman and Nicobar	1105	875	230
37.	West Bengal			
TOTAL		25609	20371	5238

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY'.

Fresh Appointments of Judges in Various High Courts in Last 5 Years.							
S.No.	High Court	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Allahabad	10	4	17	13	9	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	2	7	2	14	6	0
3	Bombay	11	4	6	19	9	0
4	Calcutta	6	1	8	16	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	3	3	2	1
6	Delhi	4	0	2	17	5	0
7	Gauhati	4	0	6	2	5	0
8	Gujarat	3	7	7	0	8	1
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	1	2	3	0
10	J & K and Ladakh	0	5	2	4	0	1
11	Jharkhand	2	0	4	1	0	1
12	Karnataka	10	10	6	6	5	0
13	Kerala	1	6	12	1	3	7
14	Madhya Pradesh	2	0	8	6	14	0
15	Madras	1	10	5	4	13	0
16	Manipur	0	1	0	0	2	0
17	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	1	0
18	Orissa	1	2	4	6	2	0
19	Patna	4	0	6	11	2	0
20	Punjab & Haryana	10	1	6	21	4	0
21	Rajasthan	3	6	8	2	9	0
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Telangana	3	1	7	17	3	0
24	Tripura	0	1	0	0	2	0
25	Uttarakhand	1	0	0	0	3	0
	Total	81	66	120	165	110	11

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2011 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY'.

Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years													
Sl.No	Name of the State/UTs	As on 31.12.2018		As on 31.12.2019		As on 31.12.2020		As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023	
		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	494	49	597	68	607	97	607	116	607	73	618	83
2	Telangana	493	48	413	79	474	96	474	49	560	150	560	115
3	Auranchal Pradesh	30	5	41	14	41	9	41	9	41	8	44	10
4	Assam	430	47	441	29	466	54	467	31	485	60	485	46
5	Bihar	1845	640	1925	776	1936	503	1954	560	2016	667	2016	1550
6	Chandigarh	30	0	30	1	30	4	30	0	30	0	30	1
7	Chattisgarh	452	55	468	75	480	93	482	73	527	90	562	139
8	D & N Haveli	3	0	3	0	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	0	4	1	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0
10	Delhi	799	258	799	118	799	151	884	192	884	203	887	89
11	Goa	50	8	50	7	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10
12	Gujarat	1506	356	1521	336	1521	369	1523	400	1582	431	1720	545
13	Haryana	651	162	772	297	772	279	772	290	772	308	772	208
14	Himachal Pradesh	159	10	175	22	175	14	175	15	179	16	179	21
15	Jammu and Kashmir	310	86	290	58	296	41	300	59	314	91	317	94
16	Ladakh					16	8	17	8	17	8	17	7
17	Jharkhand	676	216	677	216	675	131	675	152	694	186	693	181
18	Karnataka	3972	725	2703	534	1357	286	1363	276	1365	233	1375	225
19	Kerala	496	63	536	79	538	68	569	81	595	122	605	91
20	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	1

21	Madhya Pradesh	1872	511	2021	401	2021	411	2021	469	2021	372	2028	298
22	Maharashtra	2011	167	2189	247	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250
23	Manipur	55	15	55	16	54	18	59	17	59	17	59	10
24	Meghalaya	97	58	97	48	97	48	97	48	99	48	99	42
25	Mizoram	67	21	64	18	64	21	65	23	74	33	74	33
26	Nagaland	33	7	33	8	33	7	34	10	34	10	34	10
27	Odisha	911	156	919	149	950	194	976	191	1001	234	1008	205
28	Puducherry	26	7	26	15	26	15	26	15	28	17	29	19
29	Punjab	674	144	675	96	692	99	692	85	797	208	797	212
30	Rajasthan	1337	229	1428	308	1489	197	1549	275	1587	331	1638	296
31	Sikkim	23	4	25	6	25	5	28	8	30	9	35	12
32	Tamil Nadu	1143	238	1255	175	1298	249	1316	234	1340	272	1371	331
33	Tripura	115	40	120	24	120	23	122	25	128	20	128	20
34	Uttar Pradesh	3225	1188	3416	838	3634	1053	3634	1092	3647	1173	3696	1247
35	Uttarkhand	293	59	294	66	297	42	299	28	299	30	298	27
36	West Bengal	1013	75	1014	96	1014	96	1014	96	1014	96	1014	96
37	A& N Island	11	0	0	-13	0	-13	0	-13	0	-13	0	-13
Total		25309	5647	25079	5208	24247	4929	24515	5175	25077	5764	25439	5428

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2021
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 02/08/2024

LAP

LOK ADALATS

2021, DR. D RAVI KUMAR:
DR. THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOLKAPPIYAN:
SHRI SELVAM G:
DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI C N ANNADURAI:

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

- (a) the number of various Lok Adalats organized in the rural areas of the country during the last three years and the current year, State and location-wise especially Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the number of cases disposed and number of cases pending in various Lok Adalats during the said period;
- (c) whether the Government has been able to achieve the target of disposal of cases filed in various Lok Adalats and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the corrective action taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has provided funds to State Legal Services Authorities to enhance legal aid to the marginalized sections of SC/ST and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to organize such Adalats more frequently to bring about the early disposal of pending cases; and
- (f) the number of Lok Adalats proposed to be organized during the ensuing year along with the steps taken to make Lok Adalats more effective?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) State/UT-wise and year-wise details of number of Lok Adalats organized and cases disposed of by National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-A, Annexure-B and Annexure-C respectively.

Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions at such intervals as it deems fit in order to reduce the pendency of cases in courts and also to settle the disputes at pre-litigation stage. Lok Adalats are not a permanent establishment and handle pending court cases as referred to it by the respective courts. Since Lok Adalats are not permanent in nature, all unsettled cases, are reverted back to the respective courts and hence do not remain pending with Lok Adalats. It is mentioned that no specific disposal target is fixed prior to organization of any type of Lok Adalat.

- (d) The Government has released the following grant-in-aid to National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during the last three years and the current year (till July, 2024) for implementing legal aid programmes through State Legal Services Authorities:

(Rs. In Crore)

Year	Funds Released
2021-22	145
2022-23	190
2023-24	400
2024-25	83
Total	818

- (e) The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) vide National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 to organise more Lok Adalats so that pendency of cases could be reduced. Further in view of Covid, E-Lok Adalat was conceptualized which significantly improved access to justice for people who were otherwise unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. The first E-Lok Adalat was held on 27.06.2020 and since then E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 28 States / UTs, wherein 902.96 lakh cases were taken up out of which 96.90 lakh cases were disposed of.
- (f) Every year, NALSA issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats. During the year 2024, National Lok Adalats were held on 9th March & 11th May. National Lok Adalats are further scheduled to be held on 14th September & 14th December of 2024. State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per the local conditions and needs.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2021 for answering on 02.08.2024 raised by Dr. D Ravi Kumar, Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappiyan, Shri Selvam G, Dr. Nishikant Dubey and Shri C N Annadurai, MPs - Lok Adalats

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

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2021	2022	2023	2024
		Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of	Cases disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3997	3310	1536	1536
2	Andhra Pradesh	122839	647956	671612	55729
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1054	1071	990	445
4	Assam	39642	113989	164445	77724
5	Bihar	151620	305483	357765	99758
6	Chandigarh	16833	15569	63764	14811
7	Chhattisgarh	134548	1125318	1664237	642364
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	172	1323	982	45
9	Daman & Diu	113	215	19650	1158
10	Delhi	154992	535025	671278	344040
11	Goa	1680	3934	3505	1781
12	Gujarat	748722	1185571	1863177	1040081
13	Haryana	123413	673487	985650	535751
14	Himachal Pradesh	35556	111150	150181	63587
15	Jammu & Kashmir	166544	390496	404665	265955
16	Jharkhand	232473	1121405	2822947	961313
17	Karnataka	1277856	3444607	14840452	2900312
18	Kerala	68681	136101	57726	25630
19	Ladakh	1463	1444	1781	737
20	Lakshadweep	7	129	41	27
21	Madhya Pradesh	347333	419776	536105	213666
22	Maharashtra	2440375	4754239	3543736	1245202
23	Manipur	794	1343	437	410
24	Meghalaya	852	956	680	464
25	Mizoram	790	4432	4087	599
26	Nagaland	941	888	801	401
27	Odisha	35557	337065	348288	297959
28	Puducherry	5084	6405	6297	2242
29	Punjab	138175	392256	760712	512269
30	Rajasthan	286834	4572315	16586071	2475175
31	Sikkim	110	232	126	22
32	Tamil Nadu	191604	447536	355762	160786
33	Telangana	349902	1611677	5591849	12159965
34	Tripura	1070	4814	15724	20191
35	Uttar Pradesh	5551793	18698973	31644594	9483008
36	Uttarakhand	20882	67438	85032	35127
37	West Bengal	133736	788082	1115532	723129
	Grand Total	12788037	41926010	85342217	34363399

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2021 for answering on 02.08.2024 raised by Dr. D Ravi Kumar, Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappian, Shri Selvam G, Dr. Nishikant Dubey and Shri C N Annadurai, MPs - Lok Adalats

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

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	4874	12123	4999	6720	80	1825	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	24	91	1	4	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	136	13672	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Bihar	1	6	9	574	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	69	37	30	538	32	1413	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	187	228	124	139	0	0	0	0
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	250	147103	60	11094	198	123151	0	0
11	Goa	30	3209	43	1308	13	245	1	0
12	Gujarat	5157	15546	3805	19717	12	244	762	3994
13	Haryana	54762	115797	43135	230018	92	29196	0	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	260	22031	142	4198	59	2880	14	727
15	Jammu & Kashmir	24	3271	225	76683	134	28170	65	25869
16	Jharkhand	1310	22954	1523	10868	1495	33718	418	652058
17	Karnataka	412	2524	229	2632	0	0	0	0
18	Kerala	302	19226	607	23246	657	26231	12	134
19	Ladakh	4	32	4	240	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	808	4110	1242	5367	1472	48996	351	787
22	Maharashtra	6	28	30	341	38	580	0	0
23	Manipur	0	0	4	43	0	0	0	0
24	Meghalaya	23	89	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	17	204	41	1202	12	94	16	173
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	12	326	6	112422	3	244230	0	0
28	Puducherry	42	262	47	743	38	492	1	12
29	Punjab	339	1108	6	15	154	2268	0	0
30	Rajasthan	786	845	1202	1628	1086	1039	285	335
31	Sikkim	110	636	150	887	143	784	39	118
32	Tamil Nadu	759	13066	1295	16369	1336	34744	173	1756
33	Telangana	2827	7363	2604	25365	2474	171817	648	9462
34	Tripura	93	11624	19	2492	62	25637	0	0
35	Uttar Pradesh	57	31414	30	259125	172	411941	74	1096
36	Uttarakhand	25	8605	125	26498	102	17407	20	1954
37	West Bengal	774	74999	454	10830	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	74480	532529	62194	851309	9865	1207103	2879	698475

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2021 for answering on 02.08.2024 raised by Dr. D Ravi Kumar, Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappian, Shri Selvam G, Dr. Nishikant Dubey and Shri C N Annadurai, MPs - Lok Adalats

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

S. No	Name of the State/UT Authority	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	927	1406	1058	558	1349	1134	350	399
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	141	56	213	56	195	97	34	6
5	Bihar	482	221	313	157	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	240	687	241	10945	239	11511	60	1761
7	Chhattisgarh	1045	1199	1224	2028	1174	6749	279	63
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	791	17395	773	18682	781	19337	205	4805
11	Goa	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	20
12	Gujarat	9	2238	1	8	0	0	0	0
13	Haryana	3547	30960	3416	72440	3659	107362	911	17126
14	Himachal Pradesh	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	5144	32514	6216	26154	5826	35715	1625	3822
17	Karnataka	1292	5371	904	4588	603	4190	249	485
18	Kerala	212	1104	226	2564	415	1527	121	81
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	886	574	1176	608	1071	409	213	67
22	Maharashtra	918	765	1017	1208	1023	485	240	260
23	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	742	1561	753	1612	1041	1891	308	446
28	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	4538	9967	4902	14545	4969	20279	1263	4311
30	Rajasthan	2960	3228	4435	5072	4230	5799	1276	1083
31	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Tamil Nadu	671	272	1121	528	1119	427	268	89
33	Telangana	108	6674	118	7540	104	12746	18	4405
34	Tripura	44	81	70	162	97	157	34	15
35	Uttar Pradesh	3961	1087	3720	1173	4476	2516	1017	366
36	Uttarakhand	484	765	590	510	649	432	187	104
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	29153	118136	32487	171138	33020	232763	8659	39714

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2023**

Ug. II (LD)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 02nd AUGUST, 2024

ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION

2023. Shri K Sudhakaran:
Shri Anto Antony:

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

- (a) the details of key findings and recommendations of the report of the high-level panel headed by the former President Shri Ramnath Kovind on simultaneous election processes;
- (b) the current status of implementation of the 'One Nation, One Election';
- (c) the details of the key challenges identified by the Government in implementing the 'One Nation, One Election'; and
- (d) whether any consultations are being undertaken with varied stakeholders, including political parties on the implications and feasibility of the 'One Nation, One Election', if so, the details thereof?

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The High Level Committee headed by former President Shri Ram Nath Kovind submitted its Report on 14th March, 2024 after inviting suggestions,

viewpoints and comments from various stakeholder including political parties, Experts on law, including former Chief Justices of India and former Chief Justices of High Courts, former Chief Election Commissioners of India, and State Election Commissioners were invited for interaction in person with the Committee. Expert bodies like the Law Commission of India were also invited by the Committee. A public notice was also issued in the newspapers and social media to invite suggestions and comments from citizens and organisations. Other stakeholders such as the Bar Council of India and apex business organisations like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) were also given opportunities to place their points of view. Eminent economists of the country also interacted with the Committee. The Committee held 65 meetings and after extensive deliberation submitted its recommendations to the Government. The Government has published the complete report of the High Level Committee including its various recommendations and key challenges in implementing "One nation, One election" on the official website which can be accessed at <https://onoe.gov.in/HLC-Report-en>.

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

LOK SABHA

ADR cell (LA)

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2027
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2nd AUGUST, 2024**

Alternate Dispute Resolution

2027. Shri Dharambir Singh:

Shri Dhaval Laxmanbhai Patel:

Shri Baijayant Panda:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote alternate dispute resolution such as mediation, arbitration and reconciliation to reduce the burden on courts since 2014; and

(b) the benefits of alternate dispute resolution for the public at large?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The Government is promoting alternate dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms including arbitration and mediation, as these mechanisms are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes. The use of ADR mechanisms is also expected to reduce the burden

on the judiciary and thereby enable timely justice dispensation to citizens of the country. Some of the major initiatives over the years in this regard include amendments in extant laws and enactment of new legislations.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been progressively amended in the years 2015, 2019 and 2020 to keep pace with current developments in the arbitration landscape and to enable arbitration as a viable dispute resolution mechanism. The amendments are aimed at ensuring timely conclusion of arbitration proceedings, neutrality of arbitrators, minimizing judicial intervention in the arbitral process and quick enforcement of arbitral awards. The amendments are further aimed at promoting institutional arbitration and updating the law to reflect best global practices, thereby establishing an arbitration ecosystem, where arbitral institutions can grow.

The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in the year 2018 to provide for Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mechanism. Under this mechanism, where a commercial dispute of specified value does not contemplate any urgent interim relief, the parties have to first exhaust the mandatory remedy of PIMS before approaching the Court. This is aimed at providing an opportunity to the parties to resolve the commercial disputes through mediation.

The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, was enacted to provide for the establishment and incorporation of India International Arbitration Centre (Centre) for the purpose of creating an independent, autonomous and world class body for facilitating institutional arbitration and to declare the Centre to be an institution of national importance. The Centre shall be providing world class arbitration related services at its facilities in a cost effective manner for both domestic and international commercial disputes, including reputed empaneled arbitrators and requisite administrative support for

the smooth conduct of arbitral proceedings.

The Mediation Act, 2023, lays down the legislative framework for mediation to be adopted by disputing parties, especially under the aegis of institutional mediation.

(b) The basic premise of using ADR mechanisms for resolution of disputes is to reduce the burden on the judiciary, enable informal justice dispensation to the parties, including the public at large. The major benefits of using ADR mechanisms include timely and efficacious resolution of disputes. A time line to conclude the ADR process has been prescribed in the respective Acts. The legislative reforms with respect to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have facilitated the minimization of court-intervention in arbitration proceedings and efficacious settlement of commercial disputes, thereby enabling ease of doing business. The Mediation Act, 2023 is expected to be a pivotal legislative intervention towards providing standalone law on mediation and enabling the growth of a culture of amicable settlement of disputes out of court and the outcome being party driven.

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

LOK SABHA

A2J

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2032
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2ND AUGUST, 2024

APPOINTMENT OF NYAYA MITRA IN ANDHRA PRADESH

2032. SHRI APPALANAIDU KALISETTI :

SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI :

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

- (a) the number of Nyaya Mitras appointed in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years district wise including Vizianagaram district;
- (b) the total amount of funds allocated and disbursed for the implementation of the Nyaya Mitra scheme in Andhra Pradesh over the said years, district-wise;
- (c) the details of disposal of pending cases by Nyaya Mitras, over the said years, district-wise;
- (d) whether any challenges or delays have been encountered in appointing Nyaya Mitras to Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there are any pending proposals to appoint additional Nyaya Mitras in Andhra Pradesh, especially in Vizianagaram district, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Nyaya Mitra programme was launched in April, 2017 with the objective to reduce pendency of cases in the Courts. It aimed to facilitate disposal of 10 to 15 years old cases which included civil cases such as matrimonial, accident claim cases and also criminal cases pending in High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Since the introduction of Nyaya Mitra programme, a total of 39 Nyaya Mitras were positioned in

various districts courts of the States of Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Nyaya Mitras were not engaged in the States other than mentioned above. During the period of its implementation, no Nyaya Mitra were engaged in the District Courts of Andhra Pradesh .After due review of the progress of the scheme over the last few years and considering the implementation related issues, it was decided to discontinue the scheme from the Financial Year 2023-2024.

(c) to (e) Question does not arise in view of answer at (a) & (b) above.

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

LOK SABHA

WM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2059
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02ND AUGUST, 2024**

PENDING CASES IN COURTS

†2059. SMT. DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI

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

- (a) whether large number of cases are still pending despite several steps like setting up fast track courts and village courts being taken by the Government in various States/UTs including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu;**
- (b) if so, the number of pending cases disposed by the fast track courts and village courts since their inception and the number of cases pending as on date;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up more courts and appoint more judges in the existing courts to dispose the pending cases at the earliest;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu; and**
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to dispose the pending cases in time bound manner?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

S. NO.	NAME OF COURT	NO. OF CASES PENDING
1.	Supreme Court of India	83,589
2.	High Courts	59,95,569
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,45,41,614

In case of Daman and Diu, as on date, 3,107 cases are pending and in the case of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, 4,416 cases are pending, in the respective District and Subordinate courts.

(b): As on 31st May 2024, 866 Fast-Track courts have been established. The number of pending and disposed cases in respect of Fast-Track Courts since their inception till 31.05.2024 is as under:

S. NO.	CASES PENDING	PENDING CASES DISPOSED (SINCE INCEPTION)
1.	13,44,894	90,624

As on 31.07.2024, 481 Gram Nyayalayas (Village Courts) have been notified by 15 States, of which 309 Gram Nyayalayas have been made operational in 10 States. The data with respect to the number of cases pending and disposed of by Gram Nyayalayas was not being maintained centrally up till 2020. However, as per the information available on the Gram Nyayalaya Portal (https://dashboard.doj.gov.in/gn/cust_gncases_reports), wherein the States are required to upload the data with respect to the pendency and disposal of cases in the Gram Nyayalayas, the number of cases pending and disposed off from December 2020 till June 2024 is as under:

S. NO.	PENDING CASES DISPOSED	CASES PENDING
1.	234712 cases (from Dec, 2020 till June, 2024)	262748 (as on 30 th June, 2024)

(c) & (d): In case of Supreme Court of India, Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled “The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look”, submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of Appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at

Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai. The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to the Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. **The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.**

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

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

During the period from 01.07.2014 to 29.01.2024 with the approval of the respective State Governments, concerned High Courts and the Chief Justice of India, the Government has increased the Judge strength of the High Courts from 906 to 1114 i.e. by 208 posts.

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

As far as appointment of more judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts is concerned, under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of district and subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court. In exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Governments, in consultation with the High Court, frame the Rules and Regulations regarding the issue of appointment, promotion, reservations and retirement of Judicial Officers in the State Judicial Service. The sanctioned strength of judicial officers has increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 25,609 as on 31.07.2024. The state-wise sanctioned strength and working strength in respect of judges of the District and Subordinate Courts during past 5 years including Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli is at *Annexure-I*.

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (C) & (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2059 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN COURTS'.

Sanctioned Strength and Working Strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts											
Sl.No	Name of the State/Uts	As on 31.12.2019		As on 31.12.2020		As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023	
		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
1	Andhra Pradesh	597	529	607	510	607	491	607	534	618	535
2	Telangana	413	334	474	378	474	425	560	410	560	445
3	Auranchal Pradesh	41	27	41	32	41	32	41	33	44	34
4	Assam	441	412	466	412	467	436	485	425	485	439
5	Bihar	1925	1149	1936	1433	1954	1394	2016	1349	2016	1550
6	Chandigarh	30	29	30	26	30	30	30	30	30	29
7	Chattisgarh	468	393	480	387	482	409	527	437	562	423
8	D & N Haveli	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
9	Daman & Diu	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
10	Delhi	799	681	799	648	884	692	884	681	887	798
11	Goa	50	43	50	40	50	40	50	40	50	40
12	Gujarat	1521	1185	1521	1152	1523	1123	1582	1151	1720	1175
13	Haryana	772	475	772	493	772	482	772	464	772	564
14	Himachal Pradesh	175	153	175	161	175	160	179	163	179	158
15	Jammu and Kashmir	290	232	296	255	300	241	314	223	317	223
16	Ladakh			16	8	17	9	17	9	17	10
17	Jharkhand	677	461	675	544	675	523	694	508	693	512
18	Karnataka	2703	2169	1357	1071	1363	1087	1365	1132	1375	1150
19	Kerela	536	457	538	470	569	488	595	473	605	514
20	Lakshadweep	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3
21	Madhya Pardesh	2021	1620	2021	1610	2021	1552	2021	1649	2028	1730

22	Maharashtra	2189	1942	2190	1940	2190	1940	2190	1940	2190	1940
23	Manipur	55	39	54	36	59	42	59	42	59	49
24	Meghalaya	97	49	97	49	97	49	99	51	99	57
25	Mizoram	64	46	64	43	65	42	74	41	74	41
26	Nagaland	33	25	33	26	34	24	34	24	34	24
27	Odisha	919	770	950	756	976	785	1001	767	1008	803
28	Puducherry	26	11	26	11	26	11	28	11	29	10
29	Punjab	675	579	692	593	692	607	797	589	797	585
30	Rajasthan	1428	1120	1489	1292	1549	1274	1587	1256	1638	1342
31	Sikkim	25	19	25	20	28	20	30	21	35	23
32	Tamil Nadu	1255	1080	1298	1049	1316	1082	1340	1068	1371	1040
33	Tripura	120	96	120	97	122	97	128	108	128	108
34	Uttar Pradesh	3416	2578	3634	2581	3634	2542	3647	2474	3696	2449
35	Uttarkhand	294	228	297	255	299	271	299	269	298	271
36	West Bengal	1014	918	1014	918	1014	918	1014	918	1014	918
37	A& N Island	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13
Total		25079	19871	24247	19318	24515	19340	25077	19313	25439	20011

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2063
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 02ND AUGUST, 2024**

JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

2063. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR PANIGRAHY:

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

- (a) the manner in which the justice delivery system is able to foster greater public trust and confidence in the judiciary; and**
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve transparency, public outreach and community engagement and to ensure fair justice delivery system?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (b): The justice delivery system consists of a number of stakeholders involved in dispensation of justice which, inter-alia, includes the judiciary, law enforcement authorities, prosecution agencies and legal aid authorities. These stakeholders are required to work in coordination to resolve disputes, enforce laws and administer justice in order to foster greater public trust and confidence.

The Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem that promotes transparency, public outreach and community engagement thereby aiding a fair justice delivery system. Some of the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard are as under: -

- i. The Government had set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access by

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

- ii. Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of the Indian Judiciary. The intervention of technology through the eCourts Project is considered as one of the important factors that has contributed to promotion of greater transparency and expeditious disposal of cases. At present, there are 18,735 computerised District and Subordinate courts. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 30.04.2024, 1050 e-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. As on 31.05.2024, 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs, which have handled over 5.08 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 561.09 crores in fines. The components of the eCourts Project such as Video Conferencing, Virtual Courts for Traffic Challans, eFiling, ePayment, e-Sewa Kendras, e-Courts Services App and Portal, JustIS app, National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP), etc. have helped in reducing procedural delays, thus, enabling faster adjudication of cases. The Union Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crores. Taking the gains of Phase-I and II to the next level, the main objective of the Phase-III is to create a unified technology platform for the

judiciary, which will provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders.

- iii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure that is being implemented since 1993-1994, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. Since its inception, Rs. 11167.36 crores have been released under this Scheme. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 23,020 as on date, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 20,836 as on date.
- iv. The Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in the higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 09.07.2024, 62 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court of India. 976 new Judges were appointed and 745 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 1114 currently. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts has increased as under:

	As on 31.12.2013	As on 29.07.2024
Sanctioned Strength	19,518	25,609
Working Strength	15,115	20,371

- v. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 31.05.2024, 866 Fast Track Courts are functional for trying cases of heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, etc.

- vi. Special Courts also exist in order to fast track criminal cases involving elected Members of Parliament (MPs) / Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs). Ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs.
- vii. For the safety and security of women and girl child, Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO Courts have been set up across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of rape and offences under the POCSO Act. As on 31.05.2024, a total of 755 FTSCs including 410 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 2,53,000 cases.
- viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted through legislative amendments. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018, making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 was amended by Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines. The recently enacted Mediation Act, 2023, lays down that mediation can be conducted in civil and commercial matters, in terms of the provisions of the said Act.
- ix. Lok Adalat is also an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism, where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are amicably settled/ compromised. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the cases disposed of in National Lok Adalats during the last

three years are as under: -

Year	Pre-litigation	Pending Cases	Total Cases
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024 (upto June,24)	2,86,75,168	56,88,231	3,43,63,399
Total	13,79,29,657	3,64,90,006	17,44,19,663

- x. The Tele-Law programme started by the Central Government in 2017 is an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat or through Tele-Law mobile App. Till 30th June, 2024, a total of 90,51,131 cases were registered on Tele-Law, out of which advice has been enabled in 89,57,714 cases.
- xi. Nyaya Bandhu is India's first dispensation pro bono framework where interested lawyers give pro bono services to the disadvantaged persons registered under Section 12 of Legal Services Act, 1987. As on date, 11,146 Pro Bono advocates are registered from 24 State Bar Councils & 22 High Courts and Pro Bono Clubs have been activated in 89 laws schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

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

Appointment

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. †*261**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.08.2024

Bench of Patna High Court

**†*261. Shri Giridhari Yadav:
Shri Rajesh Ranjan:**

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

- (a) whether any bench of Patna High Court is functioning in Bhagalpur district of Bihar, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up benches of Patna High Court at Bhagalpur and Purnia in Kosi-Seemanchal region in view of the inconvenience faced by litigants in travelling long distance to reach Patna and huge pendency of cases in Bihar;
- (c) if so, the time period for said proposal; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. †*261 due for answer on 09.08.2024 regarding “Bench of Patna High Court”.

(a): No Sir.

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

At present, there is no proposal pending with the Government to establish benches of Patna High Court at Bhagalpur and Purnia.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

J-I

STARRED QUESTION NO. *262
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH AUGUST, 2024

USE OF REGIONAL LANGUAGES IN COURTS

***262 SHRI TEJASVI SURYA:**

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

- (a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote the use of local languages in court practices, procedures and arguments;
- (b) the number of courts in which regional languages are widely used; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering the introduction of local language in High Courts of every jurisdiction and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *262 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 09.08.2024.

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

The Committee of the Cabinet appointed to consider the different aspects of the official language policy in its meeting held on 21.05.1965 has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court.

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

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

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

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

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

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Bar Council of India has constituted 'Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti' chaired by former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde. The committee is developing a Common Core Vocabulary close to all Indian languages for the purpose of translating legal material into regional languages.

A limited Glossary has also been developed so far in few Regional Languages viz., Gujarati, Malayalam, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. These Glossaries are available on the website of the Legislative Department on the web link <http://legislative.gov.in/glossary-in-regional-language/> for the use of all stakeholders of the legal system.

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

LOK SABHA

Leg. II sec (LD)

STARRED QUESTION NO. 264*

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09th AUGUST, 2024

SC/ST Reservation in Rajya Sabha and Legislative Assemblies

†*264. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PART (a) to (d) OF
THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 264* DATED 09th
AUGUST, 2024**

(a) and (b): Article 80 of the Constitution *inter-alia*, provides that the representatives of each State in the Council of States shall be elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of the State in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. However, article 171 of the Constitution does not provide for the reservation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Council of States and Legislative Council of various States.

(c) and (d): There is no proposal under consideration to provide reservation to the SCs/STs in Rajya Sabha. Further, under article 332 of the Constitution, seats are reserved for the SCs and STs in the State Legislative Assemblies, in proportion to their population.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2995
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09/08/2024**

Impl. Sec (LA)

Law of Sedition

2995. Shri Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil:

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

- (a) the plans to implement the recommendations given by Report No. 279 on the 'Usage of the Law of Sedition' by the 22nd Law Commission of India;
- (b) whether the Government sought or plans to seek any representations from the public/other stakeholders in addition to the Law Commission Report while preparing amendments to section 124-A, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of FIRs registered under section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code despite the stay order on the provision by order of the Supreme Court of India dated May 11, 2022 in the S.G. Vombatkere vs. Union of India case?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b) After wide ranging consultations with various stakeholders, and detailed examination of the suggestions received, Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have been repealed and The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) and The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA) as passed by the Parliament have been notified in the Gazette of India on 25th December, 2023. The provisions of the BNS, except the provision of sub-section (2) of section 106, the BNSS, except the provisions of the entry relating to section 106(2) of BNS in the first schedule, and the BSA, have come into force from 1st July, 2024. In BNS, 2023, the provisions relating to sedition in section 124-A of IPC have been deleted.

However, a new offence related to act of endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India has been introduced in BNS, 2023 in section 152 which is reproduced below: -

Section 152 - Whoever, purposely or knowingly, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or by electronic communication or by use of financial

mean, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite, secession or armed rebellion or subversive activities, or encourages feelings of separatist activities or endangers sovereignty or unity and integrity of India; or indulges in or commits any such act shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated May 11, 2022 in S.G.Vombatkere vs Union of India (2022) 7 SCC 433 has held that the State and Central Governments will restrain from registering any FIR, continuing any investigation or taking any coercive measures by invoking Section 124A of IPC, while this provision is examined by the Government.

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

Judl. Sec. (LA)

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3001

ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH August 2024

National Litigation Policy

3001. Shri Shafi Parambil:

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

- (a) the details of the specific goals and timelines set in the recently enacted National Litigation Policy;
- (b) the manner in which the Government intends to ensure its effective implementation;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted a thorough assessment of current litigation backlogs and the effectiveness of prior policies in reducing judicial delays, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent and form of expert and public consultation undertaken to formulate this policy?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (d) The National Litigation Policy has not been enacted.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3010**

Leg. II Sec. (Lb)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 09th AUGUST, 2024

Restriction on Political Largesse and Freebies

3010. Prof. Sougata Ray:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to restrict the non-productive political largesse and freebies to the public on the eve of elections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has noticed that a large number/items of gifts/contributions are being distributed to canvass for votes in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check/control such types of offers?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) : No.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (e): The Election Commission of India has informed that in compliance of the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement dated 5th July, 2013 in SLP (C) No. 21455 of 2008, part VIII-"Guidelines on Election Manifesto" was added in the Model Code of Conduct of Political Parties and Candidates, which *inter-alia* provides that in the interest of transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises, it is expected that the election manifesto also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirement for it.

Further, for violation of provisions of Model Code of Conduct, Corrupt Practices and Offenses related to elections, there are penal provisions under section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and sections 170 and 173 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

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

LOK SABHA

NM

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3017
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH AUGUST, 2024**

CASES FILED BY THE STs

†3017. SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT:

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

- (a) the number of cases filed by the persons belonging to the Scheduled tribes community from the Tribal dominated States under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution in the Supreme Court;**
- (b) the details of the action taken in the cases filed in the Supreme Court by the persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes community under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution; and**
- (c) the number of cases pending for hearing and the time since when these cases are pending in the Supreme Court?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The Government does not maintain a record of cases filed, details of action taken and the number of cases pending in respect of the cases filed by the persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community from the tribal dominated States under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution in the Supreme Court.

However, as per information provided by the Honorable Supreme Court of India, 45 cases relating to sale/transfer of land by SC/ST are pending before the Honorable Supreme Court of India. Further, all matters including the above are listed before the Honorable Supreme Court of India as per The Supreme Court Rules 2013, Guidelines given in the Handbook of Practice and Procedure and Office Procedure 2017 and also in accordance with the circulars from time to time and general or specific direction of the Hon'ble Court.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †3022
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09th AUGUST, 2024

e-court

e-Sewa Kendras in Courts

†3022. Shri Brijmohan Agrawal:

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

- (a) the salient features of e-Sewa Kendras set up in courts;
- (b) the details of the achievements made by the said e-Sewa Kendras across the country so far;
- (c) the details of facilities being provided through the said e-Sewa Kendras;
- (d) the details of such e-Sewa Kendras set up by the Government in Chhattisgarh; and
- (e) the achievements of the said e-Sewa Kendras established in Chhattisgarh?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As part of eCourts Mission Mode Project, eSewa Kendras have been established as one stop centres offering free of cost information on court cases/orders/judgments, facilitation of court related matters and e-filing services, particularly benefiting those who may lack access to technology or reside in remote areas. A total of 1072eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 27eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been established nationwide so far, as per details at Annexure-I.

The following services are provided at eSewa Kendras:

- Handling inquiries about case status, next date of hearing and other details.
- Facilitate online Applications for certified copies.
- Facilitate e-Filing of petitions right from the scanning of hard copy petitions, appending eSignatures, uploading them onto CIS and generation of filing number.
- Assist in online purchase of e-Stamp papers/ePayments.
- Help in applying and obtaining Aadhaar based digital signature.
- Publicise and assist in downloading the Mobile App of eCourts for Android and IOS.
- Facilitate in the booking of eMulakat appointments for meeting relatives in jail.
- Handling queries about Judges on leave.
- Guide people on how to avail free legal services from the District Legal Service Authority, High Court Legal Service Committee and Supreme Court Legal Service Committee.
- Facilitate disposal of traffic challan in virtual Courts as also online compounding of traffic challans and other petty offences.
- Explaining the method of arranging and holding a video conference court hearing.
- Provide soft copies of judicial orders/judgments via email, WhatsApp or any other available mode.

The establishment of eSewa Kendras thus facilitates virtual hearings, scanning facilities and access to eCourts facilities, enhancing overall efficiency and thus contribute to time saving, eliminating extensive travel, and reducing expenses.

(d) & (e): Under the eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase II, Rs.10.68 lakh was released by Government of India to High Court of Chhattisgarh for setting up 2 eSewa Kendras under a pilot project. However, under Phase III of eCourts Mission Mode Project, a sum of Rs.4.44 crore has been released to the State of Chhattisgarh to set up additional eSewa Kendras. As on 30.06.2024, 23 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 1 in High Court are functioning in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †3022 for 09/08/2024 regarding e-Sewa Kendras in Courts.

Sr. No.	High Court	Whether the e-Sewa Kendra is implemented in High Court	Whether the eSewa Kendra is implemented in District Courts	Functioning eSewa Kendras in District Courts
1	Allahabad	Yes	Yes	74
2	Andhra Pradesh	No	No	0
3	Bombay	Yes	Yes	43
4	Calcutta	Yes	Yes	7
5	Chhattisgarh	Yes	Yes	23
6	Delhi	Yes	Yes	13
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	Yes	Yes	24
8	Gauhati - Assam	Yes	Yes	78
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	Yes	Yes	8
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	Yes	Yes	11
11	Gujarat	Yes	Yes	106
12	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	Yes	11
13	Jammu and Kashmir	Yes	Yes	9
14	Jharkhand	Yes	Yes	24
15	Karnataka	Yes	Yes	24
16	Kerala	Yes	Yes	162
17	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	Yes	36
18	Madras	Yes	Yes	28
19	Manipur	Yes	Yes	15
20	Meghalaya	Yes	Yes	15
21	Orissa	Yes	Yes	126
22	Patna	Yes	Yes	37
23	Punjab and Haryana	Yes	Yes	111
24	Rajasthan	Yes	Yes	1
25	Sikkim	Yes	Yes	9
26	Telangana	Yes	Yes	34
27	Tripura	Yes	Yes	15
28	Uttarakhand	Yes	Yes	28
	Implemented	27	27	1072
	Not Implemented	1	1	

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3024**

Appointment

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.08.2024

Appointment of Sikh Judges

3024. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has withheld appointment of two eminent lawyers belonging to Sikh community as the judges of Punjab and Haryana High Court, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has also given recommendations regarding their elevation as judges, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for being indecisive so far; and
- (d) the timeline by which the Government is likely to decide on this issue?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The Judges of the High Courts are appointed under Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case).

2. As per the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Judges of High Courts, the proposals recommended by the High Court Collegium for appointment as High Court Judges, are to be considered in light of such other reports/inputs as may be available to the Government for assessing the suitability in respect of the names under consideration.

3. The Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 6.10.1993 in Supreme Court Advocate on Record Vs. Union of India (Second Judges Case) inter-alia, observed that merit selection is the dominant method for judicial selections and the candidates to be selected must possess high integrity, honesty, skill, high order of emotional stability, firmness, serenity, legal soundness, ability and endurance. In the past three years, the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) has made 34 recommendations for appointment of Judges to the Punjab & Haryana High Court, of which 31 have been appointed as Judges.

4. Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level. The Government exercises its opinion on the recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) by virtue of this collaborative process so as to ensure that the most suitable and meritorious candidate is appointed to the esteemed post of a Judge in the Constitutional Courts. Only those persons are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts whose names have been recommended by the SCC.

(A)

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3039**

Leg. II Sec. (L0)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 09th AUGUST, 2024

Electoral Bond

3039. Smt. Mala Roy:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to bring any law regarding electoral bonds for political party funding;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the alternative/substitute being considered for funding of political parties to contest Lok Sabha/Assembly Elections?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): No.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

J-I

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3044

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH AUGUST, 2024

Transparency in Judiciary

3044 SHRI MATHESWARAN V S:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enact law mandating the Supreme Court, High Court and District Judges to declare their assets and liabilities annually to promote transparency and accountability;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the timeline by which the legislation is likely to be enacted;
- (c) whether any response has been received from Chief Justices of High Court to the letter issued by the Department of Justice on 19.06.23 regarding publication of Annual reports by High Courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per The Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Condition of Services) Act, 1958 and the High Court Judges (Salaries and Condition of Services) Act, 1954 and rules framed thereafter, there is no provision to declare assets by judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. However, the "Restatement of values of Judicial Life" adopted by a full Court Meeting of Supreme Court on 07.05.1997 lays down certain judicial standards which are to be followed by the Judges of the Supreme court and the High Courts. As adopted by the Full Court of the Supreme Court in its meeting dated 7th May, 1997 provided further to make it mandatory for every Judge of the Supreme Court and the High Courts including the Chief Justices, to make a declaration of his/her assets and liabilities at the time of appointment and thereafter in the beginning of every year. The Full Bench in its meeting dated 26th August, 2009 decided to disclose the statement of assets submitted by the Judges on the basis of Resolution dated 7th May 1997 to public by putting it on Supreme Court website. Further, the Full Court in its meeting dated 8th September 2009 resolved to put the declaration of assets in the Supreme Court website on or before 31st October 2009 and that is purely on Voluntary basis.

(c) & (d): The letter dated 19.06.2023, issued by Department of Justice was addressed to the Chief Justice of India and Chief Justice of High Courts under which the views of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the need to publish the Annual Report by all the High Courts and placing the same on their respective website was conveyed.

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

pub. sec. (LD)

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3053
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH AUGUST, 2024.**

Law against Superstition

3053. Dr. D Ravi Kumar:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to introduce a bill specifically against superstition and fraudulent activities in view of the lack of dedicated provisions in the existing criminal law statutes to target fraudulent practices by godmen;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans to amend the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 or introduce a new comprehensive law to address superstitious practices and protect vulnerable individuals from exploitation in view of the numerous loopholes in the present Act, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering a nationwide law modeled on the anti-superstition laws in Maharashtra and Karnataka to effectively combat superstition and related fraudulent activities in the country in view of its successful implementation in the said States, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that law enforcement agencies are equipped with the necessary legal tools to tackle superstition and protect citizens from exploitation?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d) : There is no such legislative proposal under consideration of this Ministry.

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

e-court

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3083
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9th AUGUST, 2024

Virtual Courts

3083. Dr. Vinod Kumar Bind:

Shri Mahendra Singh Solanky:

Shri Anurag Sharma:

Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi:

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

- (a) whether the Government has expedited the process to improve the Infrastructure of existing virtual courts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the actions taken;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to widen the scope of virtual courts to address the issue of long pendency of cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, whether the Government is planning to take steps for the same and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : The Virtual Courts, an initiative of eCommittee, Supreme Court of India is a concept, aimed at doing away with the presence of a litigant or lawyer in the court and for adjudication of cases on a virtual platform. This concept has been evolved to efficiently utilize court resources and to provide litigants with an effective avenue to settle disputes. Currently, the virtual courts are handling cases pertaining only to traffic challan cases, which have

not only reduced the costs of litigation but have also simplified the procedure for redressal of traffic challan cases. Over 5.26 crore cases (5,26,53,142) have been handled by 28 virtual courts and in more than 56 lakhs (56,51,204) cases, online fines of more than Rs. 579.40 crore have been realized till 30.06.2024. The detailed breakup of cases dealt through virtual courts across India is at Annexure- I. As on 30.06.2024, there are 28 such courts in 21 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Chandigarh, Gujarat (2), Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand (2), Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Manipur (2). However, it is pertinent to mention here that the establishment of Virtual Courts is an administrative matter that falls strictly within the purview and domain of the concerned High Court. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter.

(c) to (e): Under the eCourts Project Phase-III, there is a provision of the establishment of an additional 1150 Virtual Courts under the jurisdiction of respective High Courts for creating a robust digital infrastructure for which an allocation of Rs. 413.08 crore has been made to assist the courts in tackling the pendency issue.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.3083 for 09/08/2024 regarding the detail breakup of cases dealt through Virtual Courts across the country are as under:

Statistics of Virtual Courts-30.06.2024						
S.No.	Establishment Name	Received	Proceeding Done	Contested	Paid Challans	Challan Amount
1	ASSAM TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	1,46,396	1,46,394	457	28,690	1,88,28,902
2	CHHATTISGARH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	768	757	-	75	1,23,300
3	GUJARAT TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	12,42,576	11,94,181	2,223	97,990	7,63,12,266
4	HARYANA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	16,72,062	16,19,164	5,781	88,279	7,48,92,151
5	HIMACHAL PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	3,41,139	2,47,566	421	11,194	1,59,68,205
6	JAMMU TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	5,11,706	4,67,206	3,148	99,981	6,39,74,795
7	KARNATAKA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	60,304	60,269	173	52,034	46,19,97,290
8	KASHMIR TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	7,98,559	7,98,559	90,305	1,48,757	8,23,77,656
9	KERALA (POLICE DEPARTMENT)	14,81,024	14,76,145	3,328	1,46,773	7,87,71,217
10	KERALA TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	9,86,498	9,79,303	4,746	1,48,240	19,58,68,157
11	MADHYA PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	4,18,526	4,02,171	390	18,024	1,63,83,802
12	MAHARASHTRA TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	56,569	55,108	20	2,125	28,78,505
13	MANIPUR VIRTUAL COURT (TRAFFIC)	1	-	-	-	
14	MANIPUR VIRTUAL COURT (TRANSPORT)	1	-	-	-	
15	MEGHALAYA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	519	439	-	40	30,100
16	NOTICE BRANCH DELHI TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	1,94,11,249	1,91,65,326	93,672	18,34,274	1,31,43,08,956
17	Odisha Traffic CTC-BBSR Commissionerate	5,54,252	5,02,939	952	33,048	3,12,96,001
18	PUNE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	6,079	6,055	23	630	1,18,100
19	RAJASTHAN TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	37,712	33,952	2,468	12,030	84,72,671
20	TAMIL NADU TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	2,11,314	1,68,848	1,542	99,720	92,67,59,190
21	TRIPURA TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	3,393	3,390	5	1,118	2,51,200
22	UTTAR PRADESH TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	1,71,86,990	1,39,66,214	75,751	9,18,416	52,03,10,541
23	UTTARAKHAND TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	21,332	18,443	58	1,358	15,56,101
24	UTTARAKHAND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	5,139	4,430	11	265	3,91,700
25	VIRTUAL COURT CHANDIGARH	5,17,576	5,17,576	651	37,859	3,64,35,511

26	VIRTUAL COURT DELHI (TRAFFIC)	66,10,708	65,25,720	1,23,288	18,40,327	1,77,54,83,752
27	VIRTUAL COURT GUJARAT (TRANSPORT)	1,85,196	1,75,403	866	21,512	8,57,35,405
28	WEST BENGAL TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	1,85,554	1,78,463	837	8,445	45,07,952
	Total	5,26,53,14 2	4,87,14,021	4,11,116	56,51,204	5,79,40,33,426
	Previous	5,08,99,60 8	4,69,94,627	3,94,169	54,72,772	5,61,09,43,942

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

JR

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3087

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09TH AUGUST, 2024

Gram Nyayalayas

†3087. **SHRI LUMBA RAM:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to settle the cases related to delay in payment of wages under MNREGA related to Anganwadi workers at Panchayat level through Gram Nyayalayas and Mobile Court;
- (b) if so, the total number of Gram Nyayalayas functioning across the country, State-wise including Rajasthan;
- (c) whether Gram Nyayalayas are not able to function properly due to lack of basic infrastructure; and
- (d) if so, the total budget allocated and spent for Gram Nyayalayas during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): No Sir. The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, which came into effect from 02nd October, 2009, aims at providing affordable and quick access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps. As per Section 3 (5) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts appoint a Nyayadhikari, an officer of the rank of Judicial Magistrate of the first

class for every Gram Nyayalaya, who is supposed to hold mobile courts as and when situation demands. Under the aegis of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, a plan scheme titled, "Assistance to State Governments for establishing and operating Gram Nyayalayas" was introduced in 2009 and guidelines were formulated for running the Gram Nyayalayas Scheme.

As on date, 15 States have implemented Gram Nyayalayas Scheme by notifying 481 Gram Nyayalayas, out of which 309 are functional in 10 States since the inception of the Scheme. The state-wise details of the Gram Nyayalayas (including Rajasthan) notified and operational are as under:

Sl. No	State	No. of GN Notified	Functional GNs
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
2	Rajasthan	45	45
3	Kerala	30	30
4	Maharashtra	39	26
5	Odisha	24	20
6	Uttar Pradesh	113	92
7	Karnataka	2	2
8	Haryana	3	2
9	Punjab	9	2
10	Jharkhand	6	1
11	Goa	2	0
12	Andhra Pradesh	42	0
13	Telangana	55	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	20	0
15	Ladakh	2	0
Total		481	309

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

(c) & (d): Infrastructure is not the only issue that is hindering the performance of the Gram Nyayalayas. Studies have brought to light other factors, such as, non-filling of the post of Nyayadhikaries in many States, non-availability of public prosecutors, notaries and general shortage of first-class judicial magistrates, limited pecuniary jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalayas, insufficient staff, inadequate financial backing from States, reluctance from legal and state authorities and lack of community awareness. Besides, the issue of overlapping jurisdiction with regular courts is another reason for slow take off in respect of Gram Nyayalayas in some States. Moreover, many States have their own parallel systems of village courts functioning at panchayat level. The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, does not make establishment of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory for the State Governments.

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



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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3095**

Leg. # Sec. (LD)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 09th AUGUST, 2024

Compulsory Voting in the Election

3095. Shri Anil Yeshwant Desai:

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

- (a) the voting percentage during the recently concluded parliamentary elections;
- (b) the details of the States having the highest and the lowest voting turnouts;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal/justification for making voting compulsory in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any agency, NGOs or Government ever made any study to ascertain the high and low /pitiable voting by some sections of the society, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that overall 65.79% voter turnout recorded in General Elections 2024 at the polling stations.
- (b): The ECI has informed that Assam and Bihar State has highest and lowest voting turnout, respectively, for all phases of General Election, 2024.
- (c): No.
- (d): No.

7

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3096**

leg. II sec. (10)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 09th AUGUST, 2024

Nari Vandan Act, 2023

3096. Smt. Lovely Anand:

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

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to implement Nari Vandan Act, 2023 at scheduled time, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the census is compulsory for implementation of this Act, if so, the details thereof including the targeted time for completion of the proposed Census?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): As per the provisions of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose

after the relevant figures for the first census taken after commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 have been published.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3136**

Leg. II Sec. (LB)

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 09th AUGUST, 2024

Expenses on Election

3136. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy:

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission of India has conducted fair and free elections as an autonomous body under the Constitution of India, if so, the details thereof and the functioning of the election commission;
- (b) whether the huge expenses are incurred by the Indian exchequer with reference to elections including general election, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce these expenses both by the Election Commission of India and political parties, including candidates; and
- (d) whether the Government is considering funding of political parties through the Election Commission, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) : As per article 324 of the Constitution of India, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has been vested with the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India. Articles 324 to 329 of the Constitution define the functions, responsibilities, structure and, powers of the ECI. The ECI has informed that within the Constitutional framework, robust design is inbuilt to conduct elections in a free and fair manner and over the years it has issued guidelines, instructions, manuals, handbooks, checklists, etc. for guidance of all stakeholders including political parties.

The ECI has further informed that it has conducted 18 General Elections and about 400 Assembly elections, elections to the offices of President and Vice-President and biennial elections. At every stage starting from the summary revision of electoral roll, announcement of poll, preparation of EVMs for poll, etc., Political Parties/ contesting candidates are consulted. There is a robust grievance redressal mechanism in place to address various issues raised by political parties. Moreover, as per the Representation of People Act, 1951, (the RP Act, 1951) any aggrieved candidate/elector can file an election petition within 45 days of declaration of result.

(b): The expenditure on the conduct of elections to Lok Sabha is to be borne by the Government of India and expenditure on conduct of election to the State legislatures, by the respective State Governments, when such elections are held independently. Further, in case these elections are held simultaneously, the expenditure is borne by the concerned State Governments and Central Governments on a 50:50 basis.

(c): The ECI has informed that several measures have been taken by the Commission to reduce the expenses by the Political Parties and Candidates.

For political parties:

The ECI has requested to the Political Parties that if the party desires to provide any financial assistance to its candidates for their election expenses, such assistance shall not exceed the prescribed ceiling. Any payment in this regard by the party shall be made only through crossed account payee check or draft or through bank account transfer and not in cash. Further, Political parties are required to submit the Annual audit statement, contribution report and election expenditure statement of every election before the ECI, which is uploaded on the website of ECI and the respective Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs).

For candidate:

Under section 77(1) of the RP Act, 1951, every candidate at an election shall, either by himself or by his election agent, shell keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure in connection with the election incurred or authorized by him or by his election agent between the date on which he has been nominated and the date of declaration of the result thereof, both dates inclusive. Under section 77(3) of the RP Act, 1951, the total of the said expenditure shall not exceed the amount prescribed under Rule 90 of the Conduct of the Election Rules, 1961.

The ECI has further informed that to keep Legal expenditure within the permissible limit, maintaining a truthful account and to check illegal expenditure, the Commission has issued detailed instructions on Election Expenditure Monitoring. The Commission has been appointing Expenditure Observers to observe election expenses of the candidates, Assistant Expenditure Observers (AEOs) to assist the Expenditure Observers and forms Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams (FS and SST) to seize unaccounted money in elections, Video

Surveillance Teams (VST), Video Viewing Team (VVT), Accounting Team to keep watch on election expenses associated with rallies/meetings and to maintain Shadow Observation Register (SOR) for election expenses, Excise team to control the menace of illicit liquor, and Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) to keep close watch on advertisement and paid news. The Commission has also asked the candidates to open a separate bank account for election expenditure purpose before filing their nomination and to incur their election expenses beyond Rs. 10,000/- through cheque, Demand Draft, Real Time Gross Settlement, Electronic mode associated with the separate bank account.

Under Section 78 of the R. P. Act, 1951, contesting candidates are required to lodge their account of election expenses with District Electoral Officers concerned within 30 days of declaration of results. Along with the account of election expenses, candidates are also required to submit Abstract Statement of election expenses in a prescribed format. DEOs are required to upload the part of registers of accounts of election expenses inspected by Expenditure Observers up to date of each inspection and Abstract Statement of candidates' election expenses on their website with a link provided to CEO's website.

(d): No proposal for funding of political parties through the ECI is under consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3144
ANSWERED ON – 09/08/2024

J-II

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURT FOR POCSO

3144. MS. SAYANI GHOSH:

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

- (a) the funds allocated and utilized by the Government under Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme since its inception, year-wise;
- (b) the total number of FTSCs including exclusive POCSO Courts functional across the country, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of cases disposed by FTSCs and exclusive POCSO Courts since its inception?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO Courts since October, 2019 for expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases pertaining to Rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in a time-bound manner.

The Scheme was initially implemented for one year, which was extended upto March, 2023. The Scheme has now been extended till 31.03.2026, at an outlay of Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya

Fund. The funds are released on CSS pattern (60:40, 90:10) to cover the salaries of 1 Judicial Officer along with 7 support Staff and a Flexi Grant for meeting the day-to-day expenses. Under the FTSCs Scheme, funds are released to the States/UTs on a reimbursement basis, determined by the number of functional courts in State/UT concerned. Since the inception of the scheme, year-wise funds allocated and released by the Central Government under FTSCs Scheme are as below:

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Budget Allocated	Central share of funds released
2019-20	140.00	140.00
2020-21	160.00	160.00
2021-22	180.00	134.55*
2022-23	200.00	200.00
2023-24	200.00	200.00
2024-25	200.00	82.78 (Till date)
TOTAL	1080.00	917.33
*Less funds were released against Budget Allocated in 2021-22 due to COVID and States taking time to on-board the new PFMS System.		

As per the information received from the High Courts up to May, 2024, 755 FTSCs including 410 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country, which have disposed of over 2,53,000 cases. The State-wise details of number of functional Fast Track Special Courts along with the number of cases disposed of as on 31.05.2024 is at Annexure.

**Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3144
for 09th August, 2024**

**State/UT-wise details of number of functional Fast Track Special Courts along with the
number of cases disposed as of May, 2024**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme		
		FTSCs including exclusive POCSO	exclusive POCSO	FTSCs	exclusive POCSO	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	0	4899	4899
2	Assam	17	17	0	5893	5893
3	Bihar	46	46	0	11798	11798
4	Chandigarh	1	0	265	0	265
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	924	4044	4968
6	Delhi	16	11	555	1262	1817
7	Goa	1	0	32	34	66
8	Gujarat	35	24	2263	9793	12056
9	Haryana	16	12	1572	4675	6247
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	416	1126	1542
11	J&K	4	2	91	101	192
12	Jharkhand	22	16	2279	4537	6816
13	Karnataka	31	17	3740	6657	10397
14	Kerala	55	14	13530	6123	19653
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	3894	22456	26350
16	Maharashtra	14	7	7258	11530	18788
17	Manipur	2	0	146	0	146
18	Meghalaya	5	5	0	462	462
19	Mizoram	3	1	148	55	203
20	Nagaland	1	0	61	3	64
21	Odisha	44	23	4992	9521	14513
22	Puducherry	1	1	0	83	83
23	Punjab	12	3	2055	2061	4116
24	Rajasthan	45	30	4502	10138	14640
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	0	7225	7225
26	Telangana	36	0	5993	2731	8724
27	Tripura	3	1	203	186	389
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	1614	0	1614
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	34091	34998	69089
30	West Bengal	5	5	0	106	106
	TOTAL	755	410	90624	162497	253121

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

J-I

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3145

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH AUGUST, 2024

Retirement Age for Judges

3145. MS. MAHUA MOITRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to make a cooling off period mandatory for retired Judges of Supreme Court to accept nomination as Rajya Sabha Member; and
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to rationalize retirement age of High Court Judges and Supreme Court Judges from the current age of 62 years for High Court Judges and 65 years for Supreme Court Judges, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): No Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

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

LOK SABHA

Leg. III Sec. (Ld)

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3157

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9TH AUGUST, 2024

Protection of Civil Right Act, 1955

†3157. Dr. Manna Lal Rawat:

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

- (a) whether the definition of the word Hindu is given in several Indian Laws;
- (b) if so, the definition of Hindu given in the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955;
- (c) whether the tribal people have also been defined as Hindu in the said Act; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The expression "Hindu" has been explained in various Central Acts. The Explanation to section 3 of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (22 of 1955) provides that, for the purposes of sections 3 and 4 of the said Act, persons

professing the Buddhist, Sikh or Jaina religion or persons professing the Hindu religion in any of its forms or developments including Virashaivas, Lingayats, Adivasis, followers of Brahmo, Prarthana, Arya Samaj and the Swaminarayan Sampraday shall be deemed to be Hindus.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3171
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.08.2024**

Coordination

Detention of Sikhs

3171. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal:

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

- (a) the details of law under which the Sikh detenus who have long completed their sentences been kept under custody;
- (b) the reasons for keeping Bandi Sikhs (Detenue Sikhs) in the custody of the boundaries of the Stated law of the land;
- (c) whether they have been allowed to defend themselves and prove themselves innocent;
- (d) if so, whether there are any legal remedies that the Sikh detainees can resort to, getting themselves free;
- (e) if not, the reasons for not releasing them despite the announcements made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister about their release; and
- (f) the details of constitutional grounds to deny freedom to the Bandi Sikhs?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (f): As per the information made available by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 'Prisons and persons detained therein' is a 'State List' subject under list II of VII Schedule to the Constitution of India. Administration and management of prisoners is therefore, primarily the responsibility of State Government, who is competent to take appropriate decision, in accordance with law. Moreover, the matter is presently sub-judice.

(7)

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3180**

Appointment

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09.08.2024

Appointment and Amenities for Judges

**3180. Dr. M K Vishnu Prasad:
Shri K Gopinath:**

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

- (a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on 133rd report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice and the details of steps taken to conduct a feasibility study for establishing regional benches of the Supreme Court in the country;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure social diversity and social representation in the appointment of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts;
- (c) whether the Government is considering enhancing pay, allowances, pension, etc., for the judges of Supreme Court and High Courts; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

2. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 133rd Report inter-alia, recommended that the Supreme Court of India may invoke Article 130 of the Constitution for establishment of regional benches at four or five locations in the Country.

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

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

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

(b): Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government has, however, been requesting the

Chief Justice of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts.

(c) & (d): The pay, allowances, pension etc. in respect of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts are governed by The Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of service) Act, 1958 and The High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of service) Act, 1954 respectively. The salary, pension and allowances of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts were last revised w.e.f. 01.01.2016 consequent upon implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission recommendation by the Government, through an amendment in both the applicable laws mentioned above. Presently, no proposal for enhancing pay, allowance and pension etc. for the judges of Supreme Court and High Court is under consideration of the Government.

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

Impl. Sec. (LA)

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3189
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 09/08/2024**

Regulation for Online Legal Services

3189. Shri Anto Antony:

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

- (a) the current status of the ban issued by Bar Council of India (BCI) on lawyers advertising and soliciting work through online platforms;
- (b) whether any change has been made in the ban, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the legal basis for BCI's authority to impose such a ban on lawyer advertising through online platforms;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government regarding this issue; and
- (e) whether the Government intends to implement specific guidelines or regulations to oversee online platforms offering legal services, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The Bar Council of India (BCI) is mandated to lay down the rules pertaining to standards of conduct and professional etiquette to be maintained by advocates in court, with clients and towards fellow advocates. The BCI has informed that advertising or soliciting work directly or indirectly, by the advocates are prohibited under Rule 36 of BCI Rules, 1975. This prohibition remains intact, with the BCI's recent directives issued *vide* press release dated 08.07.2024 in the light of judgment pronounced by Hon'ble Madras High Court in WP Nos. 31281 and 31428 of 2019, reaffirming its commitment to uphold them.

(b) As per its recent press release dated 08.07.2024, the BCI outlined its directives to enforce disciplinary actions against advocates violating the prohibition which include instructing all State Bar Councils to cease and desist notice(s) to online platforms.

(c) The Bar Council of India's authority to impose the ban on lawyer advertising and solicitation through online platforms flows from Rule 36 of the Bar Council of India Rules, 1975 which reads as under:

"An advocate shall not solicit work or advertise, either directly or indirectly, whether by circulars, advertisements, touts, personal communications, interviews not warranted by personal relations, furnishing or inspiring newspaper comments or producing his photographs to be published in connection with cases which he has been engaged or concerned."

This rule is designed to maintain the professional decorum and ethical standards of the legal profession. It prohibits any form of advertisement or solicitation of work, ensuring that the legal profession remains a service-oriented practice rather than a commercial enterprise.

(d) and (e): The matter falls in the domain of BCI and it has been informed that proactive steps have been taken to enforce the ban on lawyer for advertising and soliciting through online platforms by issuing directives to cease and desist notices. The BCI monitors compliance of these directives in coordination with the State Bar Councils to ensure strict adherence. The BCI under the administration of the Government continues to focus on enforcement of existing rules and addressing violations through its directives. Any need for new regulations or guidelines would be based on the evolving situation and the effectiveness of current enforcement measures.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3195
ANSWERED ON – 09/08/2024

J-II

TRAINING OF JUDICIAL OFFICER

3195. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government has issued any memorandum, guidelines, or framework to State Judicial Academies and the National Judicial Academy for conducting training programs on the new criminal legislations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the amount of funds allocated by the Government for training judicial officers, judges, public prosecutors, and other relevant stakeholders on the new criminal law legislations;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to coordinate with the Ministry of Education and the Bar Council of India to ensure that universities and institutes imparting legal education are updating their curricula to include the new criminal laws;

(d) whether any specific directives have been issued in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the State Amendments previously made to the IPC, CRPC and IEA will remain in effect under the newly enacted criminal laws, and if so, the mechanism for their integration or adaptation?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The National Judicial Academy, Bhopal (NJA), established in 1993 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, operates as an independent society fully funded by the Government of India. The primary mandate of the NJA is to

organize training programs to support judges in their judicial roles and court administration responsibilities.

In this context, the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), through its letter dated 23.01.2024, requested the National Judicial Academy to provide inputs, training materials, and a list of resource persons to be utilized for the training and capacity building of police personnel and other stakeholders in the context of the new criminal laws. In pursuance thereof, the National Judicial Academy is actively assisting in coordinating with the Central Academy for Police Training (CAPT), Bhopal, and other Central Institutions, as well as State Judicial Academies, to facilitate training and capacity building for all relevant stakeholders on the new criminal legislations. Details of the academic programs proposed by State Judicial Academies on new Criminal legislations for the Academic year 2024-25 are provided in the **Annexure**.

Furthermore, an amount of Rs. 20.00 Crore has been allocated as a budget to the National Judicial Academy for the financial year 2024-25.

(c) & (d): The Bar Council of India (BCI), which oversees the legal profession and legal education in India, issued a directive on 20.05.2024 addressed to Vice Chancellors, Registrars, Principals, Deans, and Directors of all Universities and Centers of Legal Education, which mandated the incorporation of new legal enactments into the Law curriculum commencing from the Academic Year 2024-25.

(e): A Gazette Notification {S.O. 2790 (E)} dated 16.07.2024 issued by the Legislative Department states that “where any reference of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860), or the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) or the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872 or any provisions thereof is made in any— (a) Act made by Parliament; or (b) Act made by the Legislature of any State; (c) Ordinance; (d) Regulations made under article 240 of the Constitution; (e) President’s order; (f) rules, regulations, order or notification made under any Act, Ordinance or Regulation, for the time being in force, such reference shall

respectively be read as the reference of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023) (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (46 of 2023) (BNSS) or the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (47 of 2023) (BSA), and the corresponding provisions of such law shall be construed accordingly.

**Annexure as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3195
for 09th August, 2024**

**Details of academic programs proposed by State Judicial Academies on new Criminal
Legislations (2024-25)**

No.	State Judicial Academy	New Criminal Laws
1	Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy	5
2	Assam Judicial Academy, Gauhati	1
3	Bihar Judicial Academy	1
4	Chandigarh Judicial Academy	1
5	Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy	1
6	Delhi Judicial Academy	2
7	Gujarat State Judicial Academy	1
8	Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy	1
9	Jammu & Kashmir State Judicial Academy	1
10	Judicial Academy Jharkhand	6
11	Judicial Training & Research Institute, Lucknow	1
12	Karnataka Judicial Academy	8
13	Kerala Judicial Academy	12
14	Madhya Pradesh State Judicial Academy	1
15	Maharashtra Judicial Academy	1
16	Manipur Judicial Academy	1
17	Meghalaya State Judicial Academy	1
18	Odisha Judicial Academy	1
19	Rajasthan State Judicial Academy	3
20	Sikkim Judicial Academy	4
21	Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy	2
22	Telangana State Judicial Academy	2
23	Tripura Judicial Academy	10
24	Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy	2
25	West Bengal Judicial Academy	4

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

e-Court

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3197
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9th AUGUST, 2024

Artificial Intelligence in Judiciary

3197. Dr. T Sumathy Alias Thamizhachi Thangapandian:
Thiru D M Kathir Anand:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken appropriate measures to translate the proceedings and judgements of Supreme Court and High Courts across the country through Artificial Intelligence and publish them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total funds sanctioned for the same and the translation projects and jobs undertaken by the Supreme Court and High Courts in the country so far;
- (d) whether the Government has initiated any special recruitment drive for filling up of vacancies in SC/ST/OBC and Minority communities and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) :The Supreme Court of India has adopted the use of Artificial Intelligence(AI) language technology in translation of judicial documents as well as in legal research and process automation etc. AI has also been deployed for transcribing oral arguments, particularly in Constitution Bench matters since February 2023.

A Committee headed by Hon'ble Judge of the Supreme Court of India has been constituted to monitor the translation of important Supreme Court and High Court judgments into vernacular languages. The Committee is having regular meetings with the Sub-Committees of High Courts comprising Hon'ble Judges to expedite the process of translation.

The AI Translation Committees of the High Courts are monitoring the entire work relating to translation of the Supreme Court and High Court Judgments into vernacular language. As on date, 8 High Courts have already started e-High Court Reports (e-HCR) and other High Courts are in the process of launching e-HCR.

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

As on 05.08.2024, 36,271 Supreme Court Judgments have been translated in Hindi language and 17,142 Judgments of Supreme Court have been translated in other 16 regional languages and the same are available on the e-SCR portal.

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

(d) and (e): The appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.
